

2022-2027

Montana Career and Leadership Development Event Handbook



Table of Contents

Member Eligibility.....	1
Registration.....	2
General Guidelines.....	2
Tabulation of Results.....	3
Official Judges.....	4
Rules & Revisions.....	4
Tie Breakers.....	5
Awards.....	5
National FFA Participation.....	5
Hosting / Adding and Deletion of CDE/LDES.....	6
Special Needs.....	6
Waiver of Rules.....	6
Honesty and Integrity Expectations.....	6
Cheating.....	7
Plagiarism.....	7
Fabrication.....	7
Competitive Misconduct.....	8
Improper Computer/Calculator Use.....	8
Disruptive Behavior.....	8
Electronic Devices.....	8
CDE/LDES AT A GLANCE.....	9
Event Specific Guidelines.....	10
Agricultural Communications.....	10
Agricultural Issues Forum.....	10
Agricultural Sales.....	10
Agricultural Science Fair.....	10
Agronomy.....	10
Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems.....	11
Conduct of Chapter Meetings.....	11
Creed/Jr. Creed.....	12
Employment Skills.....	12
Environmental and Natural Resources.....	12
Extemporaneous Speaking.....	13
Farm and Agribusiness Management.....	13

Floriculture	13
Food Science	13
Forestry.....	13
Horse Judging.....	13
Livestock Evaluation.....	14
Marketing Plan	14
Meats Evaluation and Technology.....	14
Parliamentary Procedures.....	14
Poultry	15
Prepared Speaking.....	15
Star Greenhand.....	15
Veterinary Science	16

Member Eligibility

To be eligible for participation in FFA Career Development Events or awards, the following must occur:

1. Be an active member in good standing with the local bona fide chapter, State, and National Associations for the school year during which the event is held (or the previous year) and be a student in grades 7-12 who is enrolled in Agricultural Education. The state advisor will compile a list of chapters in good standing (i.e., the initial membership roster, POA, Economic Impact Report (OPI), Annual report, etc.... have not reached the state office) before each national qualifying competition.
2. If membership is questioned in any competitive event or award programs held above the chapter level by an advisor, the state advisor will check eligibility.
3. Upon notification from the state office indicating the chapter's ineligibility, (i.e., the initial membership roster, POA, Economic Impact Report (OPI), Annual report, etc.... have not reached the state office) all members in that chapter are ineligible for competition above the chapter level until the roster, POA, Economic Impact Report (OPI), Annual Report, etc. are received in the state office.
4. Chapters must have competed in a District CDE/LDE or designated event to compete in a judging event at state convention. If your district has fewer than half of its chapters wanting to compete in a specific CDE, your district representative can certify accordingly, either without an official competition or by using another event before state convention.
 - a. With CDEs limited to the top half moving on to state-level competition, a chapter is eligible to compete if an individual places in the top three at their district CDE, even if the team is not in the top half.
5. One FFA Advisor from each FFA District will be designated by the advisors/teachers within the district to serve as the district certifying officer. The district certifying officer shall provide to the Montana FFA Association a list of all CDE/LDE teams or individuals from the district eligible to compete at state-level events. The Montana FFA Association will provide a form for this purpose. The official form must be submitted to the Montana FFA Association office before state convention.
6. In the qualifying area of Star Greenhand, the FFA district winner advances to the state competition. If that member chooses not to advance, the second-place competitor will advance, then the third, and so on.
7. In the state-qualifying LDEs of Jr. Creed Speaking, Creed Speaking, Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Prepared Public Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, and Conduct of Chapter Meetings, the first and second-place District winners qualify to advance to the state competition. If those members or teams cannot or choose not to advance, the district representative must be notified seven calendar days prior to state registration closing. The third-place competitor or team will then advance, then the fourth, and so on.
8. Participation in state competitive events is limited to 7-12 grade members unless otherwise stated in the specific event or award program area.

Registration

1. Pre-registration is required for all National-qualifying state events unless otherwise announced by the Montana FFA Association. Chapters will register at judgingcard.com. Registration will open 30 calendar days before the event and will close 14 calendar days before the event, as published on the official Montana FFA calendar.
2. No later than five business days following the close of registration, it is the chapter advisor's responsibility to confirm registration accuracy on Judging Card. If an issue is present, it is the advisor's responsibility to contact the state advisor.
3. Chapters not properly registered, including satisfactory payment of Association and Foundation outstanding fees, will not be eligible for competition.

