

# STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

Revised 2/2026

## State Championship Events (Career & Leadership Development Events)

The CATA recognizes the following types of competitive events as being sufficiently well-established to warrant holding a state championship event yearly.

### A. Event Sites

#### California FFA

##### 2025-2026 State Finals Schedule

\*On Probation

^New Event

Event	Date	Host Site	Host Coordinator	State Staff
<b>Fresno City College</b>				
Ag Mechanics Fair	6/12/2026	Fresno City College	Wyatt Gibson	Shay Williams-Hopper
<b>State FFA Conference / Fresno Convention Center</b>				
Agriscience Fair	3/18/2026	State FFA Conference	Dr. Lynn Martindale	JessaLee Goehring
Creed Recitation	4/16/2026	Fresno Convention Center	Greg Beard	Greg Beard
El Credo de la FFA	4/16/2026	Fresno Convention Center	Shay Williams-Hopper	Shay Williams-Hopper
Impromptu Speaking	4/16/2026	Fresno Convention Center	JessaLee Goehring	JessaLee Goehring
Extemporaneous	4/16/2026	Fresno Convention Center	Jack Havens	Jack Havens
Prepared Speaking	4/16/2026	Fresno Convention Center	Jackie Jones	Jackie Jones
Job Interview	4/16/2026	Fresno Convention Center	Jill Sperling	Jill Sperling
Parliamentary Procedure	4/18/2026	Fresno Convention Center	Hugh Mooney	Hugh Mooney
<b>Reedley College</b>				
Natural Resource Manag.	1/20/2025	Reedley College	Kevin Woodard	Kevin Woodard
Ag Sales	3/7/2026	Reedley College	Jennifer Souza	Shay Williams-Hopper
Equipment Technician ^	5/2/2026	Reedley College/Selma Quinn CAT	Arthur Faria	Shay Williams-Hopper
<b>UC Davis</b>				
Ag Education ^	03/07/2026	UC Davis	Dr. Lynn Martindale	Jill Sperling
<b>Merced College</b>				
Rabbit & Cavy ^	4/25/2026	Merced College	Celia Casso	Jill Sperling
Ag Welding	4/25/2026	Merced College	Darol Fishman	Dr. John Williams
<b>CSU, Fresno</b>				
Cotton Judging	11/1/2025	Fresno State	Dr. Ranjit Riar	Shay Williams-Hopper
California Water Issues	2/7/2026	Fresno State	Dr. Florence Cassel	Shay Williams-Hopper
Citrus Judging	2/7/2026	Fresno State	Dr. Gurrett Brar	Shay Williams-Hopper
Fruit Tree Pruning	2/7/2026	Fresno State	Dr. Gurrett Brar	Shay Williams-Hopper
Grapevine Pruning	2/7/2026	Fresno State	Dr. Sonet Van Zyl	Shay Williams-Hopper
Ag Pest Control	4/18/2026	Fresno State	Dr. Jacob Wenger	Greg Beard
Farm Power/Machinery	4/18/2026	Fresno State	Dr. John Williams	JessaLee Goehring
Fruit Tree Judging	4/18/2026	Fresno State	Dr. Gurrett Brar	Jill Sperling
Grapevine Judging	4/18/2026	Fresno State	Dr. Sonet Van Zyl	Jackie Jones
Small Engines	4/16/2026	Fresno State	Dr. John Williams	JessaLee Goehring

