

Indiana 4-H/FFA Career Development Events

Information about each CDE can be found at <https://extension.purdue.edu/4h/Pages/CDE.aspx>.

Crops

Youth identify plants, seed, and disease or damage factors of given specimens. Contestants also complete a grain grading exercise for corn, soybeans and wheat as well as complete a written exam.

Dairy Cattle Evaluation

Youth learn to evaluate live dairy cows for their milk production and heifers for their herd replacement characteristics. Contestants defend their placings with oral reasons.

Entomology

Youth identify insect specimens using their common name and order, and complete a written exam.

Forestry

Youth identify leaf, wood, and seed specimens as well as complete a written exam.

Hippology

Youth gain knowledge and understanding of horse management through diving into the horse industry. This event includes identification of feedstuffs, horse anatomy, horse health, and horse equipment.

Horse and Pony Evaluation

Youth evaluate live horses and ponies based on their skeletal structure and overall soundness, along with how well the rider and horse work together. Contestants defend their placings with oral reasons.

Horticulture

Youth identify live specimens of ornamentals, fruits and nuts, vegetables, and flowers. Contestants also evaluate groups of specimens and complete a written exam.

Livestock Evaluation

Youth evaluate live beef, goat, sheep, and swine animals for their meat production and herd replacement characteristics. Contestants defend their placings with oral reasons.

Livestock Skillathon

Youth identify different breeds of livestock, external parts of livestock, skeletal anatomy of livestock, feedstuffs, equipment for raising and showing livestock, wholesale and retail cuts of meat derived from livestock, expected progeny differences (EPDs), common calculations used to measure animal performance and profitability, judging hay, judging meats, and judging performance classes of livestock.

Meat Evaluation

Youth identify retail and wholesale cuts of beef, lamb and pork, as well as complete a written exam. Contestants evaluate cuts and carcasses, and defend their placings with oral reasons.

Milk Quality and Products

Youth identify milk off-flavors and intensities, dairy and non-dairy products, perform California Mastitis Tests, and identify cheese and their characteristics. Contestants also complete a written exam about marketing and production.

Poultry Evaluation

Youth identify retail meat cuts, candle and grade eggs, and evaluate eggs as well as chicken, duck and turkey carcasses and live animals. Contestants defend their placings with oral reasons.

Soil Judging

Youth identify soil property characteristics and recommend management practices if the land is to be used for agriculture production or to build a home.

Wildlife Habitat Education Program

Using Eastern deciduous forest, wetland, and urban habitats, youth identify wildlife specimens, management practices, and work as a team to develop a management plan for a given scenario. Contestants also complete a written exam.