General Guidelines

1. Advisors are responsible for registering CDE/LDE individuals and/or teams at judgingcard.com.
2. It is prohibited for Advisors or team coaches to be present in the CDE/LDE area, CDE/LDE preparation/waiting room(s), or scoring area after the contest has started unless involved in facilitating the event. If there is an obvious infraction of this rule, the event coordinator has the authority to disqualify the violator and respective team(s) from competition.
3. It is prohibited for an Advisor or anyone else to register their members under another member or chapter name, such as combining students from multiple chapters to form a full team. This will result in disqualification.
4. Advisors will instruct students properly to participate in a CDE/LDE before arrival at the event.
5. Participants must provide their own pencils, erasers, clipboards, calculators, and other necessary items for events unless directed otherwise by the CDE/LDE coordinator.
6. Decisions regarding the participation of late-arriving individuals/teams will be made at the discretion of the CDE/LDE coordinator.
7. FFA members and Advisors will act in a manner that reflects positively on the member, the FFA chapter, the school, and the organization.
8. FFA members must be accompanied by a school district-approved chaperone at all events.
9. Event hosts may stop any participant if they determine their manner to be hazardous to others or themselves. This action will result in a zero for that portion of the CDE/LDE.
10. There shall be no communication among the contestants or between contestants and anyone else except as directed by the event coordinator while the event is in progress. It is prohibited for Advisors or anyone else to interfere with, interrupt, or distract a contestant while the event is in progress. If there is an obvious infraction of this rule, the event coordinator has the authority to disqualify the violator from competition.

11. Judging cards that are completed incorrectly (i.e., participant number not shaded in, stray marks, etc.) will not be scored. If a member believes their scorecard/scantron has been damaged or may not read properly, they must notify a CDE/LDE official before handing it in. A CDE/LDE official will then provide a new form for the member to complete under supervision. The CDE/LDE official will keep both score sheets to document which students received a new scantron.
12. Participants will not be allowed to utilize personal electronic devices, other than those approved by the CDE/LDE officials, during the entire course of the event. Unless specified in event guidelines, cell phones, smart watches, or any other personal electronic devices will not be allowed in the contest area and possession will result in disqualification. Participants who access personal electronic devices without prior approval of the event officials will be disqualified.
13. Materials that have been used by chapters and coaches as resources for training purposes should not be presented in the same visual manner as the official CDE/LDE. If materials are provided to all chapters, those materials will be appropriate to utilize during an event or contest.
14. All written materials used in Montana FFA State CDE/LDEs will be made available following their use at a State Event. They will be posted on MAGNET by the event host before the Summer MAAE Update conference.
15. All Final Four LDEs will be recorded by tech staff. The recorded video will be the official video used in resolving any disputes.
16. A penalty of 25% of the total points allotted will be assessed for the required written documents received after the postmarked deadline. If the document is still not received seven calendar days after the postmarked deadline, the team/individual will receive zero credit for that portion.
 - a. State staff will mark late entries as such.
 - b. Event officials will be notified of late entries at the time written documents are provided for judging.
 - c. Event superintendents will ensure that the penalty is applied.

Tabulation of Results

1. After each event, all completed score sheets will be delivered to the event coordinator for tabulation.
2. Event results will be posted on the first business day following the end of the entire event, not just an individual CDE/LDE, on MAGNET and/or Judging Card.
3. It is the responsibility of the FFA advisor to review individual and team results.
4. State CDE/LDE results are considered officially open for written appeal for seven calendar days following publishing. A \$50 filing fee will be assessed for every written appeal. The fee will be returned if the appeal is justified.

