

West Virginia FFA Association

Career Development Events Survey Results

2016

Results prepared by
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Table 1

Respondent Participated in at Least One CDE Event

Region	2016		2015		2014		2013		2012	
NA ^a	1	100.0	1	100.0	1	100.0	1	100.0	1	100.0
Central	6	75.0	7	87.5	7	87.5	7	87.5	7	87.5
Eastern	4	50.0	5	62.5	3	37.5	3	37.5	6	75.0
Northcentral	9	75.0	4	33.3	3	25.0	3	25.0	6	50.0
Northeastern	11	84.6	11	84.6	12	92.3	10	76.9	11	84.6
Northwestern	9	81.8	11	100.0	11	100.0	9	81.8	11	100.0
Southeastern	7	77.8	9	100.0	6	66.7	8	88.9	8	88.9
Southwestern	10	83.3	8	66.7	9	75.0	8	66.7	7	58.3
Total	57	77.0	56	75.7	52	70.3	49	66.2	57	77.0

^a The survey was distributed to active teachers, WVDE personnel and teacher educators. One individual in the “non-active teacher” categories completed the survey.

Table 2

Timing of CDE Events by Regions

Region	Remain as “spring only”		Split between “spring” and “fall”	
	N	%	N	%
NA	0	.0	1	100.0
Central	1	12.5	7	87.5
Eastern	5	62.5	3	37.5
Northcentral	2	16.7	10	83.3
Northeastern	6	46.2	7	53.8
Northwestern	2	18.2	9	81.8
Southeastern	5	55.6	4	44.4
Southwestern	6	50.0	6	50.0
Total	27	36.5	47	63.5

Table 3

Timing of CDE Events by Years Participated

Years Participated	Remain as “spring only”		Split between “spring” and “fall”	
	N	%	N	%
.00	0	0.0	2	100.0
1.00	5	45.5	6	54.5
2.00	4	57.1	3	42.9
3.00	1	14.3	6	85.7
4.00	4	40.0	6	60.0
5.00	13	35.1	24	64.9

Table 4

Location of Sweepstakes Award Presentation

	Eliminated		“Spring” event		“Fall” event		State Leadership Conference		Other	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
NA	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Central	1	12.5	3	37.5	2	25.0	2	25.0	0	0.0
Eastern	1	12.5	2	25.0	0	0.0	5	62.5	0	0.0
Northcentral	2	16.7	5	41.7	1	8.3	4	33.3	0	0.0
Northeastern	3	23.1	4	30.8	0	0.0	6	46.2	0	0.0
Northwestern	2	18.2	1	9.1	1	9.1	6	54.5	1	9.1
Southeastern	3	42.9	1	14.3	1	14.3	1	14.3	1	14.3
Southwestern	0	0.0	3	27.3	0	0.0	7	63.6	1	9.1
Total	13	18.3	19	26.8	5	7.0	31	43.7	3	4.2

- Keep it, but it really doesn't matter to me WHEN it is presented.
- Could include all CDEs including those decided at state convention
- This is an issue that does not really matter

Table 5

If the CDEs Are Split Between Spring and Fall Events, What is the Timing for the Sweepstakes Award?

	School Year Sep 1 to Aug 30		Calendar Year Jan 1 to Dec 31		Fiscal Year July 1 - Jun 30		Other	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
NA	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0
Central	4	50.0	1	12.5	2	25.0	1	12.5
Eastern	3	37.5	0	0.0	4	50.0	1	12.5
Northcentral	5	41.7	1	8.3	4	33.3	2	16.7
Northeastern	5	38.5	1	7.7	6	46.2	1	7.7
Northwestern	3	27.3	2	18.2	3	27.3	3	27.3
Southeastern	2	22.2	1	11.1	3	33.3	3	33.3
Southwestern	5	41.7	1	8.3	5	41.7	1	8.3
Total	27	36.5	7	9.5	27	36.5	13	17.6

- Start after national convention and end at national convention.
- eliminated, It is an irrelevant [sic] award anymore, because you have schools with 4 full time ag teachers competing directly with schools that have 1 teacher. Its [sic] like putting a single A schhol [sic] in a championship with a triple A school, they are going to get demolished.
- Eliminated (2)
- School year August 1- July 31. Most schools are starting early Aug. Dairy cattle could be 1st contest of school year
- It really doesn't matter to me WHEN it is presented.

