

Creed Speaking

A Special Project of the South Dakota FFA Foundation

Important Note

Please thoroughly read the General Rules at the beginning of this handbook for complete rules and procedures that are relevant to all South Dakota FFA Leadership and Career Development Events.

Purpose

The purpose of the FFA Creed Speaking Career Development Event is to develop agricultural leadership through providing for member participation in speaking and interpreting the creed. Additionally, the Creed Speaking Career Development Event strives to encourage public speaking abilities, self-confidence, and FFA involvement. Because the FFA Creed provides a framework of the organization's beliefs regarding the agricultural industry, FFA membership, and the value of citizenship, the Creed is also recited by FFA members as part of the requirements to earn the Greenhand FFA Degree.

Event Rules

- The Creed Speaking Career Development Event is open to students who are in the 7th, 8th, or 9th grade; these members must be enrolled in agricultural education during the calendar year, and be active FFA members in good standing with the South Dakota State FFA Association.
- Participants may compete only once at the district and once at the state level in the three years they are eligible.
- Students may qualify to compete in the Creed Speaking CDE at National FFA Convention as a 7th, 8th, or 9th grader. The participant must compete at the next national convention following their state qualifying event.
- Participants are required to wear FFA Official Dress for this event.
- At least three competent and impartial people will be selected to judge the CDE.
- Each participant must know the FFA Creed by memory, and begin by stating, "The FFA Creed by E.M. Tiffany." Members will present the Creed from the current year's Official FFA Manual.
- Each participant's verbal production must be the result of his/her own efforts. It is expected that the participant will take advantage of all available training facilities in his/her school in developing their speaking ability. Facts and working data may be secured from any source.
- It is highly recommended that participants wear FFA Official Dress for this event.

Event Format

- A timekeeper will be designated who will record the time used by each participant in answering the judges' questions.
- At the time of the CDE, the judges will be seated in different sections of the room in which the CDE is being held. They will score each participant upon delivery of the creed, using the score sheet provided.
- Each judge shall formulate and ask questions. Questions shall pertain directly to the FFA Creed. Questions containing two or more parts should be avoided. Judges will score each participant on his/her ability to answer all questions asked by each judge.

- Up to four minutes will be allowed to each participant during which he/she can defend his/her recitation through answering questions which shall be asked by the judges. Judges will ask the same number of questions for each participant.

Scoring

When all participants have finished speaking, each judge will total his/her score for each participant, including: the delivery and the answers to the judges' questions.

	Possible Points
Delivery	300
Response to Questions	200
Total Points	500

Ranking

Participants shall be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation with each other. The judges' rankings of each participant shall then be added and the winner will be that participant whose total of the rankings is the lowest. Subsequent placings shall be determined in the same manner (Low point score method of selection).

Tiebreakers

In the case of a tie, the order to break the tie will be:

1. Overall Score
2. Questions Score
- 3.

Potential Questions Relevant to the FFA Creed

Please note these are not the only questions that can or will be asked.

Paragraph I

- What reasons are there for believing in the future of agriculture?
- What do you believe the future of agriculture holds for you?
- What is meant by the statement, "with a faith born not of words, but of deeds?"
- What are some of the important "achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists?"
- How can we have "better days through better ways?"
- What are some of the "better things we now enjoy that have come to us from the struggle of former years?"

Paragraph II

- What is meant by "engaged in other agricultural pursuits?"
- What is challenging about living and working on a good farm?
- What do you believe constitutes a good farm?
- What are some of the joys of agricultural life?
- What are some of the discomforts of agricultural life?
- What is meant by the statement, "and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny?"
- What are some of the discouragements that are often associated with agricultural life?

Paragraph III

- Why is leadership so important?
- What can you do as a freshman in agricultural education to develop leadership abilities?
- What can you do to merit "respect from others?"
- What can you do to make your work more efficient?
- What can you do to develop the ability to think clearly?
- What is meant by "progressive agriculturists?"
- What practices and policies exist that you think are unfair?
- How can progressive agriculturists serve themselves and the public interest in marketing the products of their toil?

Paragraph IV

- What is meant by the "power in bargaining?"
- What is the difference between begging and bargaining?
- What is meant by "the life abundant?"
- What is meant by "honest wealth?"
- What are some examples of wealth that are not honest?
- What can you do to help others have an abundant life, and the honest wealth to help make it so?
- Could one have an abundant life without wealth?
- What is meant by "less need for charity and more of it when needed?"
- Why is it important for each of us to be happy?
- Why it is important to play square with those whose happiness depends upon us?
- Whose happiness depends upon you?

Paragraph V

- What is meant by "rural America?"
- What are some of the "best traditions in our national life" to which rural America will hold true?
- What can you do, as a freshman in agricultural education, to exert an influence in your home and in your community, which will stand solid for your part in that inspiring task?

General Questions

- Who wrote the FFA Creed?
- When was the FFA Creed officially adopted by the FFA?