5. If a written appeal is filed within seven calendar days after the results announcement, the Montana Board of Trustees and the event superintendent will review the appeal. At the close of the seventh calendar day following publishing, results will be uncontestable.
6. Completed individual and team score sheets and testing materials will not be returned immediately following state competitions. These materials will be kept by the coordinator for ten calendar days after publishing results until all appeals are managed. They will then be returned at the discretion of the event facilitator or destroyed. Judges of Leadership Events are encouraged to use comment cards provided by the host to offer feedback to individual contestants if scoresheets are not going to be returned to contestants.
7. For events with subjective scoring, participants shall be ranked in numerical order based on the respective judge's scores as determined by each judge without consultation. The judges' ranking of each participant shall then be added, and the winner will be that whose total ranking is the lowest. Other placings shall be determined in the same manner (low point method of selection). These events include Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Prepared Public Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, Ag Issues, Marketing Plan, Creed Speaking, Junior Creed Speaking, and Star Greenhand.

Official Judges

1. Official judges for each event will be selected by the CDE/LDE coordinator or his or her representative. Careful consideration should be given to selecting qualified and competent judges.
2. The official judges should make their placing in the same manner as is required of contestants concerning handling specimens or animals.
3. The official judges will give their completed official placings and scores to the event coordinator.
4. Placings by the official judges must be kept confidential until the event is completed and public announcements are made.
5. Judges of Leadership Events are expected to use comment cards provided by the host to offer feedback to individual participants unless scorecards are not going to be returned after the event.
6. Judges' decisions are considered final.

Rules & Revisions

1. Authority is given to the Montana FFA Board of Trustees to make technical revisions to CDE/LDE rules, as necessary.
2. In addition, the Board of Trustees encourages CDE/LDE coordinators to follow National CDE/LDE rules as closely as possible while allowing the flexibility to adjust as necessary based on the availability of resources and time available.
3. Deviations from National Guidelines that are not explained in this handbook will be disseminated via MAGNET by the CDE/LDE coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

4. Most timeframes listed in the National Guidelines will be modified to fit our time allowances. Look for information from the CDE/LDE coordinator for specific times.

Tie Breakers

Ties will be broken using the National CDE/LDE guidelines for each event.

Awards

1. The top 10 FFA individuals and five teams that competed in a State CDE/LDE, whether held at State Convention or elsewhere, will be announced and presented with a certificate at the awards session held at State Convention.
2. The top three teams will receive plaques and the top three individuals will receive gold, silver, and bronze pins in all CDE/LDEs that have teams and individuals recognized.
3. State winners of the Star Greenhand, Junior Creed, Creed Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Prepared Speaking will receive a pin and a plaque.
4. The winner of each Agriscience division, regardless of system, will receive awards.
5. In Sweepstakes, the top four teams and top four individuals will be announced and receive plaques.
 - a. Team Sweepstakes will include the CDEs listed on the At-A-Glance page of this document. The four lowest scores will count. In case of a tie, the team with the highest number of first-place individual rankings will win. If still a tie, the highest number of second-place rankings, etc.
 - b. Individual Sweepstakes will include the CDEs listed on the At-A-Glance page of this document. Individuals will be awarded based on their best ranking from the four lowest scores. In case of a tie, the individual with the highest number of first-place individual rankings will win. If still a tie, the highest number of second-place rankings, etc.
 - c. Gold, silver, and bronze individual rankings will be identified on JudgingCard.

National FFA Participation

1. All CDE/LDE event participants must be from the highest-ranking eligible team. The team representing Montana must be designated by the National CDE/LDE deadline. Teams will be contacted in order of State CDE/LDE ranking until a team is secured to represent Montana at National Convention. If a National CDE/LDE team cannot be secured from the top twenty percent of teams in the State event, no team will be certified for that event from Montana that year.
2. An individual can compete in a particular National FFA CDE/LDE only once (i.e., may compete in Agricultural Sales one year and Livestock Evaluation the next).
3. Per National FFA rules, in any team event, only one member of the team can be replaced. If two individuals must be replaced, then the next eligible team will be designated as the National Team.

- a. Teams can petition the Board of Trustees to replace more than one student in extreme cases where circumstances are out of the advisor's control.
4. The winning team in the Agronomy CDE has the choice of either competing in the National Agronomy CDE or a Grain Marketing tour. The next eligible team will be offered the other event. If a chapter is unwilling or unable to accept one of these choices, it will be awarded to the next high-ranking team.
5. Upon completion of the last State CDE/LDE conducted, the State FFA advisor will contact winning CDE/LDE teams to verify their intent by July 1.

