Agricultural Issues Forum

Event Rules

All members participating in this Leadership Development Event must meet the eligibility requirements and adhere to the rules of the Kentucky FFA Association as outlined in the Rules Governing FFA Activities document.

Number of members on a team: Three to Seven

Official Dress Appropriate: Official dress and/or appropriate costumes

Regional Event: None

State Event: State FFA Convention

Pre-registration is required by April 1st.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment provided by student:

- Computer (if needed)
- Projector (if needed)
- Internet Connectivity (if needed)

Equipment provided at the event site:

- Screen
- Table
- Two Tri-pod Easels

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Each team will select and research a current agriculture issue and conduct local forums on the issue. At the state level, the team will submit a portfolio based on the local forums and complete a presentation on the issue to a panel of judges.

The agricultural issue could come from one of the following eight agricultural issue topic areas:

- Agricultural Career Issues
- Agricultural Policy Issues
- Agricultural Technology Issues
- Animal Issues
- Biotechnology Issues
- Economy and Trade Issues
- Environmental Issues
- Food Safety Issues

The same general agricultural issue topic, based on categories listed above, will not be used in the following three years by the same chapter and/or advisor.

Research on the topic must be current and participants must be involved in all the research of the topic and development of the portfolio.

PORTFOLIO (25 POINTS)

The portfolio must be submitted to the FFA Executive Secretary as a single PDF document and emailed by May 10.

Portfolios will be limited to ten single-sided pages or five double-sided 8 ½ x 11 pages maximum, not including cover page. Margins are to be set at a minimum of 1" top and bottom.

Cover Page

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Required information on the cover to avoid score deductions:

- Title of the issue stated as a question

- Date of the state qualifying event

    Name, address, state and phone number of the chapter

Summary

A maximum of two pages of the portfolio will include a summary of the issue.

- The summary pages should be written using a font no smaller than Times New Roman 10.

- The purpose of the summary is to provide an overview of the issue and to demonstrate understanding of the principles and fundamentals of agricultural issue analysis.

- The summary needs to include the course(s) in which instruction occurred and the number of students involved in the instruction on agricultural issues.

- Text citations must be included where appropriate.

    Citations must conform to most current edition of the American Physiological Association (APA) publication manual.

- The summary may also include, but is not limited to, responses to the following questions:

    - Why is this issue important now?

    - What is the nature of the issue?

    - Who is involved in the issue?

    - How can the issue be defined?

    - What is the historical background of the issue?

    - What caused the issue?

    - What are the risks?

    - What are the benefits?

A bibliography of all resources and references cited which should include personal interviews, when appropriate, and any other supporting material. Bibliography to conform to most current edition of the American Physiological Associatix ion (APA) publication manual.

A penalty of 2.5 points will be assessed for portfolios received after May 10.

Portfolios received after May 20 will not be scored.

A maximum of ten points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum amount of pages and/or for not

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including the cover page containing required information.

Forum Presentations

A chapter must have a minimum of five high quality public forum presentations prior to their state qualifying event in order to receive the maximum of 15 points.

- Multiple organizations attending the same forum will count as one forum.

- 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 presenting to other classes or teacher at the schools or neighboring schools. In addition, no points will 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 a 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.

- Documentation

In order for a forum to be awarded points, it must have occurred prior to the state qualifying event, and there must be independent verification of the forum presentation date. "Independent" means that verification needs to be provided by someone in the organization or the group to whom the presentation was made. The independent documentation needs to state when, where and to whom the forum was presented.

Documentation can include:

- Letters from organizations
- News articles, that also include the date of the presentation and/or the date the article is printed
- Photos showing attendance at forums, but also need independent documentation of the date of the forum presentation

    If more than one forum is held on the same day, the starting times of the multiple forums held on the same day also must be independently documented.

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TEAM PRESENTATION (100 POINTS)

Teams will conduct a presentation on the issue developed and presented at the local level.

Presentations may include official FFA dress, costumes, props, skits and other creative paraphernalia. Costumes, props, skits and other paraphernalia must be professional in nature and used to showcase respect of all cultures. The event committee reserves the right to remove any team whose presentation, props, skits or other actions are disrespectful of others or shows lack of good judgement.

Teams are encouraged to be creative in the approach used to develop their team presentations including the use of technology and other props. Teams are cautioned that the use or over use of any technology or prop that reduces the focus on the content provided by the team and team's presentation of the content can result in a lower presentation score.

The agricultural Issues LDE respects and promotes the practice of one's first amendment rights; however, respect should always be demonstrated to cultures different from the speaker. In no manner should a team provide a forum that could be considered offensive to a culture different from themselves. Answers to questions should be answered with facts rather than opinions or stereotypes. The definition of culture is broadly defined, therefore, it is recommended to consider all cultures as professionals. It is further recommended that teams present their forums to diverse audiences, including the dynamic of cultures represented in the presentation. By completing this task, written and verbal feedback should provide a quality measure on the cultural sensitivity of the forum.

If six or more teams register for the event, teams will be divided into sections for the live presentation. The teams placing 1st, 3rd, 5th, etc. on the portfolio will be assigned to room A. The teams placing 2nd, 4th, 6th, etc. on the portfolio will be assigned to room B.

Judges in each room will select the top team and these will be announced by the CDE Chair. The top team from each room will then draw for order and present their live presentation in front of a combined panel of judges. The judges will select a first and a second place team.

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.

Three minutes will be allowed for take-down.

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QUESTIONS (25 POINTS)

- Following the presentation, seven minutes for questions and answers will be allowed.

- Questions may relate to the issue itself and/or to the presentation.

- 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.

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Scoring

The portfolio will be scored by judges prior to the Convention. Scores for all judges will be averaged.

The presentation will be scored using the Presentation Rubric which is available at www.kyffa.org

The presentation judges will combine the portfolio score with the score for the presentation and questions to determine a final score for each team.