

**TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION FFA
AGRICULTURAL ISSUES FORUM
CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT**

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please thoroughly read the Introduction Section at the beginning of this handbook for complete rules and procedures that are relevant to all Tennessee FFA Career Development Events.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Agricultural Issues CDE is to provide an opportunity to expose a wide variety of students to the selection, research, planning, and presentation of an agricultural issue.

II. OBJECTIVES

- A. To acquire knowledge and skills** in community leadership for present and future use.
- B. To become knowledgeable** of, and familiar with a variety of local, state, national and international issues facing agriculture.
- C. To understand the principles and fundamentals** of agricultural issue analysis.
- D. To further the awareness** of agricultural issues in the local community.
- E. To promote integration of agricultural issue analysis** in local school academic subject matter areas.
- R. To promote career choices** by providing an opportunity for individuals to become acquainted with professionals in the industry.
- G. To foster teamwork,** leadership and communication skills.

III. EVENT RULES

- A. The purpose of the agricultural issues forum** is to present a current issue to a public audience; therefore, professional ethics and standards are to be considered. Ignoring truthful information, falsifying needed information, using unreliable sources and plagiarism are violation examples which could result in disqualification.
- B. Each student must take an active role** in the presentation to be eligible for scholarships and awards. This includes active participation in the presentation and making themselves available for questions from the judges in all rounds of competition.
- C. Presentations may include official FFA dress,** costumes, props, skits and other creative paraphernalia.
- D. Signatures of community representatives** must be on registration forms.
- E. A minimum of three competent and unbiased judges will be provided.** They will be instructed not to take sides on the issue(s). Professors and industry representatives are recommended. The superintendent of this CDE will adequately prepare the judges before the event competition.
- F. Seating of teams** in the preliminary rounds will be done by the event superintendent in a fair and impartial manner as determined by the event committee.

IV. EVENT FORMAT

- A. EQUIPMENT PROVIDED-** Any equipment necessary will be provided by the competing team members.
- B. Each team will conduct a presentation** on the issue developed and presented at the local level.
- C. The issue will come from one of the following eight agricultural issue topic areas** as listed in the Focusing on Agricultural Issues instructional materials:
1. Environmental Issues
 2. Agricultural Technology Issues
 3. Animal Issues
 4. Agricultural Career Issues
 5. Economy and Trade Issues
 6. Agricultural Policy Issues
 7. Food Safety Issues
 8. Biotechnology
- D. The same agricultural issue presentation and portfolio will not be used** in subsequent years by the same chapter and/or advisor.
- E. Research on the topic must be** current and students must be involved in all the research of the topic and development of the portfolio.
- F. The portfolio should include** items described in a, b and c below, and will be limited to ten pages single sided or five pages double sided maximum not including cover page. The cover page will include the title of the issue, the date of the state qualifying event, name, address and phone number of the chapter. A maximum of ten (10) points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum amount of pages and /or for not including the cover page containing required information. **Three copies of the portfolio must be sent to the State office, by the deadline set on the official calendar.** A penalty of 10% (2.5 points) will be assessed for documents received after the published deadline. If document is not received seven days after published deadline, the team may be subject to disqualification.
1. A maximum of two pages of the portfolio will include a summary of the issue, answering the questions that are most relevant to your topic:
 - a. List course(s) in which instruction occurred including the number of students involved in the instruction of the issue. (See Objective 6.)
 - b. Why is this issue important now?
 - c. What is the nature of the issue?
 - d. Who is involved in the issue?
 - e. How can the issue be defined?
 - f. What is the historical background of the issue?
 - g. What caused the issue?
 - h. What are the risks?
 - i. What are the benefits?
 - j. Is there strong disagreement on how the issue should be solved?
 2. A bibliography of all resources and references cited which may include personal interviews and any other supporting material.

Provide documentation that local forum(s) occurred prior to state qualifying event such as:

- a. Letters from organizations
- b. News articles
- c. Photos showing attendance at forums (3 X 5 or 4 X 6)
- d. Scrapbook

Please state when, where and to whom the forum(s) were presented and indicate how many community members were in attendance at each of the forum(s).

A chapter must have a minimum of five high quality public forums prior to their state qualifying event in order to receive the maximum of 15 points. Forum presentations given after having won the state competition are encouraged, but will not count toward the portfolio score.

Multiple organizations attending the same forum will count as one forum. If more than one forum is held on the same day, the starting time of each forum must be independently documented.

Portfolio judges may take into consideration the quality and quantity of presentations made to audiences outside of the school. No points will be awarded for school presentations to teachers and students. In addition, no points shall be awarded for forums presented as any part of a local or state FFA competition.

