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 Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event is designed to develop agricultural leadership by providing for member participation in agricultural public speaking activities and stimulating interest in leadership and citizenship. The national event will be held in conjunction with the national FFA convention.

II. EVENT RULES

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

2. The National FFA Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event will follow the general rules and policies for all National FFA Career Development Events. A participant cannot serve as a member of the national officer nominating committee.

3. Each participant’s manuscript will be the result of his or her own efforts. It is expected that the participant will take advantage of all available training facilities at their local school in developing their speaking ability. Facts and working data may be secured from any source, but must be appropriately documented.

4. Participants will report to the event superintendent for instructions at the time and place shown in the current year’s “Program for National FFA Events.”

5. It is highly recommended that participants be in official FFA dress as defined in the current Official FFA Manual.

6. Each state with a speaker shall provide a competent individual to judge the national event. Judges for the final round will be representatives from agricultural education related organizations. Three to six competent and impartial persons will be selected to judge the event.

7. The Board of National Officers and National Board of Directors of the FFA will be in charge of this event.

III. EVENT FORMAT

A. MATERIALS TO BE SUBMITTED BY AUGUST 15:

1. Fifteen double-spaced typewritten copies of the speech on 8½” x 11” white bond paper with cover page that gives the speech title, participant’s name, state and date. The body of the manuscript will have 1” margins, and 10-12 characters per inch. Follow APA style manual for developing references and bibliography. Do not bind, but place a staple in upper left corner. Manuscripts not meeting these guidelines will be penalized.
2. A signed statement of originality on the certification form provided through your state FFA association.

3. A complete and accurate bibliography used in writing the speech. All participants in the National FFA Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event should give credit to others where any direct quotes, phrases, or special dates are used in the manuscript, in order not to be guilty of plagiarism. The Boards of National Officers and Directors of FFA at the October 1960 meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, adopted the following:

“A bibliography MUST be included as part of the public speaker’s manuscript, and direct quotes from any source of information must be marked in “quotes” on the manuscript and be identified in the bibliography. Failure to do so will automatically disqualify a participant. This applies to all events above the local level.”

B. SUBJECTS

Participants may choose any current subject for their speeches, which is of an agricultural nature. This may include agriscience and technology, agribusiness, agrimarketing, international agricultural relations, and agricultural communications. Official judges of any National FFA Prepared Public Speaking Career Development Event shall disqualify a participant if he or she speaks on a non-agricultural subject.

C. TIME LIMIT

Each speech shall be a minimum of six minutes in length and a maximum of eight minutes. Each participant will be allowed five minutes additional time in which he or she will be asked questions relating to his or her speech. Participants are to be penalized one point per second on each judge’s score sheet for being under six minutes or over eight minutes. No time warnings will be given.

D. JUDGING

1. Event officials will randomly determine the speaking order. The program chairman shall introduce each participant by name 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. No props are to be used. Applause shall be withheld until all participants have spoken.

2. A timekeeper(s) shall be designated who will record the time used by each participant in delivering his or her speech, noting undertime or over-time, if any, for which deductions will be made. Timekeepers should be sitting together.

3. Prior to the event the content and composition of all manuscripts will be judged and scored by qualified individuals using the manuscript score sheet. Manuscript scores will be averaged and supplied to the presentation judges after they have scored the oral presentation. Manuscript comment cards will be completed by manuscript judges and presented to the contestants at the awards function. Presentation judges will be furnished with typewritten copies of the participants’ manuscripts, which they will use to formulate questions.

4. 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 on the delivery of the production, using the score sheet provided. They will also complete a judge’s comment card, which will be presented to the participants at the awards function.

5. 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 for questions should be used.
6. When all participants have finished speaking, each judge will total the score on composition and delivery for each participant. The timekeeper(s) 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 rankings of participants.

7. 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).

IV. SCORING

Explanation of Score Sheet Points

Scoring Content and Composition

1. Content of the manuscript: (200 points possible)
   - Importance and appropriateness of the subject
   - Suitability of the material used
   - Accuracy of the statements included
   - Evidence of purpose
   - Completeness and accuracy of bibliography

2. Composition of the manuscript: (100 points possible)
   - Organization of the content
   - Unity of thought
   - Logical development
   - Language used
   - Sentence structure
   - Accomplishment of purpose-conclusions

Scoring Delivery of Production

1. Voice: (100 points possible)
   - Quality
   - Pitch
   - Pronunciation
   - Articulation
   - Force

2. Stage Presence: (100 points possible)
   - Personal appearance
   - Poise and body posture
   - Attitude
   - Confidence
   - Personality
   - Ease before audience

3. Power of expression: (100 points possible)
   - Fluency
   - Emphasis
   - Directness
   - Sincerity
   - Communicative ability
   - Conveyance of thought and meaning

4. Response to questions: (300 points possible)
   *Ability to answer satisfactorily questions asked by the judges on the speech, indicating originality, familiarity with subject and ability to think quickly.

5. General effect: (100 points possible)
   - Extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing and held attention.
V. TIEBREAKERS

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Participant’s low rankings will be counted and the participant with the greatest number of low rankings 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 lowest ranking 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. At that time foundation pins, manuscript judges’ comment cards and presentation judges’ comment cards will be presented to the participants.

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.

Plaques will be awarded to the national participants by the National FFA Organization. The National FFA Foundation may provide cash awards, if funding is available, as follows:

1st place ........................................$300
2nd place .......................................$275
3rd place .......................................$250
4th place .......................................$225

VII. REFERENCES

This list of references is not intended to be 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.

Factual information pertaining to agriculture is available from:

1. United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250
2. State Colleges, Research Centers and/or Experiment Stations
### Prepared Public Speaking

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State: ____________________________________________________________ Participant No.:______________________

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Less Time Deduction**: 1 point per second over, determined by the timekeepers

Net Total Points

Contestant Ranking:

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

** - 1 point per second over, determined by the timekeepers

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