MICHIGAN FFA

Contest Details

Team Event
Participants: 2-3
Official Dress Required: No*
National Qualifying Event: No

**See clarification in rules*

DEMONSTRATION

Leadership Development Event

OBJECTIVES

Improve the supervised agricultural experience program of the member.

Develop career skills necessary for agricultural occupations.

Demonstrate to others what has been learned regarding improved agricultural practices.

Gain experience in speaking in public, develop teamwork, and foster good sportsmanship.

Contribute to improvement of agriculture in the community.

TEAM MAKE-UP/ELIGIBILITY

Number of students

Demonstration teams must consist of not less than two and not more than three high school members.

One additional non-speaking high school member may assist the team by running technology but may not speak during the contest, answer any questions, or handle any props during the demonstration presentation. They may assist with set up and take down. **This member must be in official dress.**

Alternates must be listed on the district entry form submitted to the state office.

All participants (including technology person and alternates) must be members in good standing with the Michigan FFA Association and on the official roster.

Equipment needed by students/provided by contest

Tables and chairs will be provided by the contest host.

Students can bring props for their demonstration and presentation; however, the following items are prohibited:

1. Fire
2. Live animals
3. Operational engines (electric motors may be used)
4. Guns
5. Operational drones (if battery is disengaged, drones can be used as a prop but may not be flown).

All props must fit through a standard classroom single door.

Students may also bring laptops, projectors, and screens; however, these will not be provided by the contest host.

Official Dress

Official dress is not required for presenters, but if a member is helping with technology, they are required to wear official dress. When official dress is worn it must comply with the guidelines below.

When worn, official dress for an FFA member includes:

1. An official FFA jacket zipped to the top
2. Black slacks and black socks/nylons or black skirt and black nylons
    a. *Skirt should be a minimum of knee length*
    b. *Slacks should be full length*
3. White collared blouse or white collared shirt
4. Official FFA tie or official FFA scarf
5. Black dress shoes with closed heel and toe

Note: Medical or cultural adjustments to required official dress may be made with prior approval of contest/event chair. Also, appropriate personal protective equipment may be used with Official Dress. Junior high FFA members are allowed to wear FFA jackets, but it is optional. Participants in junior high contests should not be judged differently for wearing or not

wearing a jacket.

If warranted, deductions for non-compliance with official dress guidelines will be determined by the contest chair and enforced equally by all judges. The chair may make a deduction of 0, 2, 5, 7, or 10 points.

CONTEST PERSONNEL

Judges

A total of three competent and unbiased judges will be provided.

Educators and industry representatives are recommended.

During the contest, the judges will seat themselves apart from one another in different sections of the room.

Contest Chair

The contest chair will monitor the contest room and assist the judges as they compile their final team placing.

The contest chair will adequately prepare the judges before the event competition.

Timekeeper

The timekeeper should use a stopwatch and the guidelines provided on the Michigan FFA website. The timekeeper should also use the 8 ½" x 11" cards available at https://www.michiganffa.org/sites/default/files/2026-09/Demonstration%20Timekeeper%20Signs.pdf

Holding Room Monitor

The holding room should be monitored at all times.

PROCEDURE

Demonstration

A demonstration may include any combination of actions, words, charts, and **silent video** on any subject pertaining to agriculture, food, and natural resources.

Demonstrations must actively show a minimum of four practical procedures that pertain to the subject matter and teach the processes necessary for successful completion of the topic.

References

Teams must submit a complete reference list of all sources at district, regional, and state level contests. The reference list must conform to the most current edition of the American Psychological Association (APA) Publication Manual.

If deductions for non-compliance with the reference requirements are warranted, the contest chair will have the judges confer when all presentations have finished. During this time, judges may only discuss the quality of the references provided and must come to an agreement on the completeness and quality of the provided references. The following guidance should be followed for reference point deductions. For formatting examples, judges should refer to Reference List Formatting & Examples resource.

REFERENCES	POINT DEDUCTION
Reference list is present and includes a complete list of sources and is formatted following the most current edition of the American Psychological Association (APA) Publication Manual.	No deduction
Reference list is present and complete but formatting is somewhat inconsistent with the most current edition of the American Psychological Association (APA) Publication Manual.	-1 point
Reference list is present but the list is incomplete and/or formatting is inconsistent with the most current edition of the American Psychological Association (APA) Publication Manual.	-3 points
Reference list is not present.	-5 points

Statement of Authenticity

All reference submissions must include a signed copy of the Michigan FFA Statement of Authenticity Form verifying that the references and demonstration result from the students' original work. The Statement of Authenticity Form can be found on the Michigan FFA website at: https://www.michiganffa.org/sites/default/files/2026-09/Statement%20of%20Authenticity%20Form_Fillable%20%20Update%2091826_0.pdf

For district, regional, and state contests, the signed Statement of Authenticity Form should be attached as the first page of the printed references.
If the signed Statement of Authenticity Form is not included, a deduction of 5 points will be determined by the contest chair and enforced equally by all judges.

