



Idaho Agricultural Issues Forum Handbook

Objectives

- Investigate a variety of local, state, national and international issues facing agriculture through classroom instruction.
- Engage students in the selection, research, planning and presentation of a local, state, national or international agricultural issue with relevance to the local community.
- Demonstrate through the portfolio, presentation and questioning an understanding of the principles and fundamentals of agricultural issue analysis.
- Connect agriculture students with professionals in the industry as they research and present their forum.
- Increase the awareness of an agricultural issue at the local, state or national level through presentations of the forum.
- Apply teamwork, leadership and communication skills for career success.

Event Rules

- It is NOT required that participants wear FFA Official Dress during this event; however, it is required for the awards presentation of the event.
- The purpose of the agricultural issues forum is to present a current issue to a public audience; therefore, professional ethics and standards are to be considered. Ignoring truthful information, falsifying needed information, using unreliable sources and plagiarism are violation examples which could result in disqualification.
- A minimum of three and a maximum of seven students who are actively participating, orally presenting and available to answer the judges' questions. To be eligible for awards, each student must take an active role in the presentation. This includes active participation in the presentation and making themselves available for questions from the judges in all rounds of competition. Only the certified team members can take an active role in the presentation of materials and use of technology during the presentation.
- Presentations may include official FFA dress, costumes, props, skits and other creative paraphernalia.
- The date on which the state appoints the team to be representative to the National FFA Agricultural Issues Forum will be considered at the state qualifying date and will be consistent with the dates submitted State CDEs in Moscow. This must be substantiated by the state FFA advisor or other authorized individual from the state FFA association.
- A minimum of three competent and unbiased judges will be provided. They will be instructed not to take sides on the issue(s). Professors, Industry or Farm Bureau representatives are recommended. The superintendent of this CDE will adequately prepare the judges before the event.
- Seeding of teams in the preliminary rounds will be determined based on portfolio scores.
- Team rubric will be returned to participants.
- Participants in need of special accommodations (disability or other health issues must submit the Idaho State FFA Career Development Events Request for Special Accommodation Applications found at the end of the General Rules and Regulations at least one month prior to the event.

Event Format

- EQUIPMENT PROVIDED: a computer projection system and a front projection screen. Other equipment is allowed, but the presenting team must provide it.
- Each team will conduct a presentation on the issue developed and presented at the local level.
- The agricultural issue could come from one of the following eight agricultural issue topic areas as listed in the Focusing on Agricultural Issues Instructional Materials (<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~peters/HTML/issue-analysis/teaching-materials.html>):
 - Environmental Issues
 - Agricultural Technology Issues
 - Animal Issues

- Agricultural Career Issues
- Economy and Trade Issues
- Agricultural Policy Issues
- Food Safety Issues
- Biotechnology 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 students must be involved in all the research of the topic and development of the portfolio.

Portfolio

The portfolio should include items described in H1-H5 and will be limited to ten single-sided pages or five double-sided pages maximum, not including cover page. Portfolios are to be printed on standard bond 8 ½" x 11" paper, one inch margins with a font no smaller than 10 point Ariel or Times New Roman, stapled in upper left hand corner or with spiral binding. Portfolios should not be sent in notebooks, page protectors or report covers.

A maximum of ten points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum amount of pages and/or for not including the cover page containing required information.

An electronic copy must be sent to the Career Development Event Superintendent two weeks prior to the State CDE. A penalty of 10% (2.5 points) will be assessed for documents received after the deadline. If document is not received within seven days after deadline, the team may be subject to disqualification. The event superintendent will provide color copies of the portfolio to the judges.

COVER

Required information on the cover to avoid score deductions:

- Title of the issue stated as a question
- Names of team members
- Date of the state qualifying event (Date of the first day of State Leadership Conference)
- 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 all formatting should comply with APA guidelines and rules.

- The purposes of the summary are 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. (See objective 1)
- 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?

- For additional background on these questions, refer to the resource “Focusing on Agricultural Issues Instructional Materials” and review the PowerPoint “Agricultural Issues Analysis” in the Teaching Materials section at:
<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~peters/HTML/issue-analysis/teaching-materials.html>
- A bibliography of all resources and references cited which should include personal interviews, when appropriate, and any other supporting material.

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

FORUM PRESENTATIONS

- A chapter must have a minimum of five high quality public forums prior to their state event in order to receive the maximum of 15 points. The state winner will be allowed to conduct additional forums up until the time the State certifies the team prior to the national qualifying date.
- 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 school presentations to students or presentations to teachers. 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.

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.
- Ten minutes for questions and answers will be allotted. Questions and answers will terminate at the end of allotted time.
- Three minutes will be allowed for take-down.
- The presentations will be designed to be viewed by the judges.
- The audience at-large will not be of concern to the presenters.
- 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.