**California FFA**  
**2025-2026 State Finals Schedule**

\*On Probation

^New Event

Event	Date	Host Site	Host Coordinator	State Staff
<b>Cal Poly, SLO</b>				
Ag Communications	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Dr. James Bingaman	Dr. Lynn Martindale
Ag Issues	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Lynn Hamilton	Jasmine Standridge
Ag Mechanics	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Dr. Greg Schwartz	Dr. John Williams
AET Farm Records	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Dr. Roger Hanagriff	Hugh Mooney
Agronomy	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Dennis Smith	Tim Brown
Best Informed	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Dr. Hannah Parker	Greg Beard
Dairy Cattle Judging	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Rich Silacci	Mike Clifford
Farm Business Manag.	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Dr. Cristina Connolly	Hugh Mooney
Floriculture	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Melinda Lynch	Jackie Jones
Food Science & Tech	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Lindsey Ross	Jill Sperling
Forestry	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Dr. Samantha Gill	Mike Rourke
Light Horse Judging	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Sarah Stewart	Dr. Sherri Freeman
Livestock Judging	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Morgan Wonderly	Dr. Steve Rocca
Marketing (CoOp)	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Dr. Jeta Rudi-Polloshka	Jill Sperling
Marketing Plan	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Dr. Christiane Schroeter	Jill Sperling
Meat Judging	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Morgan Metheny	Ken Dias
Milk Quality/Dairy Foods	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Dr. Vincent Yeung	Jessalee Goehring
Nursery/Landscape	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Tiffany Faulstich	Dr. Glen Casey
Poultry Judging	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Steve Soderstrom	Cindy Brown
Soil/Land Evaluation	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Dr. Gordon Rees	Erin Krier
Vegetable Crop Judging	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Launnie Ginn	Jack Havens
Veterinary Science	5/2/2026	Cal Poly SLO	Dr. Jennifer Stainic	Greg Beard

The CATA recognizes the following competitive events as being a trial event and it will be reviewed for three years to determine if it is sufficiently well-established to warrant holding a state championship event yearly.

State CDE/LDE – Trial Contests				
Event	Date	Host Site	Host Coordinator	State Staff
Ag Education ^	3/7/2026	UC Davis	Dr. Lynn Martindale	Jill Sperling
Equipment Technician ^	5/2/2026	Reedley College/Selma Quinn CAT	Arthur Faria	Shay Williams-Hopper
Rabbit & Cavy ^	4/25/2026	Merced College	Celia Casso	Jill Sperling

1. The “California State Champion Career Development Event Site Coordinator, Advisor, and Arbitrator Chart” (above), must be updated by the State FFA. The chart would be shared at the annual CATA August Governing Board meeting for final approval and distributed to host event sites and state staff. This provides the host site and state staff the opportunity to provide an event advisor contact to any current/new event coordinator for that upcoming year (if needed). The chart will be updated, revised, and kept current through the CATA office. All changes/revisions for host site and coordinators must be made by the host site prior to the state finals event. All state staff changes/revisions must be made by the State FFA Advisor before the state’s state finals event.
2. A “State Finals CDE Host Event Coordinator”: The State Champion CDE Host Event Coordinator would be responsible for the organizing, preparation, and implementation of their designated CDE event. This includes all aspects of the events (materials, judges, etc.) within the Curricular Code.
3. A “State Finals CDE State Staff Arbitrator”: This person will be selected by state staff and serve as a liaison and arbitrator in the event there is any discrepancy/issues between/within the event, event coordinators, advisors, or coaches. Final verdict/decisions/authority will be made by the State FFA Advisor.
4. Qualifying Sites
  - a) CDE’s that require teams to qualify to compete at the State Finals, the identified qualifying sites must adhere to the Curricular Code and conduct all portions of the CDE as identified in the Curricular Code.
  - b) The tabulation results of qualifying sites must be forwarded to the CATA office in the correct format as identified within two weeks of the completion of the event. Qualifying sites that do not adhere to the correct format or meet the deadline will not be recognized as a “qualifying site” and their results will not be calculated in determining who qualifies to compete in the State Finals for that year.
  - c) The State FFA Advisor shall approve all “Qualifying Sites”.

B. Rules for Career Development and Leadership Development Events

1. The time and place for holding State Championship Events shall be determined by the State FFA Advisor.
2. There will be no State FFA Novice Judging Finals Events, except Parliamentary Procedure, the divisions of Agriscience Fair, and the divisions of El Credo de la FFA.
3. Whenever there is a rule or contradiction between a specific event rule and the Curricular Code General Rules, the General Rules will take precedence.
4. To promote a positive environment and reduce potential negative perceptions, individuals, who have coached, helped train or provided direct guidance to a school/team, within 90 days, should not be considered when selecting those to serve as official judges.
5. In the year in which an event is up for review, the State Ag Ed Staff, along with the CATA Executive Director, shall review each event for relevance. The State Ag Ed Staff will then make a recommendation to the CATA Governing Board at the

meeting prior to the CATA State Conference.

