

ND CDE

State Fair,  
Land, &  
Range Judging

General Rules  
and Guidelines

# STATE FAIR

REVISED 2017

Each year every FFA member is invited and encouraged to participate in the North Dakota State Fair. The dates of the fair are expected to be as follows:

July 21-29, 2017

July 20-28, 2018

July 19-27, 2019

It must be recognized that the State Fair is the showplace of North Dakota agriculture. We in our program are offered an opportunity to show the citizens of our great state and the thousands of guests just what agricultural education/FFA means to our youth. It is our opportunity to showcase the products of our efforts, and for students to receive valuable recognition and experience.

Every FFA member should have a solid foundation in agriculture/agribusiness. Our more than 4,000 FFA members should use the State Fair as a learning situation to enhance their background in areas relating to crops, livestock, agricultural mechanics, technology, horticulture, preparing displays, or by testing their skills in a competitive event such as tractor driving. There is an activity and an opportunity for every student who is enrolled in agricultural education/FFA. 7th & 8th grade students who are members are also eligible to exhibit.

To be eligible to participate at the ND State Fair a student must have completed an agricultural education course and appear on the chapter FFA roster

Check out the State Fair Web Site at: [www.ndstatefair.com](http://www.ndstatefair.com)

## Procedure for Entering Exhibits

A supply of entry tags and premium booklets are available for you to pick up at State Winter CDEs in March. If not picked up they are mailed to you. The numbers provided are based on your last year's exhibits. Entry tags for your State Fair exhibits can be obtained from the State FFA Office if you need more. The Premium booklet is revised and updated annually and contains the complete schedule, rules and procedures for exhibiting in the FFA State Fair Division.

All entry Class designations are found in the FFA Premium booklet. In order to minimize the problems of mislabeling or incomplete samples, all chapter advisors are encouraged to enter their own chapter exhibits. Advisors that come to the fair and drop off their exhibits for others to tag, record on entry sheets, pour into grain boxes, etc. are in effect removing all liability for mislabeling and incomplete samples from the division superintendent.

All Chapter Advisors are assigned duties at the State Fair. Without the enthusiastic assistance of Advisors, the huge task of entering, judging, recording and ribboning of the 20,000 plus FFA exhibits would be impossible. Each Advisor is expected to complete their assigned duties to the best of their abilities.

All entries must have an exhibit number on it assigned by the chapter advisor. **List entries 1 Class per page on entry forms** (SFN 5688) available on the state web site. Do not enter more than one kind of project on a page – or if you have only a small number of exhibits - leave several lines between kinds of projects on your entry pages. Tag numbers shall be listed in numerical order on each page. Complete both top and bottom parts of the tag, including name of the member, chapter, correct class and lot numbers. Be sure the exhibit number for an exhibit brought to the fair by a particular student has the corresponding exhibit number on the entry sheet. This will make the award recording process go so much faster.

Upon arrival at the fairgrounds, report your entries to the division superintendents and place entry sheets into the appropriate binder for that division. The Ag Mechanics and Educational divisions are located in the "FFA Building," Crops and Ag Produce in the "Magic Place", Horticulture in the "State Fair Atrium", Rabbits in the "Bunny Barn", Poultry in the "Dairy Barn", and all other Livestock in the "Expo" building.

Livestock entries/stall reservations are to be submitted to the State Fair Office 10 days prior to the start of the fair – FFA, 4-H and Open classes all use the same entry form. Livestock do not require exhibit tags but do require completed entry sheets. All entry classes must correspond to those published in the annual "FFA State Fair Activities and Premium booklet."

## Information found in the FFA Premium Schedule Booklet

Schedule of FFA Events	Procedure for Entering Exhibits
Exhibiting in the Open Class	Livestock Judging Schedule
Admission Fees - Season Passes	General FFA Rules
Premiums Offered - Point System	FFA Sweepstakes
Camping & Tenting on the Fairgrounds	Special Premiums and Awards
Livestock Health Requirements	Animal Welfare Statement & Drug Policy
Code of Show Ring Ethics Requirement	General Livestock Rules
State Livestock Showmanship Contest Rules	Livestock Division Classes
Field Crop Division Classes	AgProduce Division Classes
Horticulture Division Classes	Ag Mechanics Division Classes
Educational Displays Division Classes	

Master copies of the final registration forms are located on the State FFA website. These forms must be presented to the Division Superintendents upon check-in at the State Fair. Each static exhibit must have a tag and be recorded on the final registration form. See the State Fair FFA Premium book for details and classes.

