

# Agricultural Proficiency Awards

See the “Agricultural Proficiency Awards,” [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org), for explanation and suggestions for ways this program can be utilized as a supplement to individualized instruction. See application forms available online for proficiency areas.

1. At the local level, Agricultural Proficiency Awards are available to all FFA members enrolled in middle school and high school Agricultural Education. However, to apply for a district or state Agricultural Proficiency Award, the applicant must have completed two full semesters of High School Ag Education. Members, who have been out of high school not more than one year and have completed at least three full years of Ag Education, or all the Ag Education offered in the school, are also eligible. Refer to the National Agricultural Proficiency Award Handbook (<https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/proficiencies>) for further details.
2. The National FFA Organization’s current official agricultural proficiency application form among the following: Entrepreneurship, Placement, Combined or Agriscience Research, must be used for each specific agricultural proficiency event and should include the items referred to such as the photos.
3. The on line form must be used.
4. It is not necessary to use covers; however, if any applications are submitted with covers, the official FFA Award Application folder, Item 00381-0000 in the Official FFA Catalog must be used. This award cover can also be found at <https://shopffa.org/products>
5. Applicants are NOT permitted to use plain, protective individual sheet covers on any pages of the proficiency applications.
6. An Agricultural Proficiency Award applicant is permitted only one proficiency area in the same year or all the applicant’s proficiency applications may be disqualified for that year.
7. Only one Agricultural Proficiency Award entry is permitted per chapter in any one area or all the chapter’s applications in that area may be disqualified.
8. In the event that multiple National FFA Agricultural Proficiency Award areas are combined at state, a Chapter may submit an application in each National Proficiency Award Area. Consequently, each FFA District may also submit applications for State judging in each National Area (This situation does not exist as of 2015).
9. Applications shall be forwarded to the District FFA Advisor-Elect or their designee for the respective district by the date set by the District FFA Advisor-Elect.
10. Applications for these awards may include reports of activities and records completed up to January 1 of the year the application is submitted.
11. At the state level a member may be granted only one Agricultural Proficiency Award per year from National FFA Foundation funds, and will be eligible to receive the same first place foundation award only once.
12. The two winning district entries in each proficiency area are to be forwarded to the state office and will be entered in the state event.

13. Applicants will be considered for national awards only during the same calendar year they placed first in the state competition.
14. The applications of state winners must be submitted for national consideration for reimbursement from National FFA Foundation funds.
15. District winners will be announced at the district event, state winners at the State FFA Leadership Conference and national winners at the National FFA Convention.
16. No judges' comments will be written on the application form during district judging or state judging.
17. Photographs **MUST** only be actual pictures; those clipped from magazines, newspapers, etc. will cause the application to receive a point deduction. Advertisements, drawings, maps, magazines and newspaper photos, etc. will also cause the application to receive a point deduction. However, an actual picture of these items would be permitted.
18. Additional pictures, partial or full pages of personal or other information, news articles, records or other supportive materials can only be added to the application on the personal page. Such materials that appear on any other part of the application may result in a participation rating.

## **GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING FFA PROFICIENCY AWARDS**

Members of the Iowa FFA Board of Student Officers and the Board of Directors approved the following guidelines for the purpose of assisting judges in evaluating proficiency award applications. Hopefully use of these guidelines will enable the applications to be judged more consistently from district to district and from year to year. **Note:** Applications must use the current year forms.

### Specific Rules

Applicants will be disqualified if specific rules governing eligibility as specified these rules are violated. Judges **MUST** check applications for the following items, and if not met, the application will be disqualified and applicant listed as a participant cannot advance.

1. The application **MUST** be signed by:
  - Applicant
  - Parent or Guardian
  - Advisor
  - Principal or superintendent
  - If any hours and/or income is shown in a work experience program (including agricultural communications, agricultural mechanics, soil and water management and wildlife management, etc.) for part or all the proficiency award program in the most recent completed year of the program reported, an employer's signature is necessary. If the employer is the applicant's parent or family business, the parent or guardian must sign the application as the employer as well as the parent or guardian. If hours are reported in the school greenhouse, laboratory, or farm, the FFA Chapter Advisor must sign as the employer.
  - If employment hours and/or income are indicated as part of the reported program during the most recent completed year of program reported on the application, at least one of the employer's signatures is required. If the student is self-employed, this is to be clearly

indicated by the student signing his/her own employer's signature. Please note: No application is to be disqualified nor points deducted because of the need for an employer's signature. However, judges should express the concern on his/her critique sheet so all appropriate employer signatures can be added before advancing the application to national finalist competition.

2. Applicants cannot be out of school for more than one year and if they are out of school, they must have completed three full years of high school Ag Education or the program of agricultural education offered in the school last attended.
3. Applicants cannot attach extra pages except the pages containing supporting evidence as indicated in the applications.
4. Applicant's program must qualify for the type of proficiency award for which the applicant is applying.
5. Applicant must use the current year's application.
6. Applicants cannot have an owner's equity, which is of an amount greater than the value of the "maximum possible increase in owner's equity".

## **RESOURCES FOR FFA PROFICIENCY AWARDS**

For tip, scoring rubrics, and other resources, please refer to the Iowa FFA Agricultural Proficiency Awards website <http://www.iowaffa.com/proficiencyawards.aspx>.

## **AWARDS & RECOGNITION FOR FFA PROFICIENCY AWARDS**

Awards:

Local: Individual – FFA medal through the National FFA Foundation

District: Chapters – FFA Certificates  
Individual – FFA Certificates

State: Chapters – FFA Certificates  
Individual - \$100 and a plaque to the high individual; \$50 and a plaque to the second place individual; and special gold award pins to all "Gold" rated agricultural proficiency participants through the Iowa FFA Foundation. \$250 to the high individual through the National FFA Foundation.

National: Individual - \$250 and a plaque each to three national finalists; \$500 and a plaque to the national winner. All national finalists will have an opportunity to apply for an expense paid international tour.