6. Other institutions or agencies conducting events involving FFA members should attempt to adhere to these rules to ensure uniformity between events.

C. Team Participation

1. Only one team per school may participate in any State Finals Career and Leadership Development Event except for the Creed Recitation, Prepared Public Speaking, Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Job Interview, Impromptu Public Speaking and El Credo de FFA. Regional Participation in Leadership Development Events, including Parli Pro, at the State level, will be limited to a maximum of four (4) per region per event.
2. State final events that qualify teams to compete at a National Event, will consist of the number of contestants specified in the National Event rules. The National Events currently are:

Agricultural Communications	4
Agricultural Issues	3-7
Agricultural Mechanics	4
Agricultural Sales	4
Agronomy	4
Creed	1
Dairy Cattle Evaluation	4
Natural Resources Management	4
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	1
Farm Business Management	4
Floriculture	4
Forestry	4
Horse Evaluation	4
Job Interview	1
Livestock Evaluation	4
Marketing Plan	3
Meats Evaluation	4
Milk Quality and Dairy Foods	4
Nursery/Landscape	4
Parliamentary Procedure	6
Poultry Evaluation	4
Prepared Speaking	1
Veterinary Science	4

3. State final team events, which end at the State level, will consist of the number of members specified in the CATA rules for that event and the team will be scored as described in the rules for the specific event.
4. The minimum team size will be the number of team members that make up a team score. For example, if an event specifies a team size of four with four members making up the team score, then the minimum team size will be four. If an event specifies a team size of four with three members making up the team score, then the minimum team size will be three members.
5. A list of events which allow partial teams must be listed in the official, written, State Finals announcement.
6. At the discretion of the event advisor, alternates may be allowed to participate. The

number of alternates per event is also at the discretion of the event advisor. These decisions MUST be made prior to and MUST appear in the official **written State Finals announcement for those events.**

7. ALL students participating in a state finals event shall be eligible for individual awards.
8. When the official announcement of judging events to be held is issued, all events listed will be held regardless of the number of teams actually entered. However, if less than five (5) teams participate in an event in one year, that event will be placed on probation for the following year, at which time five (5) teams must have participated in the State Finals event. If less than five (5) teams participate during the probation year, the event will be discontinued until such time as sufficient interest is indicated to guarantee at least five (5) participating teams.
9. Late Arrivals at the Event - Teams arriving after the Official Dress check or failure to check in prior to when the event commences, will NOT be scored for official placing.
10. In an event where a team starts an event and one or more members are unable to continue due to sickness or accident, creating a partial team, the remaining member(s) are still eligible to continue and compete for individual awards.

#### D. Student/Advisor Participation

1. Each student entering a competitive event must:
  - a) Be an official FFA member.
  - b) Be a regularly enrolled member of an agricultural education class in high school or middle school/Jr. high and have completed the equivalent of a year's worth of agriculture course instruction during the current year if taking classes in a block or trimester system unless otherwise noted in curricular code.
  - c) Be enrolled at a high school taking course(s) receiving high school graduation credit or be enrolled in middle school/Jr. high classes eligible for promotion.
  - d) Not have been a member of a state championship team or represented California in a National event, in the type of event they are entering. For clarification: Members of state champion teams include all members of the team competing regardless of whether the member(s) score counted toward the official team score. If ineligible students are entered in the same event, in which they were a state winner, the team of which they are a member shall be declared ineligible.
  - e) Not have been an individual state winner in a Leadership Development Event (LDE) or represented California in the National FFA LDE finals. Exceptions: the Novice Parliamentary Procedure state winner may participate in the Advance Event and an individual State winner in the El Credo de la FFA lower divisions may move up to a higher division.
  - f) Not have been an individual student division/category state winner or a member of a state first place team in a division/category or represented California at the National Agriscience Fair, they can no longer compete in that division/category regardless of the research subject. Example: If a student wins Animal Systems Division I as a 7th grader, they can no longer participate in Animal Systems Division I, but can compete in another category in Division I as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader or in Division II in the same category.

g) Not have been an individual student division state winner in Ag. Mechanics Fair. A state winner may enter any of the other divisions.