Advisors may wish to retain a copy of its final registration sheets to record results and retain a complete list of exhibits to facilitate gathering and removal of projects.

### **Tractor Driving Contest**

Each district is eligible to enter 4 individuals in each division - Basic and Advanced. Each district shall arrange its own tractor driving event and the determination of the districts representatives shall be left to the discretion of the district. **To be eligible to participate the student must have completed an agricultural education course and appear on the chapter FFA roster.**

Individuals will be ranked gold, silver and bronze. Gold individuals will receive medals. The high individual in each division will receive the "baby bison" trophy and a travel stipend to attend National FFA Convention or a \$100 Scholarship.

# **TRACTOR DRIVING CONTEST**

There will be a Basic Division and an Advanced Division in this contest. The Basic Division will be for students who were seventh or eighth graders, freshmen or sophomores in the previous school year and the Advanced Division will be for those students who were juniors or seniors in the previous school year. The contest will be the same for both divisions except for the width of the implement used and the driving time allowed. Previous winners of either division are ineligible for further competition in that division.

The contest will be held in the East Fair Parking Lot on the first day of the fair. Contestants are to report to the contest site by 8 am for registration and a contest briefing. There will be a practice session the day before the contest from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the East Parking Lot. No practice the morning of the contest will be allowed.

## **Contestant Eligibility**

1. To be eligible to participate the student must have completed an agricultural education course and appear on the chapter FFA roster at the time of the state contest.
2. Contestants entered in the Basic Division of the contest must have been a seventh or eighth grader, freshman or sophomore in the previous school year. Contestants entered in the Advanced Division may be any age and enter as often as age permits or until winning the contest.
3. The student must be (1) a junior high or high school student and (2) enrolled in at least one agricultural education course for an agricultural occupation and/or following a planned course of study, including a supervised occupational experience program; the objective of which is establishment in an agricultural occupation. (Students enrolled during the previous school year are eligible to participate.)
4. District Elimination - Each district may enter four contestants in each division at the State Fair event. The selection of these eight people is left to the discretion of the district; however, a district contest is recommended.
5. Awards will be presented the day of the contest.

## **Written Examination**

The written examination will consist of 30 multiple choice questions on tractor operation, safety, and daily maintenance which the contestant should be able to answer as a tractor operator.

All scoring for this contest will be on a penalty point system. In other words, the lowest score wins. On the written examination 10 points will be added for each question missed.

## **Tractor Driving**

Each contestant will drive the two-wheel course as exemplified on the diagram enclosed. Scoring will be done on time, safety, and accuracy according to the score card included. An attempt will be made to obtain three makes of popular, modern farm tractors. Each contest will be designated one of these tractors; the third tractor will be used for the practicum.

Prior to the contest each contestant will be allowed a five-minute practice period on the contest tractor. This practice may be with the tractor only and not on the contest track. Practice must be taken according to the official schedule. (4:00-6:30 - pm Thursday) No practice on the day of the contest.

## **Practicum**

A practicum will consist of 20 questions worth 15 points each. Questions will be related to troubleshooting and use of the operator's manual. Contestants will be allowed 10 minutes for the practicum. Manuals and measuring instruments required to complete this section of the contest will be provided.

Note to Contestants: The safety scoring and scoring on accuracy of driving, as well as the points for the written test and practicum, are so severe that speed is not an important factor in winning this contest.

## **Scoring**

Each contestant must drive the driving course according to the enclosed course layout. A four-minute time will be used for the Basic Division and a three-minute time will be used for the Advanced Division. A penalty of two points per second will be added to the contestant's score for each second over the specified time limit. All contestants will be stopped at the end of five minutes and if the course is not completed, that contestant will be disqualified.

## **Scoring Summary**

Safe Operation	0 to 1000	depending on safety violations
Driving	0 to 1000	depending on time & accuracy
Written test	300 maximum	
Practicum	300 maximum	

THE LOWEST SCORE WILL BE THE WINNER

# **STATE LAND JUDGING EVENT**

Land Judging in North Dakota was initiated at the Conservation Show in Bismarck in 1951. A land appreciation school was initiated in Dickinson in 1957, and this event became the State Land Judging Contest in 1963. This State Land Judging Contest was combined with the State Range Judging Contest in 1993 and held in September. After years of dwindling participation, 1996 launched a new effort to revitalize this educational activity and was taken over by the Carrington FFA Alumni. Starting in 2003 the NDSU Extension Soil Specialist, Dave Franzen, took over management of this activity and revised the state extension guide for this event. A rotation of bringing the event to different locations of the state ever other year was initiated and the decision was made to bring the contest back to Dickinson on odd numbered years.