Table 6

If the CDEs Remain as a Spring Event, What is the Best Time for the Events?

	First week of June		Second week of June		Third week of June		Fourth week of June		Other	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
NA	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Central	6	75.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	25.0
Eastern	6	75.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	12.5	1	12.5
Northcentral	6	50.0	2	16.7	0	0.0	1	8.3	3	25.0
Northeastern	7	53.8	3	23.1	3	23.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Northwestern	7	63.6	2	18.2	0	0.0	1	9.1	1	9.1
Southeastern	6	66.7	3	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Southwestern	6	50.0	1	8.3	2	16.7	1	8.3	2	16.7
Total	45	60.8	11	14.9	5	6.8	4	5.4	9	12.2

- May third week
- Before county schools go on summer break.
- Last week of May-Students quickly lose interest after school is dismissed for summer
- May, at the latest or LONG before school is out of session.
- Dependant [sic] on school calander [sic]
- sept
- None of these times are ideal

- They should [sic] be back in fall. Spring is the worst time and numbers have went [sic] way down since it was moved.
- Before the end of the school year

Table 7

If the CDEs are Split Between Spring and Fall Events, What is the Best Time for the Spring Events?

	First week of June		Second week of June		Third week of June		Fourth week of June		Other	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
NA	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Central	6	75.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	25.0
Eastern	6	75.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	25.0
Northcentral	8	66.7	2	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	16.7
Northeastern	7	53.8	3	23.1	3	23.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Northwestern	8	72.7	2	18.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	9.1
Southeastern	5	55.6	2	22.2	0	0.0	2	22.2	0	0.0
Southwestern	7	58.3	2	16.7	1	8.3	1	8.3	1	8.3
Total	48	64.9	11	14.9	4	5.4	3	4.1	8	10.8

- Third week May
- Before county schools go on summer break.
- Last week of May
- May, at the latest.
- Dependant [sic] on school calander [sic]
- April
- 3rd week of May
- None of these times are ideal

Table 8

If the CDEs are Split Between Spring and Fall Events, What is the Best Time for the Fall Events?

	First week of September		Second week of September		Third week of September		Fourth week of September		First week of October		Other	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
NA	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Central	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	62.5	0	0.0	3	37.5	0	0.0
Eastern	1	12.5	0	0.0	3	37.5	0	0.0	4	50.0	0	0.0
Northcentral	0	0.0	2	16.7	2	16.7	2	16.7	6	50.0	0	0.0
Northeastern	0	0.0	2	15.4	2	15.4	3	23.1	6	46.2	0	0.0
Northwestern	1	9.1	2	18.2	2	18.2	4	36.4	2	18.2	0	0.0
Southeastern	0	0.0	1	11.1	0	0.0	4	44.4	3	33.3	1	11.1
Southwestern	0	0.0	2	16.7	3	25.0	3	25.0	3	25.0	1	8.3
Total	2	2.7	10	13.5	17	23.0	16	21.6	27	36.5	2	2.7

- Would the "fall" winners be participating at the Nationals in October? Same year? One month later? If so, ASAP in the fall.
- Either the 2nd or third week in September

Table 9

Would You Participate if CDE Events Were Scheduled on Saturday?

	Yes		Maybe		No	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
NA	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0
Central	5	62.5	1	12.5	2	25.0
Eastern	2	25.0	1	12.5	5	62.5
Northcentral	7	58.3	2	16.7	3	25.0
Northeastern	5	38.5	5	38.5	3	23.1
Northwestern	4	36.4	3	27.3	4	36.4
Southeastern	1	11.1	6	66.7	2	22.2
Southwestern	3	25.0	4	33.3	5	41.7
Total	27	36.5	22	29.7	25	33.8

Additional Comments

To be truthful I feel like it should move back to the fall as a whole. For starters student involvement [sic] is low. Something that was said when it moved to the spring was, that the best kids would be participating, but they aren't. The kids that would be the good participants are either on vacation, graduation, or working jobs. I can understand why some won't come up for a contest when they will lose [sic] 3 days [sic] pay and for some it provides for their family. During the school time those students are in the learning mind set for the most part and are more willing to participate [sic] and are really good participants. Looking at it from the Davis College sometimes I feel like you are missing out on some good kids. By the time the students that are going to college make it to CDEs in the spring they already know where they are going. Having them in the fall can give them that push they need.