Overview of Reference Requirements

	DISTRICT	REGIONAL	STATE SEMI-FINALS	STATE FINALS	STATE ON-STAGE FINALS
Statement of Authenticity	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
References	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Submission Format	Submit four printed copies of all files at contest site	Submit four printed copies of all files at contest site	Submit four printed copies of all files at contest site	Submit four printed copies of all files at contest site	Submit four printed copies of all files at contest site
Extra Copies	N/A	N/A	Bring eight **additional** copies for advancing to state finals and on-stage finals	Bring four **additional** copies for advancing to state on-stage finals	N/A
Note: See detailed requirements in above sections.					

Contest Procedures

Teams will draw for order of competition. The contest chair will introduce each team in order of drawing and announce the subject of their presentation.

A team may be disqualified if anyone other than the contest chair or holding room monitor enters the holding room at any time during the competition.

Contestants may not provide materials or samples to judges or audience members during the presentations.

Prior to the presentation the team should introduce team members, contest topic and the name of their FFA chapter, and then immediately proceed with, "Timekeeper, we are ready to begin our presentation," or "Honorable Timekeeper, we are ready to begin our presentation."

The team must conclude their presentation with, "Timekeeper, this concludes our presentation," or "Honorable Timekeeper, this concludes our presentation."

Questions

At the conclusion of the presentation, the judges may ask questions of all individuals of the presenting team. The only exception is if there is an additional person whose sole task was to run the technology. Each individual is encouraged to respond to at least one question from the judges.

TIME

The timekeeper will record the length of the presentation, set up, and take down. These times will be reported to the judges. The exact total minutes and seconds must be recorded showing undertime or overtime for which deductions will be made.

Set Up Time

Five minutes will be allowed for set-up, which may be completed by a maximum of six people, including team members.

Set up time will begin when all presentation materials are in the room. When 3:00 minutes of set up time have elapsed, the timekeeper will stand holding a timecard and announce “3:00 minutes.” When 4:30 minutes have elapsed, the timekeeper will stand holding a timecard and announce “4:30 minutes.”

Due to time restriction, convention staff may help with setup during state finals on the big stage.

For deductions, see time deduction chart.

SET UP TIME	POINT DEDUCTION
0:00 - 5:30	No deduction
5:31 - 6:30	-2 points
6:31 - 7:30	-4 points
7:31 - 8:30	-6 points
8:31 - 9:30	-8 points

Presentation Time

Official time does not include the time required for the team's introductions.

The presentations will be a maximum of 15 minutes in length and a minimum of 10 minutes.

The presenters will receive a signal at 10 minutes and at 14:30 minutes.

A maximum of 5 minutes for questions and answers will be allotted. Questions and answers will terminate at the end of 5 minutes.

For deductions, see time deduction chart.

PRESENTATION LENGTH	POINT DEDUCTION
5:31 - 6:30	-16 points
6:31 - 7:30	-12 points
7:31 - 8:30	-8 points
8:31 - 9:30	-4 points
9:31 - 15:30	No deduction
15:31 - 16:30	-2 points
16:31 - 17:30	-4 points
17:31 - 18:30	-6 points
18:31 - 19:30	-8 points

Take Down Time

Five minutes will be allowed for take down.

Due to time restriction, convention staff may help with take down during state finals on the big stage.

For deductions, see time deduction chart.

TAKE DOWN TIME	POINT DEDUCTION
0:00 - 5:30	No deduction
5:31 - 6:30	-2 points
6:31 - 7:30	-4 points
7:31 - 8:30	-6 points
8:31 - 9:30	-8 points

SCORES

The presentation will be scored on the following criteria.

Subject Matter: Organization, accuracy of information, reliability of sources, importance of problems or practices discussed	25 points
Presentation: Convincing and effective, coordination of speakers to convince audience by telling and showing, ability to use visual materials	65 points
Response to Questions: Evidence of familiarity with the subject and the ability to think quickly	10 points

Determining Awards

After scoring presentations, each judge will use their total score to rank the teams numerically without consultation among judges. All judges' rankings for each team will then be totaled together. The winner will be the team whose total of rankings is the lowest (low point score method of selection).

District and regional teams will be rated **gold** or **silver.** State semi-finals teams will be rated **silver** or **bronze.** State finals teams will be rated **gold** or **silver.** Determinations should be based on the score break of the performance. The top team and an alternate will be selected to move on to another contest level.

Placing and awards shall be determined utilizing the Guide to Ranking Teams and General Rules Governing Michigan FFA Leadership Contests.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to these rules, please review the following documents:

- General Rules Governing Michigan FFA Leadership Contests
- Demonstration Scorecard
- Guide to Ranking Teams
- Demonstration Timekeeper Instructions
- Contest Chair Instructions
- Reference List Formatting & Examples
- American Psychological Association (APA) Publication Manual