

**State FFA Convention
COVID-19 Plan
April 9-13, 2021**

To: JacksRBack Committee

Re: Travel and Event Plans for April 9-13th, State FFA Convention in Rapid City

Whereas the State FFA Convention has been moved to Rapid City, SD for 2021 and SDSU faculty and students are typically heavily involved in producing and carrying out the State FFA Convention when it is held in Brookings on the SDSU campus, and that the six FFA State Officers that preside over the convention are current SDSU students and State Executive Secretary who is in charge of the event management is an SDSU employee; we are submitting a Travel and Participation plan in regards to mitigating the high school student, adult, SDSU student and faculty exposure to Covid-19.

This plan will address all the aspects of convention and its production and planning. There will be numerous facets to the convention and the faculty and SDSU students will be involved in multiple ways.

We do realize no amount of precaution can eliminate all risk of exposure; however, we accept this fact and feel that the experience and educational opportunities of these events will far outweigh the risk. Since this event will have lots of moving parts and varying levels of interaction with SDSU students, faculty, sponsors and high school members, the plan below is organized by event. No names have been included in the plan, as not all the volunteers have been committed. It would be our hope that this plan can be approved and those students and faculty wishing to attend will be given permission, granted this plan is approved.

Career Development Events (planned to take place on April 12th)

- All participating teams will be required to qualify for the event. A max of 35 teams of 4 students, 140 students maximum. Each area will be located in its own building, arena, barn, classroom or shop.
 - Districts will not be able to “take” slots not filled by other districts, they are maxed out at 5.
- Students, judges, faculty chairs and volunteers will be required to wear masks at all times. Competing students will be disqualified if they remove their masks during any time of the event.
 - Only exceptions are the practical part of Milk Quality and Food Science. Specific details are attached in the CDE specific event precautions included in this proposal.
- We will be using various methods to ensure the safety of volunteers and participating students during CDE’s on site. Specifics will be provided in the additional information.
- Schools will be required to transport their students to different locations being used for contests. No shared transportation will be provided like it would be in a regular year.

- Western Dakota Technical College has required mitigation in place for COVID. Room capacities have been reduced and masks are required at all times on campus. All of our events held there will follow their guidelines.
- Each team from the same school will have a max number of 4 students. Those groups will be kept together unless it is necessary to break into individual groups for things like reasons.
- Tables/high touch areas will be cleaned between groups in each area.

Specific CDE accommodations:

Ag Mechanics:

- Event is happening at Western Dakota Technical College.
- Student arrival: Separate entrance from other events held here, north side garage doors.
- Room Capacity: 2 shops with COVID capacity of 80, 1 commons area with COVID capacity of 40.
- Sessions: 2 sessions with 72 students max in each section. Not all students will be in the same area during the sessions. Will be kept in their school groups and split into four smaller groups of 18 and rotated through the contest.
- Time in between sessions will be used to disinfect the areas used by students during the contest.

Ag Business:

- Event is happening at Western Dakota Technical College.
- Student arrival: separate entrance from other events held here, Main entrance of WDT.
- Room capacity: 2 rooms with COVID capacity of 25
- Session: 2 sessions offered, expecting 108 students max. 2 sessions of two rooms. Will use the outside library space for the 3 extra students in one session that will not fit in the room. Students will have their own table in the room and will work independently and leave with their school groups.
- Time in between sessions will be used to disinfect the areas used by students during the contest.

Agronomy:

- Event is happening at Kjerstad Events Center.
- Student arrival: will arrive at east entrance of events center in waves of students.
- Sessions: 3, with max number of 11 teams/session or 44 students.
- Event plan: teams will arrive and test in section F of the grandstands which has capacity for 452 people. Following the test, students will move to the practical area in small sections and do that portion of the event. Traffic will be limited to one direction.
- Following the event students will exit the event area.
- Time in between sessions will be used to disinfect the areas used by students during the contest.

Milk Quality

- Event is happening at Western Dakota Technical College.
- Student arrival: separate entrance from other events held here, Event Center entrance of WDT.

