



Tennessee Proficiency Award Guidelines

The following guidelines outline the procedures for ALL Tennessee FFA members competing in proficiency awards.

A. Who can apply?

- 1) All active Tennessee FFA members in good standing with the Association.
- 2) Must have at least one full calendar year of records to apply. (Note: A student may not begin records on a Supervised Agriculture Experience until they are enrolled in their first agriculture education class.)
- 3) Students graduated from high school **MAY** apply, provided they are **no more** than one year out of high school (Ex. A student may apply in the award year following high school graduation). To do this, the student must have completed a minimum of 3 full years of agriculture education instruction.
- 4) Must have a qualified Entrepreneurial or Placement SAE.
- 5) SAE must match the award description area that is being applied for.
- 6) **Students MAY apply in more than one category (award area) within the same award year.** (Approved at the May 2010 FFA Board of Directors meeting)
- 7) Students may **NOT** be named the state or regional winner in more than ONE award area in a given year.
- 8) A student may **NOT** compete in a category (award area) in which he/she was a previous **STATE** winner in.

B. Proficiency award areas?

- 1) National FFA may change proficiency award areas from year to year, depending upon participation and/or sponsorship of an area. To ensure that you are applying in the appropriate areas for an award year, always go to the "Proficiency Award" page at <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/proficiencies/> to download the current award area list.

C. How to apply?

- 1) Complete the application via computer. Make sure the application is filled out completely and has all needed signatures on cover page.
- 2) Complete the "Chapter Proficiency Award Summary" form (see attached) to submit with your applications. The summary sheet will list all students submitting applications, the award area/s, and will ask the advisor to rank or prioritize the applications from any one student, if the student has submitted an application in more than one award area. If a teacher does not plan to attend the state judging day, then they must send applications with another teacher or submit to state FFA office along with "Chapter Proficiency Award Summary." (see current official Tennessee FFA calendar for judging dates).

- 3) Ensure that ALL applications are submitted in the correct award area. There will be no changing of areas or moving applications around once submitted for judging. Applications will be submitted directly to state for judging (NO REGIONAL JUDGINGS WILL BE HELD AS OF 2011). State winning applications will not be returned to teachers until the state convention.

D. Judging process

- 1) Determining Regional & State Winners:
 - a. Step 1: Chapters follow above guidelines for “How to apply” for proficiency awards. Appropriate forms and applications must be submitted in accordance with due dates listed on official State FFA Calendar.
 - b. Step 2: State judging committee is selected. Committee will consist of FFA advisors from all 3 regions. Each region MUST provide a minimum of 12 judges from their region to assist on state judging day.
 1. Advisory committee selected from advisors present on judging committee. Advisory committee will review the results of each award area to confirm that the applications were judged appropriately. Advisory committee will make no changes to rankings. If the advisory committee has any questions or doubts, the application will be sent back to the same award area judging table for further review.
 - c. Step 3: All applications in each award area will be reviewed and judged together. Applications are then ranked 1st through final placing in each award area, regardless of regional affiliation.
 - d. Step 4: State Proficiency Judging Coordinator will review results of each award area on state judging day to determine regional and state winners. If a student has been named the regional or state winner in more than one award area, the “Chapter Proficiency Award Summary” will be consulted to determine which award area the student will be named the winner in and advance to nationals for judging. The second place application/s in remaining area or areas will then be named the regional and/or state winner. This step will be repeated until all conflicting issues are resolved.
- 2) National Competitors
 - a. Advisors of state winning applications must revise and improve applications in the FFA.org Application Center before **July 1**.

E. Multiple Applications

- 1) Remember a student may submit multiple proficiency awards at the State level. In order to make the State selection process run smoothly, each chapter must submit a Chapter Proficiency Award Summary with their application. If a student wins 2 or more areas, this list will be used to determine which application advances to the National level.
- 2) Also, as a reminder, a student may only win ONE Regional Proficiency Award; so after all applications have been ranked, the state selection committee will use this form to determine which, if any, proficiency award this student will win at the Regional level.

Once a student's HIGHEST ranking Regional proficiency is determined, ALL their other applications will be removed from competition.

a. **Example:**

Johnny applies for three different proficiency awards

Beef Production Entrepreneurship

Vegetable Production

Poultry Production

He then ranks them as to which one he wants to advance provided he wins multiple areas.

 3 Beef Production Entrepreneurship

 1 Vegetable Production

 2 Poultry Production

After the state committee scores the applications, it is determined that Johnny's regional rankings are:

8th in Region and 23rd Overall Beef Production Entrepreneurship

1st in Region and 2nd Overall Vegetable Production

1st in Region and 3rd Overall Poultry Production

Since Johnny didn't win state with any award, the committee would then refer to this ranking and see that Johnny wants his vegetable production proficiency award to advance first so they will pull his Beef and Poultry Proficiencies from competition.

If the results changed to the following:

8th in Region and 23rd Overall Beef Production Entrepreneurship

1st in Region and 2nd Overall Vegetable Production

1st in Region and 1st Overall Poultry Production

The committee would then choose his Poultry production proficiency as the Regional and State Winner and would pull his Vegetable and Beef production; thus pulling the 2nd place Regional winner in Vegetable production and making it the Regional Winner.

