



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM NOTIFICATION

Updated: August 13, 2024

The National FFA Organization provides information on an annual basis regarding awards and recognition areas for future years. We are pleased to announce the following programs and changes for the 2025 award/convention year.

Career and Leadership Development Events

CDEs and LDEs are open to all grade levels of active membership (grades 7-12 at the time of qualifying) except for the Conduct of Chapter Meetings and Creed Speaking LDEs. Please review the program handbooks located on FFA.org.

CDE/LDE Program updates for 2025

Dairy Cattle Evaluation/Dairy Handlers Activity:

- Starting in 2025, the dairy cattle dairy handlers activity will no longer be offered. The dairy cattle will be in stanchions or racks or led by handlers selected by the Dairy Cattle Evaluation CDE Committee. This change was made for the protection and safety of the animals and FFA members.

2025 CDE/LDE Planning Guide:

- This will be available in July. We will provide an update in the weekly State Staff email and post it on the CDE/LDE webpage.

The following events will be offered in 2025:

Career Development Events

- Agricultural Communications
- Agricultural Sales
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems
- Agronomy
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management
- Environmental and Natural Resources
- Farm & Agribusiness Management
- Floriculture
- Food Science and Technology
- Forestry
- Horse Evaluation
- Livestock Evaluation
- Marketing Plan
- Meats Evaluation and Technology
- Milk Quality and Products
- Nursery/Landscape
- Poultry
- Veterinary Science

Leadership Development Events

- Agricultural Issues Forum
- Conduct of Chapter Meetings
- Creed Speaking
- Prepared Public Speaking
- Employment Skills
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking
- Parliamentary Procedure

All Career and Leadership Development updates and announcements are on the [CDE/LDE webpage](#).

Important Update: Implementation Timeline Update for Awards and Recognition Program Changes

After extensive feedback from FFA stakeholders, we have decided to delay the implementation of the recently announced changes to the 2025 Awards and Recognition Programs. This decision will ensure that everyone has adequate time to prepare and transition smoothly, without disrupting the ongoing 2024 SAE programs, which could have been negatively impacted by mid-course application changes.

Key Updates and Reasons for Delay:

- Adequate Preparation Time: Our members, advisors, and state leaders require more time to understand and implement the changes effectively.
- Consistency for Current Programs: We want to ensure that ongoing SAE work can be submitted using the same applications, maintaining fairness for all students and advisors involved.
- State Association Needs: State associations need additional time to communicate and integrate these

changes before the new school year begins.

Looking Ahead to 2027:

In 2027, we will implement a more comprehensive update to the SAE-Based Awards Program to align with the "SAE for All" initiative. This includes:

- Creating School-Based Enterprise and Service-Learning categories.
- Potential updates to Placement/Internship, Ownership/Entrepreneurship and Research.
- Potential updates to degree requirements and CDE and LDE formats.

Timeline for Future Changes:

- **January 2025:** Announce minor updates for 2026 and release the 2026 handbooks. Major changes for 2027 will be announced with corresponding materials.
- **Throughout 2025-2026:** State Associations will receive complete 2027 update information to allow enough time to prepare for the transition.

This phased communication and implementation plan ensures ample preparation time for all parties, aiming for a seamless transition to the updated awards structure by 2027.

Agricultural Proficiency Awards

Application Update

The 2025 application will be revised to include the following:

- Add Performance Review D—Financial Explanation for Entrepreneurship

Available Proficiency Award Areas

The following 45 proficiency award areas will be offered in 2025. Updated proficiency award area descriptions will be available after National Winner Selection in November.

- Agricultural Communication – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agricultural Education – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agricultural Mechanics Design & Fabrication – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance – Entrepreneurship
- Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance - Placement
- Agricultural Processing – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agricultural Sales - Entrepreneurship
- Agricultural Sales - Placement
- Agricultural Services – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Agriscience Research – Animal Systems
- Agriscience Research – Integrated Systems
- Agriscience Research – Plant Systems
- Beef Production - Entrepreneurship
- Beef Production - Placement
- Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship
- Dairy Production - Placement
- Diversified Agricultural Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Diversified Crop - Entrepreneurship
- Diversified Crop - Placement
- Diversified Horticulture – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Diversified Livestock Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Environmental Science & Natural Resources Management – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Equine Science – Entrepreneurship
- Equine Science - Placement
- Fiber and/or Oil Crop Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Forage Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Forest Management & Products – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Fruit & Nut Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Goat Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Grain Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Landscape Installation (renamed in 2025) – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Nursery Operations – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Outdoor Recreation – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Poultry Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Service-Learning – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Sheep Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Small Animal Production and Care – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Specialty Crop Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Specialty Animal Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Swine Production - Entrepreneurship
- Swine Production - Placement
- Turf & Landscape Maintenance (renamed in 2025) – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Vegetable Production – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Veterinary Science – Entrepreneurship/Placement
- Wildlife Production & Management – Entrepreneurship/Placement

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/award/proficiencies/>

Agriscience Research SAE Program

Application and Handbook Updates:

Change "Categories" to "Pathways."

Category determinations will no longer be done.

Students will select the pathway in which their research impacts.

Students will select five different AFNR indicators from their Primary Pathway. Students will need to articulate why their skills align with the indicator selected.

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/agriscience-fair/>.

National Chapter Award Program

Application Update

Minor application updates will take place to accommodate any needed changes to the online/electronic submission of agriscience fair applications for national competition.

Reminders:

- The handbook and rubrics are updated annually. The updated handbook and rubrics will be published in September 2024.
- The next revision of the National Chapter Award Program will be after the National Council for Agricultural Education updates the National Quality Program Standards (NQPS). Depending on when the Council releases the updated NQPS, there may be a one-cycle delay in updating the application, as updates will not be made mid-award cycle.

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/national-chapter/>.

American FFA Degree

No significant changes are planned to the American FFA Degree application for the 2025 award year.

Detailed State approval and national submission deadlines continue to be as follows:

- **March 15** – Applications submitted by this date are guaranteed a two-week revision opportunity if required.
- **April 15** – Applications submitted by this date should have a two-week revision opportunity if required, but not guaranteed.
- **May 15** – Applications submitted by this day may have a one-week or less revision opportunity, which is not guaranteed.
- **June 15** – Final Submission Deadline – Applications submitted in June will have no revision opportunity and will be rejected should the national review find any issues.

Please continue to use the following resources to help determine appropriate community service activities:

- [Community Service Guidelines for FFA Degrees](#)

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/american-ffa-degree/>.

American Star Awards

The 2025 Star application will be updated to align with the 2024 Agricultural Proficiency Award application.

For more information, visit <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/american-star-awards/>.

The state approval/submission deadline remains June 15. No revision opportunity is offered for this competitive application.

Overall Revision Update

Revisions to awards and recognition programs are necessary to ensure we provide diverse and relevant opportunities for our growing membership. When every FFA member can find opportunities to showcase the skills they learned in the classroom, through their SAE, and from FFA involvement, we will fulfill our mission to grow premier leadership, personal growth and career success for every member of FFA.

Program revision committees will continue to meet and finalize program changes. We understand that revisions to the Awards and Recognition Programs can cause concern, especially regarding preparation time for states and chapters. FFA commits to providing timely information on revisions, and ensuring states and advisors have ample time and resources to prepare for all revisions.

We encourage everyone to carefully read the weekly state staff updates and the specific program web pages to stay informed about revisions and the overall process.

Visit <https://www.ffa.org/awards-recognition-updates/> for details.

Comments and recommendations for the National FFA Awards and Recognition Revision Process may be submitted using the following link: [Revision Feedback](#).