- Room Capacity: 85
- Sessions: will have 2, with max of 17 teams or 68 students at a time.
- Event plan: We are following guidance from the Dairy Science department on their Dairy Foods judging team to host this event. Samples will be individually packaged for cheeses and the dairy/non-dairy portions of the event. Milk samples will be poured by helpers, not the students themselves. Event will be held in a large open area room that will have ample room to space and distance students as they complete the event. Helpers will move around and manage student flow.
- Following the event students will exit the event area our the same entrance they came.
- Time in between sessions will be used to disinfect the areas used by students during the contest.

Dairy Cattle Evaluation

- Event will be held two places on two dates. Swiftel Center in Brookings on April 7th and Western Dakota Technical College on April 12th.
- Students will report to a separate entrance at a staggered time from other contests.
- WDT: Classroom with capacity of 24/room.
- WDT Sessions: 4 sessions, 6 teams per session, 24 students per session.
- April 7th: Teams will be present for the placing classes portion of the event. Each school will stay together and judge the classes in the arena. Following that they will complete their reasons portion of the event, spaced appropriately around the arena.
- April 12th: Teams will be completing the test and other written portions of the event. They will be able to work independently in a classroom at WDT following the capacity requirements of WDT.
- Teams will test and leave again with their school groups.
- Time in between sessions will be used to disinfect the areas used by students during the contest.

Natural Resources

- Event is happening at Kjerstad Events Center.
- Student arrival: will arrive at east entrance of events center in waves of students.
- Sessions: 3, with max number of 12 teams/session or 48 students.
- Event plan: teams will arrive and test in section E of the grandstands which has capacity for 452 people. Following the test, students will move to the practical area in small sections and do that portion of the event. Traffic will be limited to one direction.
- Following the event students will exit the event area.
- Time in between sessions will be used to disinfect the areas used by students during the contest.

Food Science

- Event is happening at the Pennington County 4-H building
- Student arrival: will happen in waves, as teams will report one at a time with a max of 4 teams or 16 students in a common area at one time. Following their team prep and

presentation, teams will move through the practical ID and test portions of the events as a team.

- Will be using the large auditorium area for the practical and testing portion, team prep will be in the smaller open area near the kitchen. Team presentations 6 people/room will take place in the offices adjacent to the open areas of the building.
- Following the event students will exit the event area.
- Time in between sessions will be used to disinfect the areas used by students during the contest.

Livestock Judging

- Event is happening in Barn 8, Barn 9 and the Events Center grandstands
- Student arrival: students will report directly to Barn 9 for the judging portion of the event. Following their reasons portion they will go to the Event Center grandstands Section A to complete their test.
- Sessions: 3 sessions of 12 teams and 48 students max will be used. Teams will be kept together and spaced from other teams during the judging.
- Following the test students will exit the event area.
- Time in between sessions will be used to disinfect the areas used by students during the contest.

Horse Judging

- Event is happening in the West third of the Event Center arena, which will be curtained off from the rest of the event center.
- Student arrival: students will report directly to the west end of the event center arena to judge.
- Sessions: Only 1 session will be used, students will be kept in their school groups and spread out throughout the arena to judge the classes. Following the judging students will complete their reasons in the large indoor "warm-up" area of the arena, spread out in each corner. Following their reasons students will move to Section B of the grandstands to take their test.
- Following the test students will exit the event area.
- Time in between sessions will be used to disinfect the areas used by students during the contest.

Meat Evaluation

- Event is happening at Western Dakota Technical College and Wall Meats Rapid retail location.
- Student arrival: separate entrance from other events held here, Event Center entrance of WDT.
- Sessions: 3 sessions will be used with a max of 10 teams and 40 students per session. Testing will happen first at WDT in classrooms with 24 person capacity, will use 2 classrooms per session. Following the test, teams will be transported by their own schools to Wall Meats Rapids retail location at 3850 Eglin St. ID, placing classes and

other practical portions will take place here. Facility is 2,800 sq. ft and will provide adequate space to keep students in their own team groups and be spaced out.

- Following the practical portions, students will leave the Wall Meats Rapid location with their schools.
- Time in between sessions will be used to disinfect the areas used by students during the contest.