Scoring

PORTFOLIO

TEN SINGLE-SIDED PAGES OR FIVE DOUBLE-SIDED PAGES MAXIMUM (THREE PARTS, 25 POINTS TOTAL)

1. Summary of the issue, two pages maximum (5 points).

2. Bibliography (5 points).

3. Documentation of local forums (15 points).

All forums, require independent verification of when, where and to whom forums were presented, and independent verification of presentation times if more than one forum is held on the same day.

Deductions: Maximum of ten points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum number of pages and/or not including cover page containing required information.

Prior to the event, the portfolios will be judged and scored by qualified individuals using the portfolio scorecard. Portfolio scores will be averaged and supplied to the presentation judges after they have scored the presentation. Portfolio comment cards will be completed by portfolio judges and presented to the teams at the awards function.

Proper grammar, correct spelling and proper editing of text are important. The most current edition of The American Psychological Association (APA) style guide should be used for all research citations. Adherence to these editorial guidelines is expected to receive maximum points for the portfolio score.

TEAM PRESENTATION

INTRODUCTION, PRO, CON AND SUMMARY OF PRO AND CON (20 POINTS EACH, 80 POINTS TOTAL)

EFFECTIVENESS OF PRESENTATION (20 POINTS)

- Participation of each team member.
- Creative in how main points are made. (It makes no difference, for the “creativity” score, if team is in costume or official FFA dress.)
- Quality and power of the presentations.
- Speaks at the right pace to be clear.
- Pronunciation of words is clear and intent apparent.
- No distracting mannerisms that affect effectiveness.
- Gestures are purposeful and effective.
- Well poised with good stage presence.

QUESTIONS (25 POINTS)

- There will be a five-point deduction from the scorecard of any team that draws a conclusion supporting a pro or con viewpoint during the formal presentation. During the question period, students may draw a conclusion supporting a pro or con viewpoint if asked to do so by a judge.
- Presentation comment cards will be completed by presentation judges and presented to the teams at the awards function.

RANKING

Judges’ ranking will be used to place teams. Teams will be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. The judges’ ranking of each team then shall be added, and the winner will be that team whose total ranking is the lowest. (Low rank method of selection where a rank of “1” is assigned to the highest place team, “2” to the second place team, etc.)

TIEBREAKERS

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Teams' low ranks will be counted and the team with the greatest number of low ranks will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the event superintendent will rank the team's response to questions. The team with the greatest number of low ranks from the response to questions will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the team's raw scores will be totaled. The team with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

Awards

Awards will be presented based upon their rankings at the awards ceremony. Awards are sponsored by a cooperating industry sponsor(s) as a special project, and/or by the general fund of the Idaho FFA Foundation.

References

This list of references is not intended to be all-inclusive. Other sources may be utilized, and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.

- National FFA Core Catalog—Past CDE Material (www.shop.FFA.org/cde-qas-c1413.aspx)
- National FFA Core Catalog—Power of Demonstration DVD (www.shop.FFA.org/power-of-demonstration-p38845.aspx)
- Updated Focusing on Agricultural Issues Instructional Materials (<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~peters/>)
- “Helpful hints to give your students the best opportunity to do well in the Agricultural Issues Forum Career Development Event at the State and National FFA Conventions” can be found on the Agricultural Issues Instructional Materials website listed above and the National FFA website (FFA.org/documents/cde_agissues_resources.pdf)

Agricultural Issues Forum CDE Portfolio Scorecard

25 points

CHAPTER	ADVISOR	TEAM NUMBER
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The portfolio should include items described in sections H1-H5 and is limited to ten single-sided pages or five double-sided pages maximum.

An electronic copy of the portfolio must be sent to the Career Development Event Program Superintendent two weeks prior to the State Event. The Event manager will provide the color copies for the judges.

	Possible points	15-11 Points	10-6 Points	5-1 Points	Total score
Summary of the issue (2 pages maximum)	5				
Bibliography	5				
Documentation of local forums	15				
Subtotal:					
Deductions					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late submission to the Idaho FFA 			-2.5 points	()	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For exceeding maximum number of pages Cover page not stating title in form of a question, date of state qualifying event, chapter name, address, state and phone number 			-10 points	()	
TOTAL POINTS					

JUDGE'S NAME	JUDGE'S SIGNATURE	DATE
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Agricultural Issues Forum CDE Team Presentation Scorecard

125 points

CHAPTER	ADVISOR	TEAM NUMBER
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	Possible points	25-21 points	20-15 points	14-10 points	9-5 points	4-0 points	Total score
Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement of the issue Why issue is important 	20						
Pro view point <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of positive points Points addressed are relevant 	20						
Con view point <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of negative points Points addressed are relevant 	20						
Summary of pro/con view points	20						
Effectiveness of presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation, creativity, quality and power, clear with right pace and word pronunciation, no distractions, appropriate gestures, poised 	20						
Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate response Knowledge of issue 	25						
Subtotal							
Portfolio Score							
Deduction for presenting a conclusion during the 15 minute presentation (-5 points)							()
TOTAL POINTS							

LEAD JUDGE'S NAME	LEAD JUDGE'S SIGNATURE	DATE
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Use or overuse 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.