

Dear Kansas Agricultural Educators,

Thank you for the time and dedication you invest in preparing students for Career Development Events (CDEs). As we look ahead to the 2026 Kansas FFA CDE contests, we would like to share important updates and reminders related to the event guidelines and logistics. All updated guidelines will be posted at: <https://www.ag.k-state.edu/ag-experiences/ffa/>.

Contest-Specific Updates

- **Agricultural Communications** - Based on feedback from 2025, coordinators will again recognize the top three individuals in each practicum area, in addition to the overall team score.
- **Agricultural Mechanics** - Contest updates provided by Mr. Mark Meyer are included on the attached page.
- **Milk Quality & Products**- Due to ongoing campus construction and limited suitable space, the Dairy and Non-Dairy ID, Product ID, and the California Mastitis Test, have been removed from the 2026 Kansas State CDE contest.
- **Discussion Meet** - Updated guidelines include the following change: "A student who has won at the Kansas State FFA Convention is not eligible to compete."
- **Horse Evaluation** - The written exam has been reinstated. Students are encouraged to bring a clipboard if possible.
- **Meats Judging** - Due to renovations in the meat lab during 2026, the Meats Judging contest will be relocated to the Stanley Stout Center. As a result, the contest format will differ from previous years, most notably because it will not be conducted in a refrigerated environment. All adjustments are outlined in the 2026 Meats Judging guidelines.
- **Poultry Evaluation** - Due to the continued risk of avian influenza, live broilers and laying hens will (again) not be permitted at the state contest.
- The Kansas State CDE Guidelines have been updated to include the following rule change: *"Errors related to a team number marked incorrectly on a scantron may be corrected during tabulation; however, no changes may be made to participant names, responses, placings, or any other qualifying answers."*

Several coordinators reported concerns with student cell phone use during the 2025 State CDE circuit. Please remind students of appropriate contest expectations.

Horse Evaluation, Dairy Cattle Evaluation, and Livestock Evaluation are tentatively scheduled to take place in the new Bilbrey Family Event Center.

Contest coordinators are continuing to review and update materials to ensure events remain current and aligned with industry standards and instructional best practices. A small number of contests are still being finalized and confirmed changes will be shared through official channels and posted on the K-State FFA Resources webpage as they become available. We sincerely appreciate your patience as coordinators balance this work alongside their formal responsibilities.

Please keep the following dates in mind:

- Registration deadline: April 22, 2026
- Fees due: April 29, 2026
- Entry fee: \$10.00 per CDE team

Checks should be made payable to *Kansas State University* and mailed to:

Agriculture Academic Programs
1603 Old Claflin Rd
117 Waters Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506

General questions should be directed to Interim Associate Dean, Dr. Jon Ulmer, at julmer@ksu.edu. Contest-related questions should be sent to Abby Roth at abbyjohnson@ksu.edu, who will communicate with contest coordinators as needed.

Thank you for your continued support of Kansas FFA and for the work you do to provide meaningful learning opportunities for students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abby Roth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'R'.

Abby Roth
Coordinator of Recruitment
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