Nursery Landscape

- Event is happening in the Bridger Steel Building at Central States Fairgrounds.
- Student arrival: students will report directly to the Bridger Steel Building.
- Sessions: 2 sessions will be used with a max of 12 schools or 48 students per session. Event will be set up so students will move throughout the event staying in their team groups and spacing away from other schools.
- Following the completion of the contest, students will exit the building.
- Time in between sessions will be used to disinfect the areas used by students during the contest.

Veterinary Science

- Event is happening at Kjerstad Events Center.
- Student arrival: will arrive at east entrance of events center in waves of students.
- Sessions: 3, with max number of 12 teams/session or 48 students.
- Event plan: teams will arrive and test in section D of the grandstands which has capacity for 452 people. Following the test, students will move to the practical area in small sections and do that portion of the event. Traffic will be limited to one direction.
- Following the event students will exit the event area.
- Time in between sessions will be used to disinfect the areas used by students during the contest.

Poultry

- Event is happening in the Creative Arts Building at Central States Fairgrounds.
- Student arrival: students will report directly to the Creative Arts.
- Sessions: 2 sessions will be used with a max of 11 schools or 44 students per session. Event will be set up so students will move throughout the event staying in their team groups and spacing away from other schools.
- Following the completion of the contest, students will exit the building.
- Time in between sessions will be used to disinfect the areas used by students during the contest.

Floriculture

- Event is happening in the Fine Arts Building at Central States Fairgrounds.
- Student arrival: students will report directly to the Fine Arts Building.
- Sessions: 2 sessions will be used with a max of 17 schools or 68 students per session. This building has two halves that are separated by doors, which will be used to further separate the teams during the event, only a max of 9 schools per side of the building will

be in at a time. Event will be set up so students will move throughout the event staying in their team groups and spacing away from other schools.

- Following the completion of the contest, students will exit the building.
- Time in between sessions will be used to disinfect the areas used by students during the contest.

Range ID

- Event is happening at Kjerstad Events Center.
- Student arrival: will arrive at east entrance of events center in waves of students.
- Sessions: 3, we only expect 10-15 teams, which will sign up for times that work in their schedule.
- A helper will help monitor the amount of students in the event area at one time and disinfect as appropriate. There will be one way traffic through the event.
- Following the event students will exit the event area.

Sessions (Sunday 11th, Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th):

- Masks will be required to be worn in the session hall at all times by all attendees.
- Sessions will be limited to participating students (CDE's, proficiency awards, Star awards, Agriscience Finalists and State Degree Recipients), State Staff (Executive Secretary, State Advisor, Foundation Executive Directors), Limited sponsors, Ag teachers, chaperones and award winner finalist guests (max of 2).
- Chapters will be required to register all award winners and their guests. State Degree Recipients, Star Finalists, Agriscience and Proficiency Finalists will be given two tickets for parents to attend the session they are getting the award in. These tickets cannot be transferred to different chapters. All attendees will be required to wear proper credentials to be admitted to CDE's and sessions.
- No extra FFA members will be allowed to attend for the experience, only those that qualify will be allowed.
- Each chapter will be assigned a seating area they are required to sit in for each session. These will be spaced from other chapters to avoid close contact with other schools. These seating sections will be the same each session.
- Any faculty that helps with CDE's are welcome to attend the Tuesday session when results will be announced. Credentials will be required, and a separate seating section will be arranged for any faculty or their helpers that attend.
- Award winners on stage will be distanced at least six feet when possible. State Officers that attend will be required to wear masks at all times when on stage with members receiving awards. They will not be required to wear masks during their retiring addresses, as they are the only ones on the stage at that time. If award winners cannot be spaced to at least 6 feet, they will be required to wear masks on stage as well.
- SDSU students serving as stage crew will be required to wear masks at all time while serving in that role.

Travel Plans (dates will vary based on involvement):

- State Officers, State Executive Secretary and main stage crew personnel will be traveling out on Thursday April 8th. Three vehicles will be taken, all of those will hold up to 5 people, we will not be putting more than 3 in each vehicle.
- Other stage crew personnel will be coming out either Friday or Saturday and driving their own vehicles. None will be more than half full.
- Faculty helping with CDE's on Monday and anyone they bring to help will be made by that faculty member of their department.
- Food and rest stops will observe social distancing, proper sanitation and will follow mask regulations. These stops will be kept to a minimum.
- We will avoid pool areas, or other high traffic confined areas in the hotel when possible.