2. The state champion team for CDEs and Parliamentary Procedure, the state individual winner in LDEs, and individual and team state winners in Agriscience Fair, shall qualify to participate in an approved national event representing California. If the first-place team/individual does not wish to participate in the national event, the second-place team/individual would be considered followed by the third-place team/individual. In no circumstance shall a team/individual outside of the top three be considered to represent California in a sanctioned national event. Any team or individual who participates in a national event representing California would forego their eligibility to participate in that contest in future years. To participate in an out-of-state event a team/individual must be approved by the State FFA Advisor.
3. Members of the announced State Champion team may only compete in the same event, in subsequent year(s), upon being re-certified as eligible for competition, by the State FFA Advisor.
4. A student may enter only one speaking LDE event in the same year above the section level. (Creed Recitation, Prepared Public Speaking, Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Job Interview, Impromptu Public Speaking and El Credo de FFA.)
5. The official FFA uniform is to be worn by FFA members at the following FFA Leadership Development Events (LDEs): The reference for the FFA Uniform is listed in the California State FFA Constitution.
  - i. Creed Recitation
  - ii. El Credo de FFA
  - iii. Extemporaneous Public Speaking
  - iv. Impromptu
  - v. Job Interview
  - vi. Parliamentary Procedure and Debate
  - vii. Prepared Public Speaking
6. The official FFA uniform for State CDE Finals, Agriscience Fair and Ag. Mechanics Fair events will be Official FFA jacket, zipped to the top, white collared shirt and official FFA tie/scarf.

Adaptation of the uniform may be made during the event, i.e., tie/scarf taken off, jacket taken off, overalls put on. The official dress will be required for registration and acceptance of awards. Any FFA member not in uniform, as described above, will be ineligible to participate or receive awards.

7. A committee of one representative from the State Staff and one from the CATA will be in charge of enforcing rules concerning dress at State FFA events.
8. In the event a student is eligible for membership in two or more chapters; the student can be a member of one chapter only and compete for that chapter during the school year.
9. No student or instructor will be allowed to practice or familiarize themselves with the

animals or materials to be used in the state final event within 90 days of the event. Violation of the above rule will result in disqualification of the team and its members from the State Level Competition for the year the violation occurs.

10. No contact is to be made to any state final event advisor 30 days prior to that activity. The only exception to this would be if a meeting of CATA event representatives was called during that time. The only contact to be made within the 30-day period will be through the State FFA Advisor's office. Any violation may jeopardize the possibility of participating in the state final event.
11. All coaches, alternates and visitors must remain away from the event site during the competition, except as provided by the individual Curricular Code Event Rules. Violations will result in the disqualification of the team from the school(s) involved.
12. When a student is registered as a participant in any State Event, the teacher's submission of the entry form shall be considered a certification that the student has received training and safety instruction for that event. When, in the judgment of an event official, a participant in any state final event shall demonstrate incompetence or operate in a manner considered hazardous to himself/herself or others, that participant may be removed from the event. The judgment of the official shall be final.
13. Judging Cards – Contestants filling out placing cards that have irregularities or are undecipherable or incorrectly marked will be given the lowest possible score.
14. Contestants turning in a judging card that has no mark on it shall be scored a zero.
15. Use of Smart devices will not be permitted in a designated event area/building, except for individual CDEs/LDEs that specifically allow their use during the event. This would include, but is not limited to, cell phones, iPods, tablets, laptops, smart watches, etc. Violation will result in immediate removal from the event they competed in and they will become ineligible for any awards. Any devices collected prior to the start of the event will not be returned until all competitors have completed the event.
16. Students or advisors/coaches are not allowed to remove or copy/remove any event materials from the event site without the expressed consent of the event advisor. Any violation will result in the disqualification of the individual(s) and team(s) involved and barring of the individual(s) from participation in any event for a period of one (1) year and barring of the chapter from participation in that event for a period of one (1) year. Unless specified in the rules of a particular event, the only materials allowed to be taken into an event by a contestant shall be:
  - i. a notebook or clipboard containing blank paper (lined or unlined).
  - ii. a writing instrument (pen or pencil)
  - iii. silent battery operated non-programmable calculator.
17. Students giving oral reasons may take notes while judging the class, but these notes cannot be used while presenting their oral reasons.
18. Time Limit – Time limit for reasons in each event will be two (2) minutes and any action taken on this will be left to the discretion of the judges.
19. A copy of any written exam and key shall be available upon request after the event.
20. Any written materials turned in to be judged will be returned to the contestant upon completion of the event or handed back to the contestant in that contestant's school's tabulations packet.

