



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.

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](mailto:julmer@ksu.edu). Contest-related questions should be sent to Abby Roth at [abbyjohnson@ksu.edu](mailto: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,



Abby Roth  
Coordinator of Recruitment  
College of Agriculture, Kansas State University  
[abbyjohnson@ksu.edu](mailto:abbyjohnson@ksu.edu) | 785-532-5736

## **Agriculture Technical and Mechanical Systems CDE Update**

The following changes are planned for the CDE in 2026 to help align better with the national event.

1. Machinery and Equipment division will be added. This year's equipment will be a round baler. Students should be familiar with the operation of a round baler, safety, general parts ID, and mechanical adjustments.
2. Small engines will no longer be a part of the team activity. It will move to the Compact Equipment division with students being asked to identify parts, complete some precision measuring with micrometers and dial calipers, as well as read a technical manual.
3. The team activity will be a construction project using wood materials. Students must be able to measure, read a plan, safely cut and assemble the project. There will be some material calculation required and a written team report.

\*\*Teams may be asked to provide some of the material for the project to help make this possible. We are pursuing funds to help offset this cost for chapters, but if that doesn't happen, schools will be asked to provide some basic materials. The total cost should be under \$20 per chapter.

Other notes:

- We will NOT be using scantron forms this year. Scores will be available to schools after the event.
- Rotations will be 25 minutes which should still allow us to run the event in the same time frame as previous years. (3:00 to 7:00)
- Big thank you to the volunteers and business who are helping make this event possible.