Hosting / Adding and Deletion of CDE/LDES

1. The Board of Trustees will establish State CDE/LDE host request deadlines and will post them on MAGNET, on the Montana Agriculture Education Web page, or can be requested from the State Advisor.
2. Career Development events with less than 5 teams competing will be considered for deletion. Delegates at State FFA Convention will vote on a recommendation for that contest to the Board of Trustees.
3. For a new CDE/LDE to become a national qualifying event, the first year will be an inaugural event with an educational/training component. Upon completion, the Board of Trustees will evaluate the event and determine its potential viability.

Special Needs

Accessibility for all students - All special needs requests and appropriate documentation as outlined in the special needs request procedure must be submitted with the appropriate career development event certification form by the certification deadline.

Waiver of Rules

Any local chapter seeking a waiver of a Montana FFA policy or procedure must submit the waiver form in writing to the Montana FFA association office. The Board of Trustees will then make final decisions on policy and procedure. The request must be submitted to the Montana FFA Association office at least 30 calendar days before the scheduled event or due date for which the waiver is requested. This policy does not supersede any current FFA policy for appeals already established for a particular FFA program.

Honesty and Integrity Expectations

Montana FFA expects students to be honest in all their work, including work outside of the classroom related to Career Development Events and Supervised Agricultural Experience programs. By participating in a competitive event, FFA members, Advisors, and proctors agree to adhere to high standards of academic honesty and integrity and understand that failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, up to and including event disqualification.

By registering for or participating in any FFA event, FFA chapter representatives, including students and adults, agree to adhere to the following expectations. FFA chapter representatives who do not agree with these expectations should not register or participate.

Cheating

Defined as the improper taking or tendering of any information or material which shall be used to determine academic or competitive credit. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Copying from another student's test or materials.
- b. Allowing another student to copy from a test or materials.
- c. Using unauthorized materials during a test, such as the textbook, notebook, formula lists, or notes, including those stored in a calculator or other electronic device.
- d. Collaborating during an event or activity with any other person by giving or receiving information without authority.
- e. Having another individual write or plan a paper, including those bought from research paper services.

Plagiarism

Defined as the attempt to represent the work of another, as it may relate to written or oral works, computer-based work, and/or mode of creative expression, as the product of one's thought, whether the other's work is published or unpublished, or simply the work of a fellow student or teacher. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Quoting another person's actual words without providing proper citation.
- b. Using another person's idea, opinion, or theory without providing a proper citation, even if it is completely paraphrased in one's own words.
- c. Drawing upon facts, statistics, or other illustrative materials without providing proper citation — unless the information is common knowledge.
- d. Failing to accurately document information or wording obtained on the Internet.
- e. Submitting anyone else's work as one's own work.
- f. Violating federal copyright laws, including unauthorized duplication and/or distribution of copyrighted material.
- g. Off giving, receiving, or soliciting any materials, items, or services of value to gain competitive advantages for yourself or another.

Fabrication

Defined as the use of invented or fabricated information, or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive for competitive advantage. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Citing information not taken from the source indicated.
- b. Listing sources in a Works Cited or reference not used in the academic exercise.
- c. Inventing data or source information for research or other academic exercise.
- d. Taking a test for someone else or permitting someone else to take a test for you.

- e. Submitting any academic exercise as one's own prepared totally or in part by another, including online sources.

Competitive Misconduct

Defined as the intentional violation of integrity by tampering with scores or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a test or practicum. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Stealing, buying, downloading, or otherwise obtaining all or part of a test and/or test answers without authorization.
- b. Asking or bribing any other person to obtain a test or any information about a test.
- c. Changing, altering, or being an accessory to changing and/or altering an exam response or a grade recorded.
- d. Continuing to work on an examination or practicum after the specified time has elapsed.

Improper Computer/Calculator Use

Examples of improper computer and/or calculator use include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Unauthorized access, modification use, creation, or destruction of calculator-stored or computer-stored data and programs.
- b. Sharing a calculator or computer.
- c. Submitting a duplicate printout with only the student's or chapter's name changed. This applies to all FFA events, awards, and activities.