Spread the contest out more! Spring & Fall just means 2 trips, paying for 2 school buses, planning twice for activities, etc. twice the work. If the contest were spread out more, I could take 1 team in my vehicle for 1 day, and be back home. Most other states have about 1 CDE contest per month.

By making them split are we eliminating the previous springs graduating Sr's [sic] from those fall events for state competition? They can compete in the spring then compete at Nationals. I may be wrong but they could compete at Nat. if they did participate in state comp while actually in HS. Fall events should run the competitions as similar to the National competitions as far as criteria goes so the kids will have the best chance to be successful at the Nat level. As long as kids can be as successful as possible either time is good. Someone may look at how our state teams have done at the Nat events since we moved our CDE's to spring. If our champs have done better at Nat's in spring then leave them there, if its [sic] the other way around move them back to fall. A lot of ways to look at this!

I support the CDEs as a whole, but I do question the level of importance placed on them. As teachers, should we really be focusing 80% of our effort on the 5% of kids that have the natural intelligence to work with to be competitive in a CDE, or would we be better off to use that time and effort to help all the kids in our class find a level of success for themselves that would really make a difference in their life. I realize some teachers are absolutely remarkable and do both well, however I talk with many graduated students from several schools that are very competitive and get the same thing, "we studied for contests throughout the year in class, the contests are all we learned, the IEP or non FFA or slower kids just did busy work or fumbled [sic] around while we were going over contest info". Sweepstakes should be eliminated, It is an irrelevant [sic] award anymore, because you have schools with 4 full time ag teachers competing directly with schools that have 1 teacher. Its like putting a single A school in a championship with a triple A school, to be competitive either you are going to do the work of 4 people or you are going to get demolished.

No answer will make everyone happy. Fall and Spring are both busy times but it is harder to get permission to get away. That is why I feel one time is best.

Some of us haven't attended because of lack of days to do things with students or we have had to pick and choose what trips we can actually take students to.

They were amazing in the fall. Student participation and desire to do well was much better. We had more seniors involved and had to cut members from teams. Today we are barely able to create a team with four members. We went from consistently having 8 - 10 teams to 4 - 6 teams. Even the awards ceremony has become less exciting overall.

Not really sure if there is an easy solution. I know that we are facing cuts from the county in the number of instructional days we can miss so this may play a part in whether we could participate in events held in different seasons. I thank you for all of your work that you and your staff put in to trying to accommodate everyone. Thank you!

I went to WVU because of the CDEs in high school. I felt like I was familiar with the campus. WVU is doing these potential college students a great disservice by moving them to the spring.

Social events for the students to take part in. It would be nice to have booths from different colleges and schools that are in the WVU programs.

I think it is a great opportunity for students to see multiple parts of WVU Campus or even multiple colleges. This also allows for single teacher programs to be able to manage more teams, I know travel cost is higher, but if you look at altering times and maybe narrowing down the days it could be feasible. If split, maybe awards are in the evening instead of on a separate day.

Although I like the idea of splitting up the times & locations of the CDEs, our travel budget would make it more difficult for us to attend if they were split up. Is there any possibility of combining select CDE with events that we are already traveling to attend? For example... Agribusiness, Entomology, Plant Path, etc. @ State Convention?

Having the contests in the Fall encouraged kids to get involved and the desire to learn as soon as school started. Having them at the end of the school year the kids have "shut down" and not as enthused to learn.

Thank you for your commitment to this and for taking time to do the survey

There weren't near enough options on this survey to correctly survey the pleasure of the group. If WVU's Morgantown campus can't meet the needs of the WV FFA, perhaps finding another venue could be an option. There isn't near the participation during the "spring" events that are held during the summer, potentially after school is out for the summer to justify continuing to have it in that time frame.

A split could be useful it could be done in a way that allows the contests to be better presented. Example: Agronomy in the fall allows better examination of weed and plant specimens. Otherwise leave it alone and don't screw up the schedule again.

My biggest concern in holding a split event would be additional time away from school during the school year. If a split is required, is it possible to hold a portion during state FFA Convention, as opposed to adding an additional event to the work schedule? Thanks!

