

# Dairy Cattle Evaluation – Career Development Event Sponsored by: Dairy Farmers of America



**Purpose:** The purpose of the Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE) is to provide a competitive event for agricultural education students, emphasizing skills in dairy cattle evaluation, selection and dairy herd management.

**Background:** The Dairy Cattle Evaluation (CDE) is one of the oldest of the FFA Contests and even predates the formation of the FFA itself. The CDE has evolved to include communication skills and team building exercises.

- Contestants evaluate classes of heifers, mature cows, and aged cows.
- Contestants give oral reasons on one or more of these classes.
- Contestants compete in a team activity using DHIA records for selecting replacement cows.

A team consists of four students with the three highest grades used to determine the team score. Students compete on the regional (east, middle and west Tennessee) and state levels before advancing to the national CDE in Dairy Cattle Evaluation. Members advance as a team. The top two teams from each region advance to the state competition. Dairy specialists are used to help conduct the CDE by selecting the animals to be used, providing herd records, making official placings, and listening to oral reasons. The state winning team represents Tennessee at the national CDE held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention each October.

**Visibility:** The sponsor of this award will be recognized in the following ways:

- Immediate press release recognizing the new partnership.
- Statewide recognition at the state FFA convention in front of 2,500 FFA members.
- Statewide media recognition through press releases in agricultural publications.
- Name of sponsor on plaques received by FFA members.

**Budget:** The annual cost of this three-year commitment is \$1,500.00. This amount of support each year will provide the award plaques with sponsor's name on each of three regional levels and at the state level, regional CDE expenses, lunch at the state CDE, and travel expenses for the winning team to compete at the National FFA Convention.

Expected Results: This partnership will generate added interest and excitement in this award area. Through this increased interest more students will focus their skill development in the area of dairy cattle management.