

COVID-19: NY FFA State Convention

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NY FFA State Convention Cancelled for 2020 Statement

**All activities and dates will be reviewed and updated
based on CDC, Local Health, and Governmental Policies*

3/16/2020

It is with a heavy heart that we have made the decision to cancel the 2020 NYS FFA Convention. We understand the impact that this will have on our students and advisors and we did not come to this decision lightly. With this in mind, we are working to still give our students and advisors some of the same opportunities and recognition just in a different way. Below is a list of contingency plans that we are going to be working on in the coming weeks to still provide enriching opportunities and well-deserved recognition for our students:

Career and Leadership Development Events Contingency Plan: In place of holding the contests at sub-states and state convention, we will host the **NY FFA CDE/LDE Invitational**. This event will take place the week of June 29th unless we are still concerned for the health and safety of our participants. If this date doesn't work, then our back up plan is to host the invitational during the state fair on August 24th and 25th. The location of this event will be at the state fair and/or a Syracuse area hotel depending on availability and space requirements. For logistical and resource constraints, we will only be conducting CDE/LDE's that move on to national convention. Any LDE/CDE that does not move onto national convention could be held at the state fair on a case by case basis after consultation with the CDE/LDE committee and the contest coordinators of each contest. If the CDE/LDE Committee and/or the contest coordinator doesn't think we can do the contest at the State Fair, then that contest will not be held this year.

The first and second place LDE winners from each district will be invited to compete in contests at the **NYS FFA CDE/LDE Invitational** that move on to nationals. These contests are Agricultural Issues Forum, Conduct of Chapter Meetings, Employment Skills, Junior Creed Speaking (6th graders do not qualify), Parliamentary Procedure, Senior Extemporaneous Public Speaking, and Senior Prepared Public Speaking.

Students participating in contests that **only occur at State Convention** will have a pre-qualifying online exam. The Top 50% of teams will be invited to participate in the **NYS FFA CDE/LDE invitational**. These contests are Agricultural Communications, Agricultural Sales, Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems, Agriscience Fair, Farm & Agribusiness Management, Floriculture, Food Science & Technology, Forestry, Marketing Plan, Talent and Veterinary Science. Schools are limited to 1 team per event. Students are not allowed to compete in more than 2 contests (if for some reason we cannot accommodate this due to scheduling or facilities issues we will notify the advisor that the student will need to choose, for

example Forestry CDE is an all-day contest). Please check your email for updates regarding the **NYS FFA CDE/LDE Invitational**.

Business Session and District Meetings Contingency Plan: These are two pieces of the convention that we will still need to accomplish. We are developing a plan to offer these experiences through virtual means (zoom, go to meeting, etc.). We will plan to host the delegates from each chapter and their advisors on May 15. During this virtual meeting, delegates will hear committee reports, vote on the constitutional amendments, and the state officer slate. We will be utilizing an online voting system to accomplish this. Each District will have an opportunity to discuss a date that will work best for them before May 15 to hold their District meeting. State Staff will set up the platform and voting for each of these meetings as well. During this meeting is when delegates will be able to vote on their District President Candidates.

Awards, Applications and Recognition Contingency Plan: The State Staff will be working to provide some opportunities to recognize Proficiency Award Winners, National Chapter Award, State Star Award Winners, Empire Degree Recipients, Honorary Empire Degree Recipients, etc. through email, social media and website posts. This will be accomplished by posting a list of recipients along with the requirements for that recognition, with select highlights of award winners through digital means. We will be mailing out all awards by May 15th and encourage chapters to have a special presentation at their schools with their school community at the appropriate time.

Workshops, Tours, Keynote Speaker and State Officer Retiring Addresses Contingency Plan: We will be reaching out to select presenters and tour hosts to determine if there is a possibility to have them do virtual workshops and tours. We will also reach out to our Keynote Speaker, Chris Koch, and see if he will give his presentation live. We are still working out the details, but the State Officers will present their retiring addresses virtually for members to view.

Convention Payment Refund: We will be sending checks that we have received back to schools that have already submitted payment. If you have any questions regarding this process please reach out to Robin Waite by email: rwaite@oswegatchie.org.

Ag Incentive Grant Program: Please refer to the Ag Incentive Grant page for more information.

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