The State Land Judging Contest will be held during the months of July or early August. Each district is encouraged to organize and hold its' own workouts or contests in preparation for the State Event. Soil and land evaluation are common units to any agriculture/agriscience curriculum in North Dakota. Participation in this event as an outgrowth of that curriculum is encouraged.

Each school should have sufficient copies of "Land & Homesite Judging in North Dakota" (DBC618 – revised May 2004) to help students learn and prepare for this activity. Copies can be obtained through your county extension office or through the NDSU Ag Communications distribution center for a small charge - phone 701-231-7883.

The state contest will be prepared and conducted by the NDSU Extension Soils Specialist office in cooperation with area Soil Conservation, State Ag Education and Extension offices. Ribbons, Gold Pins, Rosettes, Plaques and Trophies will be provided and presented by the State FFA Officers. The winning 4-H and FFA teams are eligible to represent North Dakota in the International Contest in Oklahoma in May.

## **General Format**

1. Each chapter may enter one team of three to five active members. The score made by the three high individuals on the team will constitute the team score in determining the team rating. 7th & 8th grade members are eligible to participate.
2. High school graduates are eligible to participate in the state contest for individual awards only. These individuals must be so designated at registration. This rule is necessary because graduates are not eligible to participate in the national contest in May.
3. The state contest is open to all chapters. There are no official regional elimination contests, but regional competition is encouraged. One team per chapter is eligible for awards in the FFA Division, but an Open Division is available for additional teams or individuals.
4. Practice sites will be open the day prior to and the morning of the state contest. There will be approximately 4 practice pits and keys for each site will be provided. Soil experts will be available to answer questions. A complete schedule will be distributed via the state listserv prior to the event. Teams will not visit the state contest site prior to the contest.

Clean, unmarked clipboards and knives are allowed for use in the contest. Measuring tapes and leveling instruments may not be used in the contest. Reference materials are not to be used during the official contest. Water will be provided for texturing, contestants may not bring their own water bottles.

5. Individuals and teams in the State Land CDE will be ranked gold, silver or bronze, gold individuals will receive medals. The high individual will be presented the "baby bison" trophy and a \$100 Scholarship. State plaques and rosettes will be presented to gold chapters; rosettes will be given to teams receiving silver and bronze ratings. The high team will receive the traveling trophy and travel stipend to attend the National Land Judging Event in Oklahoma.

# ***STATE RANGE JUDGING EVENT***

## **Rules**

The North Dakota State Range Judging contest is designed to encourage and assist interested persons in learning about the range resource in North Dakota. It requires knowledge of range plants and knowledge of plant characteristics such as longevity, origin, season of growth, and response to grazing and requires the individual to evaluate the resource for livestock production, wildlife habitat and site integrity.

This contest is sponsored by the Society for Range Management, North Dakota Chapter, with assistance from other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals.

The contest is held annually, usually the third weekend in September. The first State Contest was held in Beach, North Dakota in 1976. The contest location is selected by the Education Committee, North Dakota Chapter, and Society for Range Management, Extension/4-H and the State Agriculture Education staff. This contest will be held in the different areas of the state, rotating to give students exposure to various ecosystems.

## **General Format**

1. Registration opens the day before the contest and practice sites are provided for review.
2. Practice sites will be set up and available for review by teams and individuals prior to the contest. Contestants, coaches and others will have the opportunity to judge the practice sites and then discuss them with the contest official at the site on the day prior to the contest. Practice sites will include site keys and plant lists. Typical plant species will be flagged for identification practice, and approximately 100 X 100 areas clearly flagged for determining ecological site, similarity index, evaluation for use by grouse and beef cattle and identification of improvement practices recommended.
3. Contest instructions will be given by an official prior to the start of the contest. 5 sites (may be shortened to two if inclement weather) will be judged in the contest with 20 minutes allowed per site.
4. Lunch in some cases will be available for a small charge, or pack your own lunch.
5. Results and awards will be given following tabulations and an explanation of the official scoring of the contest.