***High quality forums** are those presentations made to community groups that would have an interest in the issue. Suggested procedures for setting up these presentations and examples of community groups have been provided in the Agricultural Issues Forum Presenter's Guide. High quality forums can also be with smaller numbers of individuals who hold elected, appointed or some other official position that will be making decisions on the issue.*

***Examples of low quality forums** would be dropping in at a local business and giving your presentation to the workers or going to the home of one of the parents to make a presentation. Low quality forums will receive zero or minimal points.*

- G. **Time Limits:** Five minutes will be allowed for set up. The presentation will be a maximum of 15 minutes in length. The presenters will receive a signal at 10 minutes and 14 minutes. At 15 minutes the timekeeper will announce that time is up, and the presentation will end. A maximum of seven (7) minutes for questions and answers will be allotted. Questions and answers will terminate at the end of seven (7) minutes. Three (3) minutes will be allowed for take down.
- H. The **presentations** will be designed to be viewed by the judges. The audience at-large will not be of concern to the presenters.
- I. **The judges may ask questions of all individuals of the presenting team.** Each individual is encouraged to respond to at least one question from the judges.

V. SCORING

A. Team Presentation

1. Introduction, Pro, Con and Summary of Pro and Con (20 points each, 80 points total)
There will be a 5-point deduction from the scorecard of any team that draws a conclusion supporting a pro or con viewpoint during the formal presentation.
2. Overall presentation (participation of each member of the team, quality and power of the presentations, creativity, stage presence) (20 points)
3. Questions (25 points)

B. Portfolio: 10 single sided pages maximum or 5 double sided pages. (Three parts, 25 points total)

1. Summary of the Issue, 2 pages maximum (5 points).
2. Bibliography (5 points).
3. Documentation of local forums (15 points).
 - a. Please state when, (date and time) where, and to whom the local forums were presented to. If you indicate that more than one forum was held on the same date, independent documentation of the time of day the forums were held must be provided.
 - b. Maximum of 10 points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum number of pages and/or not including cover page containing required information.

Prior to the event, the portfolios will be judged and scored by qualified individuals using the portfolio scorecard. Portfolio scores will be averaged and supplied to the presentation judges after they have scored the presentation. Portfolio comment cards will be completed by portfolio judges and presented to the teams at the awards function. Presentation judges will be furnished with copies of the team portfolio, which they will use to formulate questions.

C. Judges' ranking will be used to place teams.

D. Participants shall be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. The judges' ranking of each participant then shall be added, and the winner will be that participant whose total ranking is the lowest. Other placings will be determined in the same manner (low rank method of selection).

VI. TIEBREAKERS

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Team or participant's low ranks will be counted and the team/participant with the greatest number of low ranks will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the event superintendent will rank the team's/participant's response to questions. The team/participant with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to question will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists then the team's/participants' raw scores will be totaled. The participant with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

VII. AWARDS

Top two teams will be recognized on stage at the State FFA Convention. The winning team will represent Tennessee at the National FFA Convention.

VIII. REFERENCES

This list of references is not intended to be inclusive. Other sources may be utilized and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.

Updated Focusing on Agricultural Issues Instructional Materials located at:

<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~peters/>

Global Vision Instructional Materials, Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

Agricultural Issues: Food Safety Video, Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

Agricultural Issues: Ground Water Safety Video, Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

Agricultural Issues Forum

Name: _____

Chapter: _____

The Portfolio should include items described in Section 6a, 6b and 6c of the Guidelines, and is limited to ten pages single-sided [5 pages double-sided] maximum.

Ten copies of the Portfolio must be sent to the Career Development Event Manager, National FFA Center postmarked by September 15th prior to the National FFA Convention at which the issue is to be presented.

Portfolio

	Possible Points	15 – 11	10 – 6	5 – 1
Summary of the Issue (2 pages maximum)	5			
Bibliography	5			
Documentation of Local Forums	15			
Subtotal:	25			

Team Sub Total::

Deduction for exceeding the maximum number of pages and incomplete cover page [10 pts. Max]:

Deduction: ()

Deduction for portfolios received after the post mark deadline (2.5 points Maximum)

Deduction: ()

Total Score:

Judge's signature

Agricultural Issues Forum

Name: _____

Chapter: _____

Team Presentation

	Possible Points	25 – 21	20 – 15	14 – 10	9 – 5	4 – 0
Introduction Statement of the issue and it's importance	20					
Pro View Point	20					
Con View Point	20					
Summary of Pro and Con	20					
Overall Presentation	20					
Questions	25					
Portfolio	25					
Total:	150					
Deduction for Presenting a Conclusion	(5)					(____)

Team Presentation Total::

Judges signature
