



Frequently Asked Questions

CDEs and LDEs at the 2020 National FFA Convention & Expo

Updated: May 21, 2020

1. Will CDEs or LDEs occur at the 2020 National FFA Convention & Expo?

No, all CDEs and LDEs will not occur at the 2020 National FFA Convention & Expo.

2. Why are CDEs and LDEs not occurring at the 2020 National FFA Convention & Expo?

Replacing national-level CDEs and LDEs at the 2020 national convention was decided after National FFA sought nationwide feedback from state FFA associations, agricultural education partner groups and the National FFA Board of Directors. Survey and feedback data indicated numerous state associations faced difficulty in hosting state-level CDEs and LDEs due to the pandemic. Many had canceled qualifying events entirely.

National FFA also explored altering the national-level CDEs and LDEs in various ways, including creating virtual events. However, it was decided that substantial event alterations would unduly affect the integrity of each event for this annual competitive cycle. There is also the continuing possibility that more disruptive adjustments, requirements, or late cancellations would be necessary. National FFA chose to pursue a firm path that provided meaningful career and leadership development for FFA members this fall.

3. What are the individual challenge events?

The individual challenge events planned for this fall will allow all FFA members to compete and experience in ways that develop career and leadership skills. The events will focus on ANFR content standards and provide the opportunity for individual recognition. More information about these exciting events will be published this summer.

4. Why was this decision made in May for an October event?

The early decision permits the development of exciting, effective individual challenge events this fall that meet the purpose of our organization while allowing state associations and FFA chapters to have a clear path forward this summer.

5. How many members does this affect in 2020?

Typically, 3,800 FFA members compete in CDEs and LDEs at the National FFA Convention & Expo.

6. Should states still host state-level CDEs and LDEs?

The pandemic is affecting every state differently, and each state should make that decision based on the information and capability available to them with a primary focus on participant safety.

7. Are CDEs and LDEs going to return?

Yes, national-level CDEs and LDEs will return at the 2021 National FFA Convention & Expo.

8. Will the individual challenge events continue after 2020?

Depending on success and participation, some or all individual challenge events could continue in various forms after 2020.

9. Will the individual challenge events include cash awards?

The individual challenge events will provide student recognition, but cash awards are not expected to be part of the experience.

10. Who will be eligible to participate in the individual challenge events?

The events are being designed to allow participation from all FFA members. Some may be designed to accommodate specific experience levels in FFA. Any FFA member in good standing – including 2020 high school graduates – will be welcomed, either in-person or virtually (depending on challenge type).

11. Can a 2020 graduate participate in a CDE/LDE during the 2021 national convention?

Yes, FFA members eligible to participate in CDEs or LDEs at the 2020 National FFA Convention & Expo will still be eligible 2021. Individual state FFA associations will determine how they will designate declared national entries in 2021.

12. Can a student who qualified for a 2020 national-level CDE or LDE compete in 2021?

Yes, FFA members eligible to participate in CDEs or LDEs at the 2020 National FFA Convention & Expo will still be eligible 2021. Individual state FFA associations will determine how they will designate declared national entries in 2021.

13. Are grade-specific events such as Creed Speaking and Conduct of Chapter Meeting included in the 2021 convention eligibility changes?

The suspension of eligibility rules for 2021 national events applies to all events including those with grade-specific rules. Each state may then determine how they wish to qualify competitors for the 2021 national-level events.

For example, a 2019-20 ninth-grade student eligible to represent a state at the national-level Creed Speaking event at the 2020 national convention would then be eligible to compete in the Creed Speaking event at the 2021 convention. However, each state association can determine their individual qualifying requirements within the national requirements and may choose a different eligibility requirement.

14. Will state associations be able to certify two teams to compete in national-level CDEs and LDEs in 2021?

That is undecided. The changes in eligibility rules for 2021 national events allow for the possibility of each state certifying two teams to compete next year. However, the idea requires additional study to determine practicality at the national level.

15. Does this decision affect the rest of the 2020 National FFA Convention & Expo or other award areas?

No, this decision only applies to national-level CDE and LDE events scheduled for the 2020 National FFA Convention & Expo. Any additional changes will be communicated specifically, as necessary.

16. Will teams that have already qualified or will qualify over the summer for national-level CDE/LDE participation be recognized?

Yes. All teams and individuals entered by state associations in the national CDE/LDE declaration and certification system by Oct. 1 will be recognized as a national qualifier and participant. This recognition will include team plaques, individual pins, and recognition during the national convention. Event attendance is not required.