EXTEMPORANEOUS PUBLIC SPEAKING

A SPECIAL PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL FFA FOUNDATION

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please thoroughly read the Introduction Section at the beginning of this handbook for complete rules and procedures that are relevant to all National FFA Career Development Events.

I. PURPOSE

The National FFA Extemporaneous Public Speaking Career Development Event is designed to develop the ability of all FFA members to express themselves on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. This gives the FFA members an opportunity to formulate their remarks for presentation in a very limited amount of time. The event will be held in connection with the national FFA convention.

II. EVENT RULES

1. The National FFA Extemporaneous Speaking Career Development Event will be limited to one participant from each state association.

2. The National FFA Extemporaneous Speaking Career Development Event will be open only to students who were regularly enrolled in agricultural education during the current calendar year, or who are still in high school but have completed all the agricultural education offered. When selected, participants must be active members of a chartered FFA chapter and the National FFA Organization. A member representing a state association may participate in the National FFA Extemporaneous Speaking Career Development Event only once. A student can participate in only one of the speaking events at the national level in a given year.

3. It is highly recommended that participants be in official FFA dress in each event.

4. Copies of the rules and score sheet will be supplied to participants in advance of the national event.

5. The Boards of National Officers and Directors of the FFA will be in charge of this event.

6. Three to six competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the event. At least one judge should have an agricultural background. Each state with a speaker shall provide a judge for the national event.

III. EVENT FORMAT

1. The selection of topics shall be held 30 minutes before the event. The participants will draw three specific topics, selected at random from the pool of 12, relating to the industry of agriculture. After selecting the topic they desire to speak on, all three topics will be returned for the next drawing.

2. Twelve topics shall be prepared by the event superintendent and will include three each from the following categories: a) agriscience and technology, b) agrimarketing and international agricultural relations, c) food and fiber systems and d) urban agriculture.

3. Participants will be admitted to the preparation room at 15-minute intervals and given exactly 30 minutes for topic selection and preparation.
4. The officials in charge of the event on the following basis will screen reference material:
   a. Shall be limited to five items.
   b. Must be printed material such as books or magazines and/or a compilation of collected materials. To be counted as one item, a notebook or folder of collected materials may contain NO more than 100 single sided pages or 50 pages double sided numbered consecutively (cannot be notes or speeches prepared by the participant or notes prepared by another person for the purpose of use for this event).

5. Each speech shall be the result of the participant’s own effort using approved reference material which the participant may bring to the preparation room. No other assistance may be provided. Participants must use the uniform note cards provided. Any notes for speaking must be made during the 30-minute preparation period.

6. A list of all possible topics will be given to and reviewed by the judges, prior to the beginning of the event.

7. Each speech shall be not less than four and no more than six minutes in length, with five minutes additional time allowed for related questions which shall be asked by the judges. The program chairman of the event shall introduce the participant by name and state, and the participant may introduce his or her speech by title only. Participants are to be penalized one point per second on each judge’s score sheet for being over six minutes or under four minutes. Time commences when the speaker begins talking. Speakers may use a watch to keep a record of their time. Event officials or observers will give no time warnings.

8. Event officials will randomly draw speaking order. The program chairman shall introduce each participant by name and in order of the drawing. A participant will be permitted to use notes while speaking, but deductions in scoring may be made for this practice if it detracts from the effectiveness of the presentation. Applause shall be withheld until all participants have spoken.

9. The national contest will be conducted in three rounds: preliminary, semifinals, and finals. No ranking will be given except for the final four speakers.

10. Two timekeepers shall be designated who will record the time for each participant in delivering his or her speech, noting undertime or overtime, if any, for which deductions should be made. Timekeepers should be sitting together.

11. At the time of the event, the judges will be seated in different sections of the room in which the event is held. They will score each participant upon the delivery of the production using the score sheet provided.

12. Each judge shall formulate and ask questions. Questions shall pertain directly to the speaker’s subject. Questions containing two or more parts should be avoided. Judges will score each participant on the ability to answer all questions asked by all judges. The full five minutes should be used.