I have no idea what the region numbers mean... I am in the SE Region

not all teachers have 240 day contracts is it fair to make them use another of their own days to promote the success of the events. The recruitment benefit of the career development events depends on the students getting to see the whole student experience. If we split the events surly [sic] with a new building we can find two rooms and use the farm and the greenhouse for the contests. I would like to see the contests go back to fall. I believe that the benefit through recruitment out weighs the inconvenience of the event. If splitting it allows us to keep using the University as the venue then we should all bend a little but I don't think the number will go back up if we have it on a Saturday the teachers that live close may come but the far ends of the state will not come on a Saturday they already are giving to many days that they loose from their own families and programs. Green houses and labs now that we are trying to implement simulated workplace we are spending more time in our labs.

The major concern I have with splitting the Career Development Events into two events is being able to get the professional leave for me to leave school, as well as the approval for my students to leave school. Administrators are become more difficult about allowing students and teachers out of the classroom. The reason I voted for the original move to June was it would allow me to take my students without having to worry about them missing school or me being denied permission to take them. If we are going to move the events to two different times of the year, we are going to have to be willing to give up weekends. Unfortunately, most of our counties do not allow us to Nthese [sic] as work days. Also, I believe it is important to recognize the events were also moved to accommodate WVU. If the University is going to be gracious enough to host us, we should consider their needs.

I would like to see the 7th and 8th grade moved to the Fall. The first week of June it seems like every year I have kids leaving for vacation. Softball and baseball is also a big issue in the spring for my kids.

I believe we lost our traditions that we so much hold on to when the events were changed to the spring. The enthusiasm and catalyst that the event provided in the fall ceased and it become a game of struggle that found advisors struggling to keep teams together.

I really don't mind entire spring or spring and fall. Whatever the pleasure of the group

While I appreciate the career development events being all together in the spring. I do not feel that the spring is the best time. I think that the meats contest should absolutely be in the fall, due to the cost of carcasses and the ability for the university to use those products in their classes.

With summative assessment, completer procedures, and school going into June, it is very difficult to prepare and get students to participate in the spring events. The idea of splitting them up is great, because then there is a better chance of getting students to those CDEs. If classroom and building space is a concern, is there a way to look at other places to hold CDEs?

The career development events should be moved back to fall because it is so hard to get kids out of school because of finals, graudation [sic], and all the stuff that comes with the end of the schoom [sic] year. Also, I was very disappoint [sic] with the lack of help and freedom the kids had during the contest that were held in June. You did not have this problem the fall time. Having that much freedom gave more time for kids to cheat. Also, numbers of participants have dropped because kids have too much going in at the end of the year, and they are less willing to give up their time during the spring. If it is a facilities issue that you are experiencing with it being in the fall, then move the contest out of Morgantown.

Stop changing. We're bringing numbers back to pre-move levels enough is enough.

It is getting more and more difficult to get trips approved during the school year. My fear would be that if CDEs were split that, we would not have the opportunity to attend the one in the fall. I also fear that splitting them would cost the chapter more money than it does now. I'm not sure I got the region right but I'm in [] county at [] High. Currently we are very fortunate that our bus costs for CDEs comes out of CTE county funds. A split system would double the cost of transportation for us. I would guess that the chapter would have to come up with the cost for the second trip. It would also increase the costs that the chapter pays for housing the students that are competing. I know that there is no easy answer. As for the sweepstakes prize to me it is very confusing now. Dairy Judging which happens in the summer counts, but Horse Evaluation which happens in the spring doesn't. None of the CDEs that happen at State Convention Nbut [sic] as I said a few weeks later Dairy does and it has never been clear to me why contests that stop at the state level like Plant Path Ntowards [sic] sweepstakes while other contests I mentioned which have a national contest don't. As I said I am already somewhat confuse [sic] about it and feel that having CDEs split and trying to award the sweepstakes will make everything even more confusing. There's my two cents thank you for taking the time to read this.

First week of June has hit our school semester test two out of three years because of snow. CDEs will be, and should always be cancelled if conflicts with semester test. Guessing on Region it should be [].

I think the events shuold [sic] remain the same because of the practice time required. Saturdays are also a good time for events because there are several other FFA events held on Saturdays in April.