Hotels:

- Hotel accommodations will be made on behalf of State Officers, State Staff and stage crew. Those will be made in compliance with the SDSU recommendations for hotel travel. Capacity will not be more than the number of beds in any room.
- Hotel accommodations for other SDSU faculty and students that are helping with CDE's on Monday will be made by the faculty member of their department.

Other Considerations:

- State FFA will provide a convenient supply of hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes.
- WDT provides sanitizer stations and those will be utilized by our attendees while on site.
- State Staff will work with Central States Fair to ensure sanitizing stations are provided throughout the venue for students to use.

Additional considerations requested by committee 3/3/21

Responsible Parties:

- State FFA Staff (Dani Herring, Brianna Fabris interim state advisor, head stage crew Clayton Sorum and Aaron Linke) will be principally in charge making sure the event COVID guidelines are communicated with all other parties.
- Ag Ed teachers serving as event liaisons and the CDE committee will act as other responsible parties to make sure those in charge of specific events know the protocols and that they are being followed.
- CDE West River Coordinators or SDSU faculty, whoever is present on the day of event, will be in charge of their CDE area compliance with COVID protocols.
- Ag Ed teachers will be responsible for communicating these protocols with their students, chaperones and parents that are attending.

Additional Distancing Requirements:

- In events that are in WDT- we are following their COVID protocols for room capacity. In classrooms each student will have their own table that is 6 feet from the next table. These set ups are already being utilized on their campus. As for Ag Mechanics, we will be spreading students out to socially distance them while testing and completing their practical problems. Plans include: using every other electrical and plumbing station and spreading students to the classroom areas adjacent to the labs for waiting areas, those rooms will allow us to keep students socially distanced while they wait to complete their

practical portions and after they are finished. In Milk Quality that is being held in their large Event Center space, we will have tables and stations distanced to keep groups apart and only allowing 1 person at a time at a table.

- In events at the Central States Fairgrounds:
 - All CDE's that are in their own building (Floriculture, Food Science, Livestock Judging, Nursery Landscape and Poultry) will split groups into small pods and move them all together. I have attached an example of what that will look like.
 - The CDE's that are in the Event Center: will be using each section of the grandstands they are assigned, that each have a seating capacity of 452 people, as holding areas for their events. When testing students will be spaced out for testing purposes, which will keep them outside the 6' distance. Following testing, students will be pulled out of the bleachers in small groups to do the judging, ID or practical parts of those events. During those portions, students will only be allowed 2 at a time per 8' table. I have attached an example of what that will look like.

How event will follow BOR/SDSU face covering protocols:

- We will share the BOR/SDSU face covering protocols from this web address: <https://www.sdstate.edu/jacksrback/face-covering-protocol> will all event staff, Ag Ed teachers and volunteers. We will also post the masks are required signage that is provided on the JacksRBack website around the Fairgrounds. Signage is already present at WDT facilities.
- As added incentive for students to comply to the face covering protocols, students will be disqualified from their CDE or other award area if they are not wearing a face covering. If they have already won an award, that will result in them not receiving recognition on our stage. If they have already received their awards and recognition, their schools will be written up and their administrators contacted following the event.

Food Service:

- We will be providing outdoor seating and having 4-5 Food Trucks at the event all day Monday to allow students to grab and go with their food. Outdoor seating will be distanced and allow for people to spread out. We also feel like the amount of different sessions and students at different events all day long, there will not be a large gathering or one meal time for everyone at the same time which will help with distancing. Inside the Event Center, they will have a small amount of concessions available, such as drinks, snacks and other pre-packaged foods that students can also grab and go.
- Tables will be set up in the Events Center north corridor for students to utilize during the day on Monday. Tables will be distanced 6' and not exceed recommended CDC guidelines for that space.
- Food truck owners will be notified they need to have sanitizing or hand washing areas at their trucks.
 - Staff and fair will provide these if Food trucks do not have access to any.