

Agriculture Summer Program

Students can participate in the contest as an individual even if there are not enough people signed up to make up a team. Also, there can be more than one team per contest.

Dairy Evaluation (teams of four)

After learning the proper judging criteria, you must judge several classes of 4 dairy cows or heifers based on the unified dairy score card. You place your answers on a sheet (I.e. 4-2-1-3) and you are asked questions (written responses) on the class. You will judge on the local level and the state fair. The state fair contest includes additional activities on dairy management. If your team wins on the state level you will advance on to the National competition at the National FFA Conventention. Second place team goes to the Big E (Eastern States Exposition) in Springfield, MA and the third place team goes to the All American Show in Pennsylvania.

Horse Evaluation (teams of four)

Basically horse judging is done much like dairy judging except that you use different criteria for judging horses than you use when judging dairy. You still have 4 animals to judge and place. There is no local contest for horse judging yet... students on the team will compete at the state fair and advance on to the Nationals if they win. Second place teams goes to the Big E.

Livestock Evaluation (teams of four)

Again, much like dairy judging where you place various classes of animals but in this contest you judge Beef, Swine, and Sheep. Sometimes there is a local contest but it is not a qualifying level for the state competition. You will judge at the State Fair and, if you win, continue on to the Nationals. Second place goes to the Big E.

Poultry Evaluation (teams of four)

This contest consists of various learning activities related to the production, management, processing, marketing, and consumption of poultry products. In this event you learn how to judge live meat-type and egg-type chickens, identity and evaluate chicken parts and ready to cook carcasses. Eggs are evaluated for interior and exterior quality, breaded chicken patties are scored for quality, and a written exam tests your knowledge in raising and marketing poultry products. You will judge at the Jefferson County Fair, State Fair and, if you win, continue to the Nationals. Second place team goes to the Big E.

Milk Quality and Products (teams of four)

This contest consists of tasting 10 samples of milk to determine what defect (off flavor) the milk has because of some problem in processing such as over heating, feedy taste, etc. You also must identify 15 types of cheese by taste, and grade defects on certain pieces of milking equipment. You must score milk strainers to determine how dirty the milk was that was strained through it. A written test on milk processing and history is also part of the contest. There is a local fair competition and state fair competition. State winners advance to the national contest and second place teams compete at the Big E.

Meat Evaluation (teams of four)

Contestants must identify the retail and wholesale cuts of beef, lamb, and pork. They will give quality and yield grades to various cuts of meat as well as “place” them in order from best to worst. Team members will also complete a written test on meat formulation, cooking, storage, nutrition and food safety. This contest is will take place at the State Fair with the winning team advancing to national competition.

Agronomy (teams of four)

This event consists of a team activity, a written exam, and various practicums. In the team activity, students are given an agronomic situation and are asked to come up with a management plan and give an 8 minute presentation of their plan. In addition, a written exam will be given and students must identify various types of weeds, crops, seeds, insects and diseases form live specimens shown. Members will also have to judge various seeds, hays, and silages for quality and perform some basic soils analysis. The student will compete at the local level and state level. State winners will advance to national level competition.

Small Engines (2 person team)

In this contest the students must debug a small engine and get in running within 30 minutes. The students must follow proper and safe procedures and a written test is also taken. The contest is held only at the State Fair.

Environmental/Natural Resources (teams of four)

This event consists of 4 parts. The “team activity” consists of an environmental problem dealing with soils, water, air, ecosystems, or waste management. Team members are given a mock scenario and must develop a 10 min. presentation on how to deal with the given problem. In addition, student must take a written exam, complete practicum’s (National/Global Issues, Press Releases, and Game & Equipment Id.) and complete activities involving water analysis, soil testing, GPS location, environmental analysis, soil analysis and water management. Small parts of this contest are held at the local fairs (I.e.; Tree Id & Wildlife Id). State winners can advance to the National Level.

Tree Identification (Individuals or Teams of 2)

The student must identify various species of trees given live samples or pictures. The students compete locally and at the State level. This contest doesn't advance to the national level.

Wildlife Identification (Individuals or Teams of 2)

The student must identify various species of wildlife given live, preserved, or pictures of these animals. A written test is sometimes included. The student will compete at the local and state levels.

Large Tractor Driving (2 person Team - junior and senior divisions)

The student must complete in two wheel and four wheel wagon courses. The contest involves driving safely through an obstacle course turning and backing up the two and four wheel wagons. Safety is stressed. A written test on tractor operation and maintenance must be taken as well as a parts Identification section. Students will compete at the local level and qualify to advance to the state competition at the Empire Farm Days Event in August. Winners on the state level will advance to compete at the Big E.

Compact Tractor Driving (Individuals)

Students must drive a small, compact (lawn mower size) tractor and trailer through obstacle courses. (Local Fair Competition Only)

Electricity (2 person team)

Wire various lights, switches, etc. on a small wiring board. Students also take a written test which includes identification of electrical equipment and tools. Students compete at the State Fair Only.

Welding (2 person team)

Individuals weld a few "test" welds to demonstrate their proficiency in arc welding. The student must also identify different types of metals and take a written test. Students compete at the Empire Farm Days Event in August only.

Nursery Landscape (teams of four)

The Nursery and Landscape CDE test student’s skills in aspects of maintaining landscape plants and related products, evaluating equipment and services, and landscape design. Team members will identify various plants and equipment used in landscaping as well as design landscapes (given a scenario). Students compete at the State Fair and 1st place winners advance to National Competition.

Dairy Handlers (Individuals)

Basically dairy showmanship, this contest tests the student’s ability to “show” a cow in the show ring. Practice opportunities are available at the local fairs with state competition being held at the State Fair. 1st place winner advances to National Competition and 2nd place individuals compete at the Big E.

Summer Camp Oswegatchie – week long camp @ www.oswegatchie.org

The Oswegatchie Education Center is located in the Adirondack State Park and is 1050 acres of hills, trees, and lakes. Students from all across New York State attend this camp for a week of fun and leadership training. Students take part in outdoor activities such as camping, boating, hiking, horse back riding, mountain biking, swimming, archery, water skiing, many more. Students are also able to take part in many Team Challenge elements such as the high and low ROPES course, Climbing and Rappelling Tower, and a 500 foot Zip Line.