



ND FFA Association

AGRISCIENCE FAIR

CDE Handbook

Purpose:

The North Dakota Agriscience Fair recognizes student researchers studying the application of agricultural scientific principles and emerging technologies in agricultural enterprises. The agriscience fair is for middle and high school students.

Category Descriptions

- Animal Systems
- Environmental Service/Natural Resource Systems
- Food Products and Processing Systems
- Plant Systems
- Power, Structural and Technical Systems
- Social Science

Each member and/or team may enter into only one project. Exhibited projects and written reports will be the result of the student's own efforts. A team is a maximum of three members working cooperatively on the same project. Teams can be made up of two or three students in different grades but will compete at the grade level at which the older participant would qualify.

If a student moves to a different chapter or a different state once they have qualified as a state representative in the agriscience fair, that student may be allowed to compete in the national event with the school they qualified with during the qualifying year. Team members must be from the same chapter at the time of qualification.

Once a student is placed in the top six of a grade level and pathway, they can no longer compete in that grade level and pathway regardless of the research subject

Divisions

The National FFA Constitution provides flexibility to meet the needs of all students. The competition is open to all FFA members in grades 7–12. There are three Grade levels:

- Grades 7 and 8

- Grades 9 and 10
- Grades 11 and 12
- The grade is determined by the grade level of the member at the time of qualification at the state level. If a team is composed of two or three members that span two or three grade levels, the team must compete in the grade level in which the oldest student qualifies. For example, a team of two members in grades 10 and 11 must compete in Grade Level 11-12. State FFA associations with qualifying competitions may have up to 18 entries, one in each pathway and each Grade Level. For example, a state association may have an entry in Plant Systems in Grade Levels 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12. State FFA associations may not have more than one entry in a Grade Level/Pathway.

Rules

For rules related to types of eligible research (extension projects, use of vertebrates, hazardous materials, etc.), disqualification, and plagiarism please reference the National FFA Agriscience Fair Handbook.

North Dakota FFA Association — Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The North Dakota FFA Association adopts and adheres to the National FFA Organization's official AI Policy in full. All North Dakota FFA members, chapters, advisors, and state staff are expected to follow the guidelines set forth by the National FFA Organization regarding the appropriate and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in FFA activities, competitive events, and academic work.

For the complete and current National FFA AI Policy, including detailed guidelines on appropriate use, please visit:

🔗 <https://ffa.app.box.com/v/NFFAAIPolicy>

Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the North Dakota FFA Association state office.

Prior To Convention

A copy of the student's abstract is due May 15th. Abstracts are to be emailed to agriscience@ndffa.org.

Project Components to bring to State FFA Convention

Written Report

The full written report must be completed and brought to State FFA Convention for judging. As student researchers, the expectation for the written report is the same for all Grade Levels. Students **must** use the National Agriscience Fair Templates for their written reports (found on the State FFA website). For more information about the paper requirements, please reference pages 17-22. Please bring a copy of the written report to State FFA Convention and leave at the student's display. Written reports that are incomplete will be disqualified.

Display

Each exhibit should include information relevant to the study. All projects must have the following information attached to the exhibit:

- Name of Agriscience fair participant(s) responsible for developing the project.
- Chapter name
- Title of category
- Division (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6).

State Agriscience Fair participant(s)' display shows the results of the study utilizing a display board no larger than the provided dimensions:

- 36 inches high (from top of table to top of display).
- 48 inches wide.
- 30 inches deep (the distance from front to back).

The complete display, which includes methods of attaching as needed (easel, stand, etc.,) cannot exceed the dimensions of:

- 38 inches high (from top of table to top of display).
- 50 inches wide.
- 30 inches deep (the distance from front to back).

The display must consist of a stable, free-standing display board on the provided table top not to exceed the sizes outlined above. Please include a copy of your written report at the display. No props, logbooks, handouts, or electronics are permitted. No tablets, iPads, cell phones, or other electronic devices will be permitted. Internet access and electricity will not be provided.

Interview

All contestants are required to meet face to face with the judges to explain their projects. Explanation and questioning may not exceed 10 minutes (students will be given a 2-minute warning). The interview is an opportunity for judges to ask questions about the project. A team project must be presented by a team of two. If only one team member is present, the team cannot rank higher than second overall. Last minute substitutions are not permitted. Judges will ask questions to determine the extent of the knowledge gained, your understanding of your project, how it relates to your SAE and possibly how your project relates to other FFA activities. The following is a list of example questions that may be asked:

1. How and why was the project selected?
2. What was your goal? What did you plan to accomplish in your project?
3. Were there any surprises in your project? How did you handle them?
4. What did you learn from the experience?
5. How much time did you devote to the project?
6. What kept you from being discouraged?
7. How did you manage time for this project in relation to your other activities?

8. How would you advise others doing a project? What is the value of completing an agriscience fair project?
9. How can your findings and conclusions be applied in the agriculture, food and natural resources industry?

Sweepstakes

The purpose of the Agriscience Fair Sweepstakes is to recognize outstanding chapters.

- First Place Individuals: 1 pt.
- Gold Individuals: 3 pts.
- Silver Individuals: 2 pts.
- Bronze Individuals: 1 pts.
- The chapter that earns the most points is named the Sweepstakes winner.

If a chapter brings more than one team/individual per category, only the highest placing of the two will count in the sweepstakes total. 18 total entries per chapter will be allowed in the final calculations.