The contest shall consist of five sites – 3 ecological sites and 2 plant ID sites;

1. **Ecological sites** - each should be approximately 100 x 100 feet. At each site contestants will:
  - Determine ecological site
  - Determine similarity index
  - Evaluate resource for beef cattle
  - Evaluate resource for sharp-tailed grouse
  - Determine range improvement practices for beef cattle or sharp-tailed grouse
2. **Plant Identification** - Fifteen plants will be flagged at each site. Contestants will name the plant (see the plant list in the Range Judging Handbook for accepted plant names) and identify the life span, season of growth (for grasses only), grazing response, plant origin, and ecological and resource rating for food or cover for sharp-tailed grouse and beef.

All plants selected for identification will be named in the contest plant list. Only names shown on the plant list will be acceptable.

The Official resource for the contest will be the “Range Judging Handbook for North Dakota” (DDB-628) available from county extension offices or the NDSU Ag Communications, Distribution Center, Morrill Hall 7, Box 5655, NDSU, Fargo, ND 58105-5655. 701-231-7883

## **Scoring the Contest**

The numbers below correspond to sections of the range-judging card.

Ecological Site Identification	10 pts.
Similarity Index	15 pts. if site ID is correct or 5 pts if site ID is not correctly identified
Sharp-tail Site Evaluation	
Nesting Cover	
Plants	10 pts
Height	5 pts
Habitat	10 pts
Protective Cover	10 pts
Beef Site Evaluation	
Forage Value	10 pts
Degree of use	10 pts
Distribution Factors	
Slope	5 pts
Grazing Restraints	6 pts
Stocking Rate	5 pts
Beef Management Practices	3 pts each correct answer
Sharp-tail Management Practices	3 pts each correct answer
Plant ID	10 pts per plant (3 for name, 1 for each characteristic if the name is correct.)

In case of tie scores, the total score of all sites, Part V - Plant ID, will be used as the tie breaker.

Contestants will compete in one of four divisions: 4-H, FFA, Open and Adult.

4-H Division – refer to State 4-H office rules

FFA Division - Open to all FFA Members in good standing within their chapter. All members of a team must be members of the same chapter. One team per chapter is eligible for State Awards. Additional teams or individuals may enter the Open Division.

Open Division - Open to individuals and teams without regard to organizational membership or age. May include postsecondary range teams or individuals.

Adult Division - Open to any Adult or collegiate individual including Advisors - individuals only.

**Team Competition** - A team will consist of three to five members. The three highest scores will be used to calculate the team score.

Individuals not members of a team must register to compete in the Open Division or may enter the 4-H or FFA division providing the school does not have a team in that division. No contestant may simultaneously compete in more than one division.

The first place individual in any division shall not be eligible for further competition within that division in following years' contests. Members of the first place teams in regional range judging competition shall not be eligible to compete in that same division of the North Dakota state contest. Persons placing first individually in any division of regional range judging contest shall be ineligible for further competition in that same division in the North Dakota state contest.

## GENERAL RULES

Judging cards and guides to determine range condition will be furnished. Pencils and clean, unmarked clipboards are the only materials that contestants will be permitted to carry during the contest. Contestants are not permitted to touch flagged plants or walk through the area designated for range site, condition and degree of use determination during the contest. Violations of these provisions may result in contestant's judging cards being picked up and scored 0 for that site. Talking is not permitted during the contest.

Contestant's judging cards will be returned following scoring, however, results announced at awards are final. All cards will be double checked in the scoring process to insure accuracy. A summary score sheet showing all individual and team scores will be furnished to each team coach after the contest.

## Awards

4-H Division and Open Division - Ribbons and/or trophies or plaques will be presented to the first, second and third place teams, and to the top ten place individuals. A special award will be given to the High Individuals.

FFA Division - Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards will be given as furnished by sponsors through the North Dakota FFA Foundation. A special "Baby Bison" award and \$100 Scholarship will be presented to the FFA High Individual. State plaques and rosettes will be presented to gold chapters, and silver or bronze rosettes to other teams. A traveling trophy and travel stipend to attend either the regional or national range event will be awarded to the high team. The High team will also take possession of the revolving trophy for one year.

Overall High Individual - An award will be presented to the overall high individual from the 4-H and FFA Divisions. This will be the "Top Hand" award. Previous winners of this award will not be eligible for this trophy in subsequent years even though they may still be eligible to compete in some division of the contest.

Contest rules and procedures may be changed by the contest sponsors as is needed. Announcements the day of the contest take precedence.