

2018 NEBRASKA STATE FFA MARKETING PLAN CDE GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

The marketing plan event is designed to assist students with developing practical skills in the marketing process through the development and presentation of a marketing plan. Students research and present a marketing plan for an agricultural product, supply or service. It is intended as a competitive activity involving a team of three persons working for an actual local agri-business, either an existing or start-up enterprise, to support FFA's outreach mission.

Local chapters may involve the entire chapter, a specific agriculture class or a three-person team in the development of the plan. A three-person team will present the results of primary research involving the local community that provides a reasonable and logical solution to a marketing problem. Understanding of the marketing process is manifested in the marketing plan, which is presented in a written plan and in a live presentation to qualified judges. Though only three individuals are on a team, any number of students may assist with the primary and secondary research.

OBJECTIVES

1. To encourage students to demonstrate an understanding of the marketing plan process.
2. To provide an activity to focus student and community attention on the agri-marketing curriculum.
3. To encourage students to explore and prepare for possible careers in agri-marketing.
4. To help develop partnerships and improve relations between industry, local FFA chapters and the general public.

EVENT RULES

Team Make-up- A team representing a state will consist of three members listed at the state and national levels from the same chapter. Only the three certified team members can take an active role in the presentation of materials and use of technology during the presentation.

Attire

Official Dress for this event is required.

Judges

At least three qualified judges will be used. Judges should be selected to represent a mix of industry, education and communication and will have a sufficient understanding of the marketing planning process. Written feedback from judges will be distributed in advisor packets following the State FFA convention.

A timekeeper will be provided.

EVENT FORMAT

Equipment provided at the event site includes

- two tripod easels
- LCD projector with standard VGA cable
- a screen
- a table
- three chairs

It is the responsibility of the team to provide any additional equipment.

WRITTEN PLAN – 100 Points

Instructions

1. Teams should select an actual local agri-business, either an existing or start-up enterprise, that serves the community and decide on the product or service for the marketing plan. Teams should work with an off-campus organization; they should not use their chapter as a client.
2. Emphasis should be placed on the “value added” concept using marketing techniques to increase the value of products or services.
3. A marketing plan is concerned with the future. Historical information is very valuable, but the actual plan must be a projection. A plan presented in the current year should be developed for the following year. A three-year timeframe may be needed, which would mean the inclusion of the two years following the current year.
4. The project outline should include the following aspects of the marketing process:

Requirements	Points
Brief description of product or service (product/service attributes: size, quality, etc.)	5
Market analysis <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Client’s status in current market 2. Industry trends 3. Buyer profile and behavior 4. Competition’s SWOT analysis 5. Product’s/client’s SWOT analysis 6. Primary research results (surveys, focus groups, interviews) 	30
Business proposition <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a mission statement 2. Key planning assumptions (cite sources of information) 3. Short and long-term goals - must be measurable, specific, attainable and have completion dates 4. Target market – identify specific market segments which achieve the goals 	10
Strategies and action plan <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Product 2. Price 3. Place 4. Promotion 5. Position 	25
Projected budget – <i>should be future oriented and include the current year plus two additional years in advance.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What will the strategies cost? 2. Pro forma income statement which details the realistic costs and returns of the marketing strategies 3. Calculate the financial return of the marketing plan 	15
Evaluation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish benchmarks to track progress toward goals 2. Identify specific tools to measure established benchmarks 3. Recommendations for alternative strategies, if benchmarks are not reached 	5
Technical and business writing skills	10

Procedures

If teams wish to receive preliminary feedback on marketing plans, they have the option of submitting plan *DRAFTS* via email to the contest director **by Friday, March 2**. Feedback will **be returned to teams by Friday, March 16** (or earlier, depending on how many teams submit drafts for feedback).

Final marketing plans can be submitted by mail or email. If by mail, four (4) copies of the plan must be submitted. **Plans must be received by the Marketing Plan CDE Director by Friday, March 30 (midnight)**. A penalty of 10% will be assessed for documents received after the deadline. See the Nebraska State FFA website for mail and email addresses for submission. Contact information for submitting marketing plans is:

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State name and chapter number **MUST** be on the written plan title page. If not included, a penalty will be assessed to the written plan.

The document should not exceed eight (8) single-sided, 8.5"x11" pages and must be ten point or larger type size. Different formats and page sizes can be used as long as the document does not exceed the equivalent of eight (8) single-sided, 8.5" x 11" pages. A five (5) point deduction will be applied to all marketing plans that do not follow these guidelines.

Title page - 1 page

1. Project title
2. State name
3. Chapter name
4. Chapter number
5. Year

Text and appendices - 7 pages

1. Marketing plan
2. Surveys
3. Graphs
4. Maps
5. Promotional pieces

Written Expression. Attention should be given to language, spelling, general appearance, structure and format.

LIVE PRESENTATION – 200 Points

1. The team assumes the role of a marketing consultant. The judges assume the role of the selected client.
2. Each team will be allowed five minutes to set up before their 15 minute time allowance begins. After the presentation, teams are required to reset the equipment as they found it.
3. In the case of equipment failure, every effort will be made to rectify the problem as quickly as possible; however, at the judges' discretion, a team may be asked to move forward with the presentation. A back-up plan is recommended.

4. The live presentation should not exceed fifteen minutes. Five points will be deducted from the final score for each minute—or major fraction thereof—over fifteen minutes for the presentation. The timekeeper shall be responsible for keeping an accurate record of time.
5. Each member of the team should participate in the question and answer session. There will be ten minutes maximum of both clarifying and general marketing questions. A minimum of three general marketing questions will be asked.
6. Visual aids are only limited by your imagination. Do not assume that the lights can be adjusted or the competition room can be drastically remodeled. Scoring will be based on how effectively visual aids are used, not how elaborate they are. Remember that visual aids should enhance and clarify what the speakers are saying; not replace them.
7. Before the presentation, teams are allowed to hand judges one single-sided, 8.5"x11" page with changes/corrections to the written plan. No other handouts or samples are allowed.

SCORING

Teams will be ranked in numerical order on the basis of the final score to be determined by each judge without consultation. The judges' ranking of each team then shall be added, and the winner will be that team whose total ranking is the lowest. ***Links to written and presentation scorecards are found on the State FFA Convention website.***

TIEBREAKER

Ties will be broken based on the greatest number of low ranks. Team low ranks will be counted and the team with the greatest number of low ranks will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, then the event superintendent will rank the teams' response to questions. The team with the lowest rank from the response to questions will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists then the team's raw scores will be totaled. The team with the greatest total of raw points will be declared the winner.

AWARDS

Awards will be presented to teams based upon their rankings at the awards ceremony. Bronze, silver, and gold places will be awarded.

RESOURCES

The National FFA website provides several resources for preparing a marketing plan, including an extensive guide and videos from last year's final round of the Marketing Plan CDE.

<https://www.ffa.org/participate/cdes/marketing-plan> (requires login to the National FFA Organization site)

In addition, the top three winning marketing plans will be posted on the Nebraska FFA website as a resource for chapter marketing plan development.