Agricultural Career Investigation

Career Investigation, an individual event, recognizes participants for their ability to perform self-assessments, research and explore an agricultural career, set career goals, create a plan for achieving goals, and describe the relationship of Agricultural Sciences coursework to the selected career. Participants must prepare a portfolio and an oral presentation.

EVENT CATEGORIES

Junior: through grade 9
Senior: grades 10-12

STANDARDS ALIGNMENTS

See STAR Events Resources Page for detailed event alignment information to national educational initiatives and standards.

CAREER CLUSTERS

- Animal systems.
- Agribusiness systems.
- Biotechnology systems.
- Environmental service systems.
- Food products and processing systems.
- Natural resources systems.
- Plant systems.
- Power, structural and technical systems.

PROCEDURES & TIME REQUIREMENTS

1. Each participant will submit a portfolio (hardcopy or electronic) to the event room consultant at the designated participation time.
2. The participant will have 5 minutes to set up for the event. Other persons may not assist.
3. Room consultants and evaluators will have 10 minutes to preview the portfolio (hardcopy or electronic) during participant set up time. The participant must make the electronic portfolio accessible to evaluators.
4. The oral presentation maybe up to 10 minutes in length. A one-minute warning will be given at 9 minutes. The participant will be stopped at 10 minutes.
5. Following the presentation, evaluators will have 5 minutes to interview the participant.
6. Evaluators will have up to 5 minutes to use the rubric to score and write comments for each participant.

ELIGIBILITY & GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Review “Eligibility and General Rules for All Levels of Competition” prior to event planning and preparation.
2. A table will be provided. Participants must bring all other necessary supplies and/or equipment. Wall space will not be available.
3. Access to an electrical outlet will not be provided. Participant(s) are encouraged to bring fully charged electronic devices such as laptops, tablets, etc., to use for electronic portfolio presentation.
# AGRICULTURAL CAREER INVESTIGATION

## Specifications

**Hardcopy Portfolio**

The *portfