

Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers

General Rules For Career Development Events — 2007-2008

I. Eligibility

- A. Any student is eligible who is under 21 years of age at the time of the career development event (CDE), who has had not more than six years' training (two years junior high school and four years high school) in any approved course in agriculture of less than college grade, and is enrolled in a junior high or high school class in agriculture or has had all of the agriculture offered and is carrying at least three units of regular high school work, with the exception that a person who has participated previously in any official National FFA judging/career development event shall not be eligible for the same kind of state event.
- B. Participants on a CDE team must all be students at the same schools. If an ineligible student is entered in any event, the team of which that student is a member shall be declared ineligible.
- C. Teams representing Illinois in National Career Development Events must agree to abide by the rules of that specific event and be certified members of the Illinois Association FFA. To advance to the National FFA competition all team members must be from the same FFA Chapter.

II. General Information

- A. Team Size
 1. The Horse teams may consist of four participants, but only the top three individual scores make up the team score.
 2. The Crops teams may consist of three participants and all three individual scores count for the team score.
 3. The Agricultural Sales and Horticulture teams shall consist of five participants and all five participants' scores will be used to determine the team score.
 4. Dairy Foods, Meats Evaluation, Dairy Cattle, Poultry, Livestock, Forestry, and Agriculture Business Management teams may consist of five participants but only the top three individual scores make up the team score.
 5. The Agricultural Mechanics teams shall consist of five participants with one in each phase of the event and all five participants' scores will be used to determine team score. First place individuals in each section who are not on the section team may participate in the State Agricultural Mechanics Event, except no more than one (1) participant from one (1) school may compete in any phase of the Agricultural Mechanics Event.
 6. A school may enter less than a full team in any event, but then the participant or participants will compete only as individuals.
- B. Participation
 1. No team or individual may register for a CDE unless accompanied to, at and from the event by their agricultural education teacher or an adult representative from the school district designated to represent the teacher.
 2. Participants from a multiple teacher department shall have entry fees assessed based on the IAVAT membership status of the teacher, or adult designated to represent the teacher, escorting them to the event. If the team or individual is escorted to the event by an adult, not eligible for active IAVAT membership, the membership status of the teacher shall determine the entry fee.
- C. Pre-registration/Registration
 1. Pre-registration
 - a. Pre-registration is required by the dates indicated in the Annual Information section for Horticulture, Agriculture Business Management, Agricultural Sales, and Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Events, but is optional for **Crops, Dairy Foods, Meats**, Livestock and Dairy Cattle events.
 - b. Each instructor is responsible for pre-registration of teams or individuals for these events. Pre-registration is to be made through the office of the *IAVAT Executive Director, 3221 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702*. Fees must accompany pre-registration and are nonrefundable. Pre-registration forms will be printed in *News and Notes* and be available at <http://www.aces.uiuc.edu/~vo-ag/> and www.iavat.org prior to each event.
 2. Registration

- a. Each instructor is responsible for pre-registration of teams or individuals for these events.
- b. Pre-registration is encouraged for all events, but registration is offered on-site for most CDE's with the exception of Ag Business Management, Ag Issues, Ag Mechanics, Ag Sales and Horticulture.

D. Conduct of the Event

1. Participants

- a. No substitutions will be permitted in any career development event after judging has started in that event. *"Late arriving" teams are allowed to participate upon arrival, but extra time or help to make up rings will not be allowed.*
- b. No extra students will be permitted to participate or be present in the competition area before or during the event.
- c. Eight to fifteen minutes will be allowed for judging each ring and recording the placing. One and one-half hours will be allowed for each phase of the Agricultural Mechanics Event.
- d. Participants will not be allowed to handle cattle, hogs, meat, hay, horticulture plant materials, or forestry plant materials.
- e. Participants in the Livestock and Dairy Cattle CDE's must comply with all bio-security rules of the University of Illinois or face disqualification. Plastic boots and hand sanitation will be required of all participants (students, teachers, and helpers). The IAVAT will provide these items.
- f. Participants will not be required to give reasons on any rings.
- g. Participants on Meats Evaluation and Technology teams will do part of their judging in a cold (25^o to 30^oF) storage room and should dress accordingly.
- h. All participants in the Meats Evaluation and Technology CDE will be required to wear a smock and hair net provided by the participants' chapter. Disposable frocks and hairnets are acceptable. Ball caps, visors, and the like are not acceptable. The University will not provide smocks or hairnets. Participants failing to comply will be disqualified.

2. Non-Participants

- a. Non-judging observers will be permitted only upon approval by the Event Superintendent and must be escorted at all times by an official escort.
- b. No extra students will be allowed to judge.
- c. The use of video recording equipment (still or movies) is limited to recording the activities of students from the same school as the person taking/using video equipment. The recording of CDE rings is NOT allowed until the CDE is concluded.
- d. All teachers, or adults designated to represent the teacher, will report and turn in their assignment sheets to the superintendent of the divisions to which they have been assigned as soon as possible after registering their teams.

E. Materials Required

- 1. Each participant must have a pencil (#2 lead recommended) or pen.
- 2. Clipboards are allowed in all events as long as no markings or information relating to the event are present. **Clipboards are highly recommended for those CDE's which will be scored by Scantron.**
- 3. All participants in the Meats Evaluation and Technology CDE will be required to wear a smock and hair net provided by the participants' chapter. Disposable frocks and hairnets are acceptable. Ball caps, visors, and the like are not acceptable. The University will not provide smocks or hairnets. Participants failing to comply will be disqualified.

F. Disqualification

- 1. Participants talking during or between the rings/practicums, except for questions directed to the group leader or assistant group leader, shall be subject to disqualification.
- 2. Students from the same school found to be judging at a ring or participating at the same practicum at the same time shall be subject to disqualification.
- 3. Any assistance given to a team member from any source during a Career Development Event will be sufficient cause to eliminate that participant and their team from the event.
- 4. The use of tobacco products during the Career Development Events is not allowed and participants using tobacco products shall be disqualified.
- 5. Participants failing to comply with the required dress for a Career Development Event shall be subject to disqualification.

6. Participants failing to comply with the required bio-security procedures (Livestock and Dairy) for CDE's will be disqualified.
7. Any participant found to be in possession of an electronic communication device (such as, but not limited to cell phone, walkie-talkie, radio transmitter, personal data assistant) during a CDE, shall be subject to disqualification.
8. Any participant found to have printed materials in their possession, other than those provided by the IAVAT, the event host and/or those materials required by specific CDE rules, shall be subject to disqualification.
9. Teachers, or designated adults, will be assigned responsibilities and may have their team(s) disqualified if they do not perform those duties.
10. A team may be disqualified if a teacher, designated adult representative or a participant disregards the policies and/or instructions provided by the host of the event. Teams will be made aware of policies and/or instructions through printed rules, electronic messaging and/or instructions during registration the day of the event.
11. A team may be disqualified if a teacher, or designated adult representative of the school, is found in the ring area before or during the event unless they are specifically assigned to that area.
12. Should the IAVAT Board of Directors determine that cheating did occur, the school will be disqualified from the event and a letter, composed and mailed by the full Board of Directors, will be sent to the school's superintendent notifying the school of the violation and action taken. Situations and rules interpretations not covered by General Rules or specific Career Development Event Rules shall be ruled upon by the Event Superintendent.

III. CDE Scoring

A. Placing Cards

1. Only the one placing which the participant believes is correct should be circled on the placing card for each ring.
2. The identity of a sample is indicated by placing the sample number on the line next to the correct name of the sample.
3. The grade or evaluation of an animal, a carcass, or a product is indicated by placing an "X" opposite the number of the animal, carcass, or product and in the column marked with the correct grade. On the back of the production judging cards are blanks that can be filled in for convenience of the individual in deciding the final placing. The **final placing must be circled** on the front side of the card. The circled placing is the one that is scored. Cards are pre-numbered and will be sorted and scored according to these numbers. Therefore participants should be sure to **use their own cards** and to mark and **turn in the correct card for each ring.**

B. Scantron Sheets

1. The Crops, Dairy Foods, Meats Evaluation & Technology, Horse, Livestock, Dairy Cattle and Horticulture Career Development Events will be scored by Scantron and Scantron sheets will be used by participants for these events. Participants must have a #2 pencil to fill in their placings on the sheets. If necessary, special instructions will be given to participants the day of the event. Clipboards are highly recommended for CDE's which will be scored by Scantron.
2. Scantron scoring will not be conducted at the event site. All Scantron score cards will be returned to the Illinois FFA Center, where the cards will be processed and results determined.

C. Scoring System

1. The Hormel Computing Slide and/or Scantron® will be used in scoring the judging rings. In general the amount of cut made in a participant's score for exchanging pairs varies; a smaller cut is made for reversing pairs that the official judge indicates are close.

IV. Contest Results

- A. Every possible effort will be made in computing the results of the Career Development Event in order to prevent errors. However, if the results announced and errors are revealed, the results will stand as announced and will not be corrected at a later date, except by a formal appeal, and approval by, a majority vote of the Board of Directors of the IAVAT. The formal appeal process shall be:
 1. Notification of suspected discrepancies, specifically identifying the errors, must be made in writing by the local advisor to the President of the IAVAT and copied to the Executive Director of the IAVAT.

2. Notification of suspected discrepancies must be made no later than seven (7) days following the post-marked date of the Career Development Event results letter.
 3. In a Level I Review, the President and Executive Director review the written notification and determine a review of the results by the full Board of Directors is in order.
 4. If a Level II review is necessary, a special meeting of the IAVAT Board of Directors will be called within ten (10) days of the receipt of the notification.
 5. The IAVAT Board of Directors, by majority vote can authorize a correction of the Career Development Event results.
 6. A decision at either level of review will be considered to be final.
- B. Resolving Ties in Scores
1. Breaking Ties
 - a. When using the Scantron, rings will be ranked by degree of difficulty and the student's scores will be automatically broken, based on those tie breakers.
 2. In instances where the event is scored by hand or the Scantron fails to break the tie, the following procedure will be used to break the ties.
 - b. Breaking Team Ties
 - i. When two or more teams have the same total score, the team with the higher ranking individual shall be ranked higher.
 - c. Breaking Individual Ties
 - i. When two or more individuals have the same total score, the following process will be used to determine the higher ranking individual.
 - ii. Individual ties in the Agriculture Business Management Career Development Event will be broken using the highest score in the problem section.
 - iii. Individual ties in the Agriculture Mechanics Career Development Event will be broken using the highest score on the written exam, except in the Carpentry section which shall break ties using the highest identification score. If a tie remains refer to rule 8.
 - iv. Prior to the commencement of scoring, the judge(s) will identify the class(es) in an individual Career Development Event that will be used to break individual ties in any Career Development Event not noted in rules ii through v.
 - v. Prior to the commencement of scoring, the judge(s) will identify the class(es) in the Career Development Event that will be used to break remaining individual ties after applying the tie breakers noted in rules ii through v.
- C. The results for Career Development Events will be calculated and mailed in a timely manner. Every effort will be made to post results within one week of the event, but the assurance of accuracy, number of participants and office schedule may cause results to be delayed.
- D. Awards
1. Ribbons will be awarded to each team that participates. Those teams whose scores place them in the upper third of the teams judging in a given division will receive blue ribbon awards, those in the next third will receive red ribbons, and those in the lowest third will receive white ribbons.
 2. Superior (purple) ribbons will be awarded to the top 10 teams in each division (but not more than the top half of the blue ribbon group) in place of the blue ribbons.
 3. Ribbons will be awarded to each individual that participates. Individuals whose scores place them in the upper third of those judging in a given division will receive blue ribbon awards, those in the next third will receive red ribbons, and those in the lowest third will receive white ribbons.
 4. Superior (purple) ribbons will be awarded to the top 10 percent of the individuals (not to exceed 10 individuals) in each division or phase in place of the blue ribbons.
- E. In the event any agriculture education instructor or representative of the school suspects that cheating occurred at a Career Development Event, the following procedure will be followed:
1. The instructor or school representative will notify the IAVAT President, or the highest ranking IAVAT officer present, at the time of the suspected cheating or before leaving the CDE site.
 2. In the event incidents of cheating do not come to light until after leaving the CDE site, then the incident must be reported within twenty-four (24) hours to the President of the IAVAT.
 3. Sufficient evidence to support the charges must be made in writing and signed by teacher or school representative making the complaint. The written evidence must be faxed to the attention of the

IAVAT President and carbon copied to the Executive Director of the IAVAT no later than three (3) school days following the contest.