13. When all participants have finished speaking, each judge will total the score on each participant. The timekeepers’ record will be used in computing the final score for each participant. The judges’ score sheets will then be submitted to event officials to determine final ratings of participants.

IV. SCORING

Participants shall 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 participant then shall be added, and the winner will be that participant whose total ranking is the lowest. Other placings will be determined in the same manner (low rank method of selection)

EXPLANATION OF SCORE SHEET POINTS

1. Content related to topic includes: (300 points)
   a. Appropriateness of the total speech content to the topic selected.
   b. Extent to which the speaker addressed the topic selected.
   c. Suitability of the material used
   d. Accuracy of the statements included
2. Organization of material includes:  
   Organization of the content  
   Unity of thought  
   Logical development  
   Language used  
   Sentence structure  
   Accomplishment of purpose-conclusions  
   Material related to sub-topic

3. Power of expression includes:  
   Fluency  
   Emphasis  
   Directness  
   Sincerity  
   Communicative ability  
   Conveyance of thought and meaning

4. Voice includes:  
   Quality  
   Pitch  
   Articulation  
   Pronunciation  
   Force

5. Stage presence includes:  
   Personal appearance  
   Poise and body posture  
   Attitude  
   Confidence  
   Personality  
   Ease before audience

6. General effect includes:  
   Extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing and held attention  
   Evidence of purpose

7. Response to questions includes:  
   Ability to answer the questions on the speech, which are asked by the judges, indicating originality, familiarity with subject and ability to think quickly.

**TOTAL POINTS**  
1000 POINTS

V. TIEBREAKERS

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

VI. AWARDS

Awards will be presented at an awards ceremony. Awards are presented to individuals based upon their rankings. Awards are sponsored by a cooperating industry sponsor(s) as a Special Project, and/or by the general fund of the National FFA Foundation.
Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Name: ___________________________________________________________ Chapter: ___________________________
State: ____________________________________________________________ Participant No.:______________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Related to Topic</th>
<th>Max. Points</th>
<th>One</th>
<th>Two</th>
<th>Three</th>
<th>Four</th>
<th>Five</th>
<th>Six</th>
<th>Seven</th>
<th>Eight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Appropriateness of the total speech content to the topic selected</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Extent to which the speaker addressed the topic selected</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Suitability of the material used</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Accuracy of the statements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Relationship to the content of agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Organization of Materials                                                                | 100         |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Organization of contents                                                               |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Unity of thought                                                                       |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Logical development                                                                    |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Language used                                                                          |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Sentence structure                                                                      |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Accomplishment of purpose-conclusion                                                   |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Material related to sub-topic                                                          |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |

| Power of Expression                                                                      | 100         |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Communicative ability including:                                                       |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
|   - fluency, emphasis, directness, sincerity                                              |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
|   - Conveyance of thought and meaning                                                    |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |

| Voice                                                                                    | 100         |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Quality, pitch                                                                         |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Articulation                                                                           |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Pronunciation                                                                          |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Force                                                                                  |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |

| Stage Presence                                                                           | 100         |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Personal appearance                                                                    |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Poise and body posture                                                                 |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Attitude, confidence and personality                                                   |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Ease before an audience                                                                |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |

| General Effect                                                                           | 100         |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing and held attention |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Evidence of purpose                                                                    |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |

| Response to Questions*                                                                    | 200         |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |
| • Ability to answer the questions on the speech, which are asked by the judges, indicating originality, familiarity with subject and ability to think quickly. |             |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |

| Gross Total Points:                                                                      | 1000        |     |     |       |      |      |     |       |       |

Less Time Deduction**:

Net Total Points

Participant Ranking:

* - Judges should meet prior to the event to prepare and clarify the types of questions to be asked.

** - 1 point per second over 6 minutes and -1 point per second under 4 minutes, determined by the timekeepers

Judge's Name ___________________________ Judge's Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________