



New Jersey Department of Agriculture | Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education
200 Riverview Plaza, 3rd Floor | P.O. Box 330 | Trenton, NJ 08625 | 877-AgEdFFA | jerseyageducation.nj.gov

In cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: December 24, 2025

To: New Jersey FFA Chapter Advisors/Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource Educators

From: Jenny J. Allen, State FFA Specialist

CC: Erin E. Noble, State FFA Advisor

Re: **New Jersey FFA Floriculture & Nursery/Landscape CDE Announcement – Friday, March 13, 2026**

SPECIAL NOTE

**We are using the JudgingCard registration system again this year.
Nursery/Landscape CDE has been moved to this date.
PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THE ENTIRE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR DETAILS.**

**Floriculture and Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event Announcement
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Floriculture & Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event

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FFA FLORICULTURE and NURESERY/LANDSCAPE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

Friday, March 13, 2026

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Mercer County Community College - West Windsor Campus

1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor, NJ 08550

In the John P. Hanley Student Center (Cafeteria)

Please refer to the New Jersey FFA Floriculture and Nursery/Landscape handbooks for specific event details located on the State Activity Guide.

https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/index.html

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Students and teachers from all schools with Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are encouraged to attend and participate in the educational activities provided. FFA activities are integral to Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources instruction.

WHO CAN COMPETE?

1. Contestants must be currently enrolled in an approved agricultural education course and appear on the chapter's roster.
2. All students participating in New Jersey FFA events (CDEs/LDEs, Leadership Conferences, State Convention, etc.) are **required** to complete the **Release Form, Student Agreement, and Emergency Information** in AET.
3. Students who have been members of a first-place official team in a state event and have participated at the highest level for that event may not compete again in that particular event.
4. The Floriculture and Nursery/Landscape Career Development Events require a four-member team. The score of all four team members constitutes the official team score.

HOW DO I SIGN-UP?

1. Registration for the Floriculture and Nursery/Landscape Career Development Events are through [judgingcard.com](https://www.judgingcard.com) or directly at this link: <https://www.judgingcard.com/Registration/Info.aspx?ID=22907> or by logging into JudgingCard.com.
2. Click on the leftmost icon at the bottom of the screen for "Event Registration and Information."
3. Use the month list at the top of the calendar to browse to the month of the event you need to register for (March).

4. Click on the event link “New Jersey FFA CDEs” on the calendar (March 13) ... this will pull up the event’s registration page.
5. Click the link to “Online Registration” at the top of the page.
6. Click “Registration” link for each class you want to enter.
7. Change the “Number of Contestants” to what you would like, specify an advisor, and then select contestant names. Registration is contingent upon inclusion on the **FFA roster**; students must be listed on the roster in order to register. Additionally, both students and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must **complete the Student Waiver** through AET prior to registration being processed. If an entry is left blank it is not considered an entry.
8. Click the “submit Entry” button.
9. Repeat steps 7, 8, and 9 for each event you need to register.
10. Review all entries back on the event’s main page.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The cost is \$44.00 per team, or \$11.00 per person (maximum 4-team members), unless the chapter is Blue Affiliated (then registration is waived); registration fee is assessed per contest for each chapter participating. Please pay this fee at the time of pre-registration. Make checks payable to the Treasurer, State of New Jersey. In the memo area of the check, please identify “New Jersey FFA CDEs”. **CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Send to the Office of Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Education, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625-0330. **Participant Lists received after February 15th are subject to a \$10 late fee per event.** Participant Lists will not be accepted any later than one week prior to the event. Please be prepared to pay prior to the event. ***Chapters who affiliate with the “Blue Supplemental Package” will have state CDE fees waived.***

(Remember, your payment is non-refundable since your registration is what we use to pay for event expenses. NOTE: The only exception, according to New Jersey’s FFA Conference Refund Policy, is a doctor’s note or proof of death in the immediate family along with a cover letter explaining the circumstance. This must be sent to the state executive board within one month of the event.)

WHERE DO I PARK ON EVENT DAY?

Bus and other vehicle parking in Student Parking East and Student Parking West.

WHEN AND WHERE DO I CHECK IN ON MARCH 13?

Events will **START PROMPTLY at 10:00 am as SCHEDULED.** One teacher from each chapter will pay assessment fees and confirm teams at the Cafeteria in the Student Center **before 9:30 am.** Your team must be verified at the sign-in desk in order to qualify for competition. Please plan to arrive on campus in a timely manner. Arriving at 10:00 or later does not provide your students with a fair opportunity and may result in them missing a component of their event.

WHERE DO TEAMS NEED TO BE BY 9:45 AM?