Disruptive Behavior

Each chapter representative's behavior during an FFA event or activity is expected to contribute to a positive learning/teaching/ competitive environment, respecting the rights of others and their opportunity to gain experience or participate. No chapter representative has the right to interfere with this process, including the posting of inappropriate materials on social media sites.

Electronic Devices

The use of cell phones, smartwatches, or other electronic devices is not allowed during any FFA competitive event or activity unless prior approval is given from the event coordinator.

CDE/LDES AT A GLANCE

State-level contests will follow National Contest Guidelines where possible, but event timetables and specific requirements will vary. These variations will be posted 45 calendar days before the identified contest through MAGNET CDE/LDE content folders.

Event	CDE/LDE	Sweep.	Indoor/ Outdoor	Max Participants	Scores Counted	District Qualifier
Agricultural Communications	CDE	N	IN	4	4	Top Half
Agricultural Issues Forum	LDE	N	IN	3-7	Team	Top Half
Agricultural Sales	CDE	Y	IN	4	4	Top Half
Agricultural Technology & Mechanics Systems	CDE	Y	OUT^	4	4	Top Half
Agri-Science Fair	CDE	N	IN	N/A	N/A	No
Agronomy	CDE	Y	IN	4	4	Top Half
Conduct of Chapter Meetings	LDE	N	IN	7	N/A	Top two
Creed and Junior Creed Speaking	LDE	N	IN	1	N/A	Top two
Employment Skills	LDE	N	IN	1	N/A	Top three
Environmental and Natural Resources	CDE	N	OUT^	4	4	Top Half
Extemporaneous Speaking	LDE	N	IN	1	N/A	Top two
Farm and Agribusiness Management	CDE	Y	IN	4	4	Top Half
Floriculture	CDE	Y	IN	4	4	Top Half
Food Science	CDE	Y	IN	4	4	Top Half
Forestry	CDE	N	OUT^	4	4	Top Half
Horse Judging	CDE	Y	OUT	4	4	Top Half
Livestock Evaluation	CDE	Y	OUT	4	4	Top Half
Marketing Plan	CDE	N	IN	3	3	Top Half
Meats Evaluation and Technology	CDE	Y	OUT^	4	4	Top Half
Parliamentary Procedure	LDE	N	IN	6	Team	Top two
Poultry	CDE	N	IN	4	4	Top Half
Prepared Speaking	LDE	N	IN	1	N/A	Top two
Star Greenhand	LDE	N	IN	1	N/A	First Place
Veterinary Science	CDE	Y	OUT^	4	4	Top Half

^ Additional equipment or clothing may be required for this event. Please review the event guidelines for more details.

Event Specific Guidelines

Agricultural Communications

Montana FFA's national qualifying Agricultural Communications contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- Alternate software or websites may be allowed for word processing/composition.
- Alternate software or websites may be allowed for web design.
- Alternate software or websites may be allowed for video production.
- Personal computers may need to be supplied by participants.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Agricultural Issues Forum

Montana FFA's national qualifying Agricultural Issues Forum contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- There will not be semi and final rounds unless eight or more teams are present at the state qualifying event.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Agricultural Sales

Montana FFA's national qualifying Agricultural Sales contest will align with the most current national handbook. Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Agricultural Science Fair

Montana FFA's national qualifying Agricultural Science Fair contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- Agricultural Science Fair papers should be due at the same time as public speaking manuscripts.
- Each project shall be evaluated by a minimum of two judges via interview and presentation with the science fair board.
- State awards are to be presented using the science fair medals available through the National FFA supply service for each division in each category. This would recognize all the individuals who are qualified to submit their work to the national FFA science fair.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Agronomy

Montana FFA's national qualifying Agronomy contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- General knowledge examination (100 points): Fifty objective multiple-choice questions will be given to each participant.
 - Questions may include but are not limited to, the following areas: general agronomy questions, plant and soils science, cost sheets, seed tag information, tillage practices,

