

AG ISSUES FORUM

CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

I. OBJECTIVES

1. To provide an opportunity to expose a wide variety of students to the selection, research, planning and presentation of an agricultural issue.
2. To acquire knowledge and skills in community leadership for present and future use.
3. To become knowledgeable of, and familiar with a variety of local, state, national and international issues facing agriculture.
4. To understand the principles and fundamentals of agricultural issue analysis.
5. To further the awareness of agricultural issues in the local community.
6. To promote integration of agricultural issue analysis in local school academic subject matter areas.
7. To promote career choices by providing an opportunity for individuals to become acquainted with professionals in the industry.
8. To foster teamwork, leadership and communication skills.
9. To create an awareness of the agriculture education program in the local community.

II. EVENT RULES

1. **Team make-up-** A minimum of three and a maximum of seven students who are actively participating, orally presenting, and available to answer judges' questions. To be eligible for awards, each student must take an active role in the oral presentation. This includes active participation in the oral presentation and making themselves available for questions from the judges.
2. Presentations may include official FFA dress, costumes, props, skits, and other creative paraphernalia.
3. Guidelines of eligibility for the Agricultural Issues Forum will be consistent with other Career Development Events.
4. A minimum of three competent and unbiased judges will be provided. They will be instructed not to take sides on the issue(s). Professors and industry representatives are recommended. The superintendent of this CDE will adequately prepare the judges before the event competition.

III. EVENT FORMAT

1. **EQUIPMENT PROVIDED-** Equipment provided by the event superintendent includes: overhead projector, TV/VCR, easel and screen. Other equipment is allowed, but the presenting team must provide it.
2. Each team will conduct a presentation on the issue developed and presented at the local level.
3. The agricultural issues shall be delivered in the form of a question. (ie – Are GMO's safe for humans?)

4. The issue will come from one of the following seven agricultural issue topic areas as listed in the Focusing on Agricultural Issues instructional materials:
 - a. Environmental Issues
 - b. Agricultural Technology Issues
 - c. Animal Issues
 - d. Agricultural Career Issues
 - e. Economy and Trade Issues
 - f. Agricultural Policy Issues
 - g. Food Safety Issues
 - h. Biotechnology Issues

5. The same agricultural issue presentation and portfolio will not be used in subsequent years by the same chapter/advisor.

6. Research on the topic must be current and students must be involved in all the research of the topic and development of the portfolio.

7. The portfolio should include items described in a, b, and c below, and will be limited to ten pages single sided or five pages double sided maximum not including cover page. The cover page will include the title of the issue, name, address and phone number of the chapter. A maximum of ten (10) points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum amount of pages and/or for not including the cover page containing required information. **Seven copies of the portfolio must be sent to the Indiana FFA Executive Director by June 1st or by 8:00 a.m. to the event room the morning of the State CDE or points will be deducted for lateness. Districts will develop their own guidelines as it relates to portfolio submission.**
 - a. A maximum of two pages of the portfolio will include a summary of the issue, answering the questions that are most relevant to your topic.
 - List course(s) in which instruction occurred including the number of students involved in the instruction of the issue. (See Objective 6.)
 - Why is this issue important now?
 - What is the nature of the issue?
 - Who is involved in the issue?
 - How can the issue be defined?
 - What is the historical background of the issue?
 - What caused the issue?
 - What are the risks?
 - What are the benefits?

 - b. A bibliography of all resources and references cited which may include personal interviews and any other supporting material.

 - c. Indicate date of state competition and provide documentation that local forum(s) occurred prior to state qualifying competition such as:
 - Letters from organizations
 - News articles
 - Photos (3" x 5" or 4" x 6")
 - Scrapbook
 - Please provide a summary listing of when, where and to whom the forum(s) were presented to and indicate how many community members were in attendance at the forum(s). The forums can be held in the local community or outside of the local community

 - Portfolio judges may take into consideration the quality and quantity of presentations made to audiences outside of the school. No points will be awarded for school presentations to teachers and students. In addition, no points shall be awarded for forums presented as any part of a local or district FFA competition.

8. Time Limits: Five minutes will be allowed for set up. The presentation will be a maximum of 15 minutes in length. The presenters will receive a signal at 10 minutes and at 14 minutes. At 15 minutes, the timekeeper will announce that time is up, and the presentation will end. A maximum of 5 minutes for questions and answers will be allotted. Questions and answers will terminate at the end of 5 minutes. Five minutes will be allowed for take down.
9. The presentations will be designed to be viewed by the judges. The audience at-large will not be of concern to the presenters.
10. The judges may ask questions of all individuals of the presenting team. Each individual is encouraged to respond to at least one question from the judges.

IV. SCORING

1. Introduction, Pro, Con and Summary (20 points each, 80 points total)
2. Overall presentation (participation of each member of the team, quality and power of the presentations, creativity, stage presence) (20 points)
3. Questions (25 points)
4. Portfolio: 10 single sided pages maximum or 5 double sided pages. (Three parts, 25 points total)
 - Summary of the Issue, 2 pages maximum (5 points).
 - Bibliography (5 points).
 - Documentation of local forums (15 points).
 - Please state when, where, and to whom the local forum(s) was presented.
 - Maximum of 10 points will be deducted for exceeding the maximum number of pages and/or not including cover page containing required information

Prior to the event the portfolios will be judged and scored by qualified individuals using the portfolio score sheet. Portfolio scores will be averaged and supplied to the presentation judges after they have scored the presentation. Portfolio comment cards will be completed by portfolio judges and presented to the teams at the awards function. Presentation judges will be furnished with copies of the team portfolio, which they will use to formulate questions.

5. Judges' ranking will be used to place teams.
6. 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)

V. TIEBREAKERS

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

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.

Focusing on Agricultural Issues Instructional Materials,
Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

Global Vision Instructional Materials, Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

Agricultural Issues: Food Safety Video, Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

Agricultural Issues: Ground Water Safety Video, Agricultural Education Resources Catalog, National FFA Organization

Agriculture Issues Forum

Name: _____ Chapter: _____

The *Portfolio* should include items described in Section 3a, 3b and 3c of the Guidelines, and is limited to ten pages single-sided (5 pages double-sided) maximum.

Seven copies of the portfolio must be sent to the Indiana FFA Executive Director by June 1st or by 8:00 a.m. to the event room the morning of the State CDE or points will be deducted for lateness. Districts will develop their own guidelines as it relates to portfolio submission.

Portfolio

	Possible Points	Total Points
1. Summary of the Issue (2 pages maximum)	5	
2. Bibliography	5	
3. Quality and Quantity of Local Forums	15	
Subtotal:	25	

- Deduction for exceeding the maximum number of pages and incomplete cover page (10 points maximum)
- Deduction for turning portfolio in late (10 points)

Maximum Deduction	-20	
Grand Total Score		

Agricultural Issues Forum

Name: _____ Chapter: _____

Team Presentation

	Possible Points	Total Points
Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">State of the issue in the form of a question and its importance	20	
Pro View Point	20	
Con View Point	20	
Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none">Summarize the Pro'sSummarize the Con's	20	
Overall Presentation	20	
Questions	25	
Subtotal:	125	

Agricultural Issues Forum

Name: _____ Chapter: _____

Total Score

	Possible Points	Total Points
Portfolio	25	
Presentation	125	
Subtotal:	150	