Official teams will be at the event location at the starting time. CDE Coordinators have the right to disqualify teams that arrive late and might not be able to allow teams to make up missed components of the event. A timely start helps make an efficient finish. Please respect other participants by having your students to the event prior to the start time. **All contestants' registrations must be confirmed by advisors on the day of the event.**

WHEN WILL WE KNOW RESULTS?

Official results will be available to all chapters/schools via email, the state Agricultural Education website and at www.judgingcard.com. **DO NOT CALL THE STATE OFFICE FOR RESULTS.** Results become **OFFICIAL** when an email is sent from the Office of Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources Education announcing the results.

HOW ARE EVENTS SCORED?

1. FFA members on the current chapter roster make up the team score. If a contestant is found not to be a member, then his/her score will be dropped from the team score, thus causing contest teams to be re-ranked for recognition.
2. The chapter with the highest team score in each event will have the opportunity to represent the New Jersey FFA Association at the National FFA Career Development Event in Indianapolis, IN in October 2026 and the Eastern States Regional FFA Career Development Events in Springfield, Massachusetts in September 2026. Team members must be accompanied to these events by advisor(s). **ALL four individual scores make up the team score.**

WHAT STUDENT RECOGNITION IS THERE?

Only dues-paid members and chartered chapters may compete for awards and for further competition.

Non-members and non-chartered chapters may participate; however, they are not eligible for trips, trophies, certificates, or banners. Registration fees may be higher for non-members to cover costs.

1. A plaque will be awarded to the first-place team at the annual State Convention.
2. Medals will be awarded to the first, second and third place individuals overall in the event and certificates will be awarded to the top five (5) students who excel in practical parts of the event.
3. A Career Development Event Sweepstakes Award will be presented to the New Jersey team that places the highest in National Competition. This includes all National FFA Events and Land Judging/Homesite.

WHAT ARE THE RULES?

1. No individuals from the same school/chapter may talk, confer, or otherwise communicate, except for during the team activity. Penalty will be loss of score for that section of the event or disqualification from the event. Event coordinator has the authority to make disqualifications.
2. All students participating in New Jersey FFA events (CDEs/LDEs, Leadership Conferences, State Convention, etc.) are **required** to complete the **Release Form, Student Agreement, and Emergency Information** in AET.
3. Participants are **NOT** allowed to use (or have visible) electronic devices during the event, unless for medical reasons or a portion of the event requires usage. This includes cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, etc. Participants will be allowed to use calculators, if specified for that event; however, cell phone calculators are not permitted! **Failure to adhere to these rules can result in disqualification.**
4. All individuals participating will judge in a cooperative manner following the rules set forth by the event coordinator.
5. No school/chapter will use Rutgers Cook Campus or Delaware Valley University or Mercer County Community College for the training of teams. **Penalty will be disqualification.**
6. All the events require four members to compete and team scores will be based on all four members. See National Career Development website for clarification, <https://ffa.app.box.com/s/vpx52yly9mpiai35srdzl7oq68kldnbt>
7. This event will be scored using scantron sheets. It is important for students to listen to directions and to fill out the sheets correctly to receive credit. Sample scantron sheets are available for practice on the State Activity Guide.
8. There will be no separate alternate teams.
9. A student cannot compete in more than one event at the National Competition each year. This includes public speaking, parliamentary procedure and all non-leadership team events.
10. The \$45 National level competition fee and \$10 Eastern States competition fee will be paid by the competing school regardless of program affiliation status. These fees must be paid directly to New Jersey FFA (payable to Treasurer, State of New Jersey).

WHAT SHOULD MY STUDENTS WEAR AND HOW SHOULD THEY ACT?

1. Contestants should also be familiar with the proper use of the FFA jacket (i.e. members never smoke while wearing the FFA jacket). Advisors should review the Official Manual and/or Student Handbook with students regarding Code of Ethics, Official Dress, and proper use of the FFA jacket. *Consult the Official Manual for descriptions of official dress.*

This includes:

- a. FFA jacket or a nametag with name, school and chapter worn in all FFA events.
 - b. Neat and safe clothing is required to promote a positive image for the FFA. Complete official dress should be worn for Floriculture CDE. Travel official dress (ex. Black work boots) is appropriate for Nursery/Landscape
 - c. Outdoor events (e.g. Nursery/Landscape) will be held rain or shine. Please be prepared (with plastic coverings for scan-tron sheets) and dress accordingly for such weather conditions.
2. Students wearing inappropriate clothing will be disqualified and asked to leave the event area.
 3. All Contestants will abide by the FFA Code of Ethics and conduct themselves at all times to be a credit to their organization, chapter, school, Community, and family. This includes:
 - 1) Develop my potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.
 - 2) Make a positive difference in the lives of others.
 - 3) Dress neatly and appropriately for the occasion.
 - 4) Respect the rights of others and their property.
 - 5) Be courteous, honest and fair with others.
 - 6) Communicate in an appropriate, purposeful and positive manner.
 - 7) Demonstrate good sportsmanship by being modest in winning and generous in defeat.
 - 8) Make myself aware of FFA programs and activities and be an active participant.
 - 9) Conduct and value a supervised agricultural experience program.
 - 10) Strive to establish and enhance my skills through agricultural education in order to enter a successful career.
 - 11) Appreciate and promote diversity in our organization
 4. The use of ANY tobacco product is not permitted at any FFA event including career development events.
 5. FFA members will support the FFA Value Statements which include:
 - a. We respect and embrace every individual's culture and experiences.
 - b. We welcome every individual's contribution to advance our communities and the industry of agriculture.
 - c. We cultivate an environment that allows every individual to recognize and explore their differences.
 - d. We create leadership opportunities for every individual to enhance their personal and professional endeavors.

WHEN AND WHERE DO WE EAT?

The event schedule is continuous from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. It is strongly suggested that students pack lunch and only purchase if necessary.

HOW DO I GET SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MY STUDENTS?

The New Jersey FFA Association is committed to providing equal access to our events and activities for all people. Please utilize the Request for Reasonable Accommodations to get special assistance for your student(s). Use this form to request a reasonable accommodation or assistance at least 3 weeks before any state-level events: <https://form.jotform.com/NJFFA/accommodations-request>. A new form will need to be submitted for each event for which a reasonable accommodation is being requested. This information will be kept confidential and will be used only to process the request. Our staff will review the request upon receipt and contact the requestor with additional information. The association cannot guarantee accommodations or assistance if a form is received less than 3 weeks before an event. Accommodations being requested that require the assistance of another person (nurse, interpreter, scribe, reader, etc.) is the responsibility of the school/requestor. It is also the school/requestor's responsibility to provide any approved equipment to aide in the accommodation process, if applicable. To conduct a state level Career Development Event efficiently, no additional time will be provided to a student to complete portions of that Career Development Event.

Directions to Mercer County Community College - West Windsor Campus

From North or South via U.S. 1

- Exit onto Quakerbridge Road / South 533.
- After 2 miles (through 4 traffic lights), turn left at the Youngs Road traffic light.
- At the end of Youngs Road, turn right onto Hughes Drive and follow past Mercer County Park entrance.
- MCCC campus entrance is on the left.

From Route 206 North or South

- From 206 South, turn left onto Province Line Road (at traffic light).
- From 206 North, turn right onto Province Line Road.
- Follow Province Line Road through the next traffic light (Princeton Pike), continue to the next traffic light and turn right onto Quakerbridge Road / South 533.
- On Quakerbridge Road, follow directions from Route 1 (see above).

From North or South via Interstate 95/295

- Take Interstate 95 (which becomes Interstate 295) to Exit 65A: Sloan Ave. East
- Continue straight on Sloan Ave. East (becomes Flock Road) to the end.
- Turn left at traffic light, onto Edinburg Road
- Continue straight through one traffic light (becomes Old Trenton Road).
- Take right jug handle that leads to the MCCC campus entrance.

From East

- Follow Route 33 West until you see signs for Route 133 West (the new bypass route).
- Turn right onto Route 133 West.
- Take Route 133 West to the end and exit immediately onto Route 571 West (Princeton-Hightstown Road).
- Move immediately to the far-left turning lane and turn left onto Route 535 / Old Trenton Road.
- Follow Route 535 / Old Trenton Rd for approximately 5 miles.
- MCCC campus entrance is on the right.

From North via NJ Turnpike

- Take Turnpike Exit 8 at Hightstown onto Route 33 West.
- Follow signs onto Route 133 West (the new bypass).
- Turn right onto Route 571 West (Princeton-Hightstown Road).
- Move immediately to the far-left turning lane and turn left onto Route 535 / Old Trenton Road.
- Follow Route 535 / Old Trenton Road for approximately 5 miles.
- MCCC campus entrance is on the right.

From South via NJ Turnpike

- Take Turnpike Exit 7A.
- Go West on I-195 to Exit 5B (first exit off I-195).
- North on Route 130, proceed to the second traffic light and turn left onto Robbinsville-Allentown Road (526 West).
- Go through traffic light and make immediate right onto Robbinsville-Edinburg Road (526 West).
- At the end of Robbinsville-Edinburg Road (526 West), turn left onto Old Trenton Road (535).
- Follow Old Trenton Road for 2 miles to campus entrance on right, after Mercer County Park.

