

# Contest Opportunities!

## Key:

⇒ *Presenter can read or summarize in their own words*

≡ *Directions to presenter for workshop questions and relating items discussed in workshop to our lives*

⇒ **Intro:** *Being an FFA member means so much more than just zipping up the blue and gold jacket, working on a farm, or learning all there is to know about the agriculture industry. FFA also gives members the opportunity to compete in 24 nationally recognized FFA Career Development Events (CDEs). Members sign up for a CDE area and compete in that at many levels, from the local chapter level all the way to the national level at the National FFA Convention held annually in cities across the United States.*

## Activity: Word Search- How many words do you know?

Directions: Break students into teams of 3-4

Give each group a piece of paper or have them take one out of their own

Pick a letter out of the alphabet (*refrain from letters such as q,x, or z to keep the activity in bounds*)

Give the students 3-5 minutes to develop a list as a group of as many words as they can that start with the letter that you have picked

When the time is up, have each group count how many words they have come up with.

Congratulate the winning group, and give them a small prize if you have one, such as candy, etc.

### Intro Slide

Title: What is a Career Development Event (CDE)? ≡ (*ask if anybody can explain a CDE*)

A competition related to a certain area of agriculture allowing students to test their knowledge in that area while developing lifelong career skills

There are 24 nationally recognized CDEs, and some states have more state contests to deal with local agricultural economies and interests

≡ (*Relate the previous activity to a career development event ie: just as you took skills you possess and put them to work to compete, a CDE also does the same thing*)

## Slide 2

Title: Why do we have CDEs?

CDEs give FFA members the opportunity to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success    ⚡    *(explain that this complies with the mission statement of the FFA-FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students...)*

CDEs give students the opportunity to learn life-long skills in a competitive environment

Prepare students for any and all careers related to agriculture    ⚡    *(Explain that ag. Related career areas are very broad and there is something that everyone will enjoy)*

To give students the chance to take knowledge gained from an agriculture education program and realize that they will actually use this knowledge in real life

## Slide 3

Title: Do you have what it takes?    ⚡    *(have students throw out a few skills essential to being successful in a CDE)*

What does it take to be successful in a career development event?

- The ability to think logically and critically
- The ability to communicate clearly
- The ability to perform effectively and consistently

⇒ *You have the ability to explore approximately 300 agriculture related career fields, chose the one you are interested in develop the skills necessary to be successful in that area,, and compete in the career development event most closely related to your field of interest. Once you find the area you like, however, you must develop or enhance your skills and knowledge in that area to perform in the contest to the best of your ability. What does it take to prepare for a Career Development Event?*

## Slide 4

Title: Preparation for a Career Development Event

Team members must work with advisors, teachers, business owners, legislatures, or many other people to get the "whole picture" of that career development event, giving you the chance to work with your communities and interact in many ways.    ⚡    *(define the "whole picture" in such a way that students realize that CDEs are very broad and consist of a wide range of topics in that CDE)*

Just like practicing in a sport, an FFA member must regularly practice to get themselves ready for a contest

Preparing for a CDE event is preparing for the future

⇒ *Competing in Career development events gives students the skills, knowledge, and know-how of a particular area or agriculture that they pursue a career in. But, for those who might not think that to be important, as it truly is, there are other advantages to an FFA member to compete in a Career Development Event.*

### **Slide 5**

Title: Reaping the benefits of a CDE

Most importantly, CDEs put life long skills into the hands of FFA members to prepare them for a career    ⇐ *(stress this to be the most important of the benefits)*

Fun and Friends- meet new people while spending time with your previous friends

Travel- Regional, State, and National contests    ⇐ *(Explain areas traveled to, ie: State convention-4-5 days in Cheyenne, National Convention-one week in Louisville, KY)*

Awards and Recognition- for your outstanding achievement in a CDE, a member has the potential to get recognized and awarded with plaques, ribbons, trips, and even straight up cash

⇒ *Career development Events are very important to the FFA as they help the FFA instill its hopes and values in its members. FFA pushes people to become as successful as they can in real life and achieve so much more that they want to or think is possible. I encourage you to take the time to join and enjoy a Career Development contest and gain all you can from it, and hopefully walk away with awards and recognition.*