**E. Awards and National Event Representation**

1. CDE Events: Awards will be given to top five teams and individuals in each section of each event designated as a sub-contest, and to the top five overall high teams and individuals in each event.
2. LDE Events: Placing awards will be given to all the participants in the final round.
3. Agriscience Fair Event: Placing Awards will be given to the top three in each category within each Division and overall top five State Champion Chapter Group in each Division (Discovery, Novice, and Advanced).
4. Ag. Mechanics Fair Event: Placing Awards for the top three individuals in each Division and Awards to the Top Five Overall Individuals and Top Five Chapter Groups.
5. The event results as announced and presented at the Awards Assembly will be considered UNOFFICIAL. Protest which question the calculation/scoring of tabulations of the event, and which may have an effect on the final placing of the OVERALL TOP TEAMS OR TOP INDIVIDUALS, must be filed using the protest form with a member of the State Ag Ed Staff assigned to the State Finals Event supervision/coordination or the State FFA Advisor within seventy-two (72) hours after the results are posted. The results will become official on the Friday following the State Final Competition.
6. The team certified by the State FFA Advisor shall be eligible to represent the State of California in the official national competition. For a team to be certified, the team must be made up of not less than a majority of the members allowed on a team at national competition and be from the students who made up the team at the state qualifying competition. For example, a four (4) member team would need to have at least three (3) of the same members who competed on the team at the qualifying state competition.
7. Preliminary Round results will be posted, but not subject to any questions/inquiries.

**F. Entry Form and Fees**

1. Each event area has the flexibility to charge what is needed to run their event to cover expenses.
2. Teams competing in a State Finals event may be assessed an entry fee to be established by the State FFA Advisor.
  - a) Registration fees are the responsibilities of the host site or their third-party vendor and are not regulated by CATA.
3. When an entry is submitted for an any event, the entry shall be considered certification that all teachers and coaches have accepted the conditions of the "Agriculture Teachers and Coaches Code of Conduct".

**G. Individual CDE Event Rules Format**

1. The format of information (rules) of state finals events shall include:
  - a) Purpose and Standards – Each event shall include a brief introduction to include purposes of the event and the foundation, agricultural and academic standards addressed by the event.
  - b) Contestants – The number of contestants allowed per chapter and the

number used to determine the team score. Eligibility requirements (if any) for the team or contestants should be listed here.

- c) Classes – A simple listing of all the classes and the maximum score of each class. Team event scores would be shown here as well.
- d) Tie Breaker – A list of the classes or methods used to break ties.
- e) Requirements for the Host School – List any notification requirements for the host school such as class types, tools, engine types. Include the notification methods (email or website preferred) and the notification time. List any equipment that must be provided by the host school such as calculators. List any event materials that are to be returned to the contestants.
- f) Rules governing the event.
- g) Any materials that may be deemed useful to contestants or event host.
- h) Event score cards to be completed by contestants used for all state finals events will be posted on the CATA website for Curricular Code at least 30 days prior to the date of the event. Directions as to how the cards should be marked are encouraged. Such posting will supersede any samples found in specific event rules. Common standardized forms such as those created by Scantron and Judging Card may be referenced by name.
- i) Specific CDE rules will describe how cards are to be scored (for example formulas, weighing, Hormel method, etc.).
- j) All average scores will be rounded to the nearest whole number.