4. In a Level I Review, the IAVAT President and Executive Director will review the evidence and determine if the complaint warrants a review by the IAVAT Board of Directors.
5. If a Level II review is necessary, the IAVAT Board of Directors will meet, review the charges and render a decision within ten (10) days of the completion of the event.
6. A decision at either level of review will be considered final.
7. The agriculture education instructor under question will be invited to the special IAVAT Board of Directors meeting to review with the Board the charges and evidence presented.
8. The IAVAT Board of Directors will consider the evidence and explanations provided before determining the final results of the Career Development Event.
9. In the event the IAVAT Board of Directors determines that the cheating did occur, the team and individual participants will be disqualified from the contest and a letter, composed and mailed by the full Board of Directors, will be sent to the school's superintendent notifying the school of the cause for the disqualification.

V. Miscellaneous

Each event will be held on the date indicated regardless of the weather. In some events it will be necessary for the judging to be done outside, this is especially true in the forestry, dairy cattle, and livestock events. In other events it may be necessary for the participants to be outside part of the time. Consequently, participants are urged to come prepared for the event regardless of the weather conditions.

Individual Career Development Events are described in greater detail in separate sections.

General Information

2007–2008 IAVAT State Career Development Events

Career Development Event	# on Team	# for Score	Team	Check-in or Registration	Fees per Participant Member - Nonmember	Date	Event Time	Location
Horse	four	top 3	1 reasons 1 nonreas	7:30 am invitational	\$7-reasons \$3- nonreas	9/15/07	9:00 am	Black Hawk East C.C.
Forestry	five	top 3	1/school	9:00 am on-site	\$7— \$28	9/29/07	10:00 am	SIU Touch of Nature
Food Science					Determined by Host	11/3/07		Pleasant Hill H.S.
Job Interview	N/A	Individual	N/A	Prereg. only 11/01/07	Determined by Host	11/10/07	by appt.	WIU
Agronomy	three	three	1/school	8:30 am optional prereg. 11/08/07	\$7— \$28	12/01/07	10:00 am	U of I
Dairy Foods	Five	top 3	1/school	8:30 am optional prereg. 11/08/07	\$7— \$28	12/01/07	10:00 am	U of I
Ag Issues	Three to Seven	All	1/school	Prereg. Only 1/26/08	\$7— \$28 per team	2/09/08	by appt.	WIU
Parliamentary Procedure	Six	All	First & second from District	Prereg. Only 2/06/08	None	2/16/08	9:00 am	Lincoln Land Community College
Meats Evaluation & Technology	five	top 3	1/school	9:00 am optional prereg. 2/10/08	\$7— \$28	3/01/08	10:00 am	U of I
Poultry	five	top 3	1/school	9:00 am on-site	\$7— \$28	3/15/08	10:00 am	Shelbyville High School
Ag Sales	five	five	1/school	Prereg. only 4/11/08	\$7— \$28	4/26/08	by appt.	Parkland College
Horticulture	five	five	1/school	8:00 am Prereg. only 4/3/08	\$7— \$28	4/29/08	10:00 am	U of I
Dairy Cattle	five	top 3	1/school	8:00 am optional prereg. 4/3/07	\$7— \$28	Tentative 4/29/08	10:00 am	U of I
Livestock	five	top 3	1/school	8:00 am optional prereg. 4/03/08	\$7— \$28	Tentative 4/29/08	10:00 am	U of I
Ag Business Management	five	top 3	1/school	5:45 pm Prereg. only 4/29/07	\$7— \$28	5/07/08	Evening, but time varies by District	5 district sites to be announced
Ag Mechanics	five	five	First per section & all first place Ind.	9:00 am Prereg. only 4/29/08	\$7— \$28	5/13/08	10:00 am	U of I