- pesticide labels, extension bulletins, fertility reports, tissue analysis, contract information, water management, seeding rates, variety information, trial data and application/calibration information for nozzle selection, chemigation, fertigation and aerial application.
- Team activity – Only used at the State Level (500 POINTS): The team will be provided with a scenario of an agronomic situation and will be asked to develop a management plan in 30 minutes.
 - The team will be required to develop a written plan that addresses the question in the scenario.
 - The team will submit their written plan at the end of their allotted time.
 - Each year the team event scenario will be chosen from a cropping region of Montana.
 - Cost information may be utilized for various practices such as irrigation, machinery, harvesting, seedbed preparation, storage, and loan interest rates, as well as fertilizers and chemicals. (This list is not inclusive.)
 - The students may be asked to figure profit or loss based on this information.
 - Resources provided for the team activity may include cost sheets, seed tag information, tillage practices, pesticide labels, extension bulletins, fertility reports, tissue analysis, contract information, water management, seeding rates, variety information, trial data, and application information including nozzle selection, chemigation, fertigation, and aerial application.
 - No Agronomy Issues Discussion.
 - Participant scores are the sum of the individual phases of the event, and team scores are the sum of the four participant scores plus the team activity.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems

Montana FFA’s national qualifying Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- The metals and welding skill area will replace the nationally suggested environmental and natural resources skill area.
- Montana will not include the team report component of the team activity.
- Individual skill area rotations will be 15 minutes as opposed to the nationally suggested 25 minutes.
- The individual exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions as opposed to the nationally suggested 25.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Conduct of Chapter Meetings

Montana FFA’s national qualifying Conduct of Chapter Meetings contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- The first and second-place District winners qualify to advance to state competition. If those members or teams cannot or choose not to advance, the district representative must be notified seven calendar days prior to state registration closing. The third-place competitor or team will then advance, then the fourth, and so on.
- The event is open to teams consisting of seven (7) members from the same chapter. Members will fulfill the duties of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Sentinel, and

Advisor. The member who performs the advisor role in opening ceremonies will participate in the entire event.

- Team members must be enrolled in the 7th, 8th, or 9th grades at the time participation.
- Depending on the number of teams entered in the event, there may be a preliminary round and final round of presentations.
- Teams will be placed into the preliminary rounds based on their total test score for the team. Tests will be given prior to the presentation round and that will determine the room assignments for the presentation round.
- The competitive event at Montana State FFA Convention will consist of the five activities listed below in the following order (minutes are not required and the audience, including the timekeeper and judges, will not participate in the closing ceremonies):
 - Opening ceremonies
 - Team demonstration
 - Closing ceremonies
 - Judges' oral questions
 - Written Test
- Team members will conduct a regular chapter meeting by demonstrating a designated main motion and four additional permissible parliamentary procedure motions selected by the event superintendent.
- Judges for this event will be provided by teams that have qualified for the state event. Please provide one judge per team qualified for this event to judge.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Creed/Jr. Creed

Montana FFA's national qualifying Creed and Junior Creed contests will align with the most current national handbook. Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Employment Skills

Montana FFA's national qualifying Employment Skills contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

District Qualification:

- The top three district contestants will qualify for the state contest.
- There will be no pre-qualifier event.

Environmental and Natural Resources

Montana FFA's national qualifying Environmental and Natural Resources contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- Test and ID rotations will be shortened to 30 minutes.
- The soil profile may use a photo or other representation.
- Team activity may omit oral presentation and questions.
- GPS may allow the use of phones.
- Water testing may include fewer than four tests.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Extemporaneous Speaking

Montana FFA's national qualifying Extemporaneous Speaking contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- Participants will not be provided with computers during the event.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Farm and Agribusiness Management

Montana FFA's national qualifying Farm and Agribusiness Management contest will align with the most current national handbook. Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Floriculture

Montana FFA's national qualifying Floriculture contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- Contest host will announce annual and rotational practicums.
- Contest host will announce price and time modifications.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Food Science

Montana FFA's national qualifying Food Science contest will align with the most current national handbook. Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Forestry

Montana FFA's national qualifying Forestry contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- Use the Montana Tree ID list.
- Do not include team problem.
- Use up to four practicums for individual scores.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Horse Judging

Montana FFA's national qualifying Horse Judging contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- There will be a written team problem, with no presentation aspect.
- Classes evaluated should be taken from the National FFA Horse evaluation list only.
- The approved Montana Tack and ID list will be posted to MagNet.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Livestock Evaluation

