

**NJ FFA ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
NJ DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PO Box 330  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

In Cooperation with New Jersey Department of Education

## **FFA DEMONSTRATION EVENT FOR INDIVIDUALS OR TEAMS**

Careers in agriculture require the ability to promote ideas, perform skilled activities and sell products. This event is designed to give a member or members the opportunity to speak clearly and effectively by demonstrating a persuasive (how-to) competency.

### Rules

1. The topic of the demonstration must be clearly stated and be appropriate to one of these major topic areas of agriculture education.
  - A. Agricultural Mechanics/Engineering
  - B. Agricultural Production
  - C. Agricultural Processing/Distribution
  - D. Agribusiness
  - E. Resource Management
  - F. Agricultural Research
  - G. Horticulture/Forestry
  - H. Agricultural Environment
  - I. AgriScience
2. The participant must be registered with the State FFA Office on or before April 10 to compete in the State Demonstration Event for that year. The registration form can be found in the State Convention registration form.
3. The event will allow two types of demonstrations:  
  
*Individual Demonstration* - One member  
*Team Demonstration* - Two - four members  
  
\* Contestants in Individual Demonstrations will not compete against contestants in Team Demonstrations.
4. A first place individual or team may not compete the following year in the same demonstration topic area.
5. An Individual Demonstration shall be no less than eight (8) minutes but no more than twelve (12) minutes in length. A penalty of 5 points per minute for each minute under eight (8) minutes and each minute or major fraction there of over twelve (12) will be made.
6. A Team Demonstration shall be at least ten (10) but no more than fifteen (15) minutes in length. A penalty of five points per minute for each minute under ten (10) minutes and each minute or major fraction thereof over fifteen (15) minutes will be made.

7. Each chapter is eligible to be represented by one Individual Demonstration and one Team Demonstration each year. Chapters should hold local competitions to determine first place individual and team. Note: *Judges have up to **five minutes** to ask questions of each participant or group.*
8. All visual aids (signs, charts, transparencies, computer images, and diagrams) shall be prepared by the contestant(s).
9. In a Team Demonstration, all members must take a meaningful part in the demonstration.
10. Separate awards will be given for Individual and Team Demonstrations:

	<u>Team</u>	<u>Individual</u>
Gold Emblem Pin (1 <sup>st</sup> Place)	\$150	\$75
Silver Emblem Pin (2 <sup>nd</sup> Place)	\$ 80	\$50
Bronze Emblem Pin (3 <sup>rd</sup> Place)	\$ 60	\$25

Placings will be dependent on points earned on the scoresheet.

11. The contestant(s) must supply all materials needed for the demonstration. A classroom will be provided for the demonstration.
12. The State event will be held annually during the State FFA Convention in May. Contestants will draw lots to determine the order of presentation.
13. A contestant will use clothing which is safe and appropriate for the demonstration. If possible, FFA Official Dress should be worn during the demonstration.
14. Contestants must be dues paid members of a chapter in good standing with the New Jersey FFA Association and National FFA Organization.

## **What is a Demonstration?**

A demonstration is simply showing or explaining how to do something. Have you ever shown anyone how to start a car, pot a plant or take a soil test? If so, then you have given a demonstration. A demonstration is showing by doing or putting work into action.

## **Why Give a Demonstration?**

Demonstrations develop the ability to impart knowledge to others. Demonstrating helps FFA members develop poise, initiative and originality. It is also the best known technique for sharing with others what we have learned.

## **Selecting the Subject**

The first rule of a good demonstration is to select a simple subject, one that can be covered adequately in the allotted time. Cover only one main theme, or idea. If a beginner selects a subject that is too difficult they may be discouraged.

## **Planning the Demonstration**

The most successful demonstrations are those that reflect a members' own ideas and are expressed in his or her own words. They should not be written by advisors, parents or others. The member should make a definite outline of the presentation.

## **Presentation Outline**

- I. **Introduction**
  - A. Tell who you are, what chapter you are from and what area of study you are pursuing in school.
  - B. What is your subject and why did you select it?
  - C. Why should it be of interest to your audience?
  - D. Why your audience should want to do it or know anything about it.
- II. **The Body**
  - A. What specific acts or steps should be included?
  - B. What you should say about each step.
  - C. Is the information correct?
  - D. If it is a team demonstration, divide the work between members to allow equal participation.
- III. **Conclusion**
  - A. What main points do you want the audience to remember?
  - B. How can these points be emphasized?

## **POINTS FOR ADVISORS**

1. Provide the member(s) with an opportunity to practice.
2. Encourage the member(s) to know their subject well enough to talk easily about it.
3. Discourage memorizing the oral presentation word-for-word.
4. Have the members of a team demonstration refer to each other by their first names.
5. Show how the use of carefully selected equipment adds to the attractiveness of the presentation.
6. Make sure all props and materials can be easily seen by the audience, especially the judges.
7. Advise the member(s) to wear suitable clothing to maintain good posture, and speak distinctly and clearly.
8. Encourage the member(s) by being generous with your praise. A sincere compliment from the advisor will challenge them to do better.
9. Assist the member(s) by providing an audience for them to practice on. Help member(s) in choosing an appropriate subject.
10. Encourage the member(s) to be imaginative and creative in their introduction, as well as adding interest throughout the presentation.
11. Encourage the member(s) to use visuals. Visuals should be colorful, eye appealing, and appropriate in size.