Montana FFA's national qualifying Livestock Evaluation contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- There will be eight judging classes.
- There will be three reasons classes.
- There may be at least one keep/cull class.
- There will not be a written test.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Marketing Plan

Montana FFA's national qualifying Marketing Plan contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- The first and second-place District winners qualify to advance to state competition. If those members or teams cannot or choose not to advance, the district representative must be notified seven calendar days prior to state registration closing. The third-place competitor or team will then advance, then the fourth, and so on.
- A semifinal with two teams from each preliminary and a final with the top two teams from each semifinal will be run.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Meats Evaluation and Technology

Montana FFA's national qualifying Meats Evaluation and Technology contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- Instead of actual carcasses for Yield and Quality grading, students will be given Bone Maturity, Lean Maturity, Marbling Score, 12th rib fat thickness, Hot Carcass Weight, Rib Eye Area, and Kidney, Pelvic, and Heart Fat percentage to calculate QG and YG.
- Will follow national rules for team problem.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Parliamentary Procedures

Montana FFA's national qualifying Parliamentary Procedures contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- There will be no online exam, individual practicum, or team problem-solving activity.
- Teams from the same district may end up in the same preliminary rooms because they are placed by test scores.
- ALL exam questions (five open book and 45 multiple choice) are a part of the seeding process for each presentation round.
- Scoring for the event will be as follows: Exam = 200 points; Presentation = 500 points/round; Oral questions = 100 points/round. Total points per round = 800.
- Judges for the Parliamentary Procedure preliminary round will be the chapter advisor from each participating team or a designee of their choosing. Judges for the semi-final round will be the chapter advisers/designees of teams not proceeding to the semi-finals round and judges for the

finals round will be the chapter advisers/designees of semi-final qualifiers not a part of the finals round.

- Preliminary Round: Teams will be separated into four groups based on their average test score. The first, eighth, ninth, and sixteenth high team scores will be in one group. The second, seventh, tenth and fifteen high team scores will be in the second group. The third, sixth, eleventh, and fourteenth high team scores will be in the third group. The fourth, fifth, twelfth, and thirteenth high team scores will be in the fourth group.
- Semi-Final Round: The top two teams from each Preliminary Round room will advance to the Semi-Final Round, for a total of eight teams. Two rooms will be used. Teams will be separated into two groups based on their average test score. The first, eighth, third, and sixth teams' scores will be one group. The second, seventh, fourth, and fifth high team scores will be in the second group.
- Final Round: The top two teams from each Semi-Final Round room will advance to the Final Round, for a total of four teams. One room will be used. A drawing will determine the presentation order. Judges for the Final Round will be the advisors from the third and fourth-place teams from each of the Semi-Final Round rooms.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Poultry

Montana FFA's national qualifying Poultry contest will align with the most current national handbook. Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Prepared Speaking

Montana FFA's national qualifying Prepared Speaking contest will align with the most current national handbook. Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

Star Greenhand

A Star Greenhand will be selected at the chapter level to compete at districts. Each District is entitled to submit one contestant to compete at State Convention. The winner will be determined based on the candidate's:

1. Supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program.
2. Knowledge of agriculture and the FFA
3. Leadership potential
4. Scholarship
5. Leadership activities in FFA and other organizations
6. Poise
7. Speaking ability
8. Recitation of the FFA Creed

The candidate's complete record book must be available for review along with their report card or transcript of grades. The complete record book in PDF format must be emailed to the Supervising Advisor of the State Star Greenhand event two weeks before the State Convention competition to be sent to the judges. The complete record book can be brought to the State FFA Convention and used during the

interview. Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.

The State Star Greenhand will be selected at the State FFA Convention by a committee of at least three judges. The judges will rank the candidates based on their grand total points. Judges should not confer until after ranking candidates. Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Candidates' low ranks will be counted, and the candidate with the greatest number of low ranks will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the candidates' raw scores will be totaled. The candidate with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

Veterinary Science

Montana FFA's national qualifying Veterinary Science contest will align with the most current national handbook, with the following exceptions:

- The team problem will be a written exam instead of a presentation.
- There will only be three of each practicum instead of five. Scoring will be adjusted accordingly.

Deviations from these guidelines will be disseminated via MagNet by the event coordinator at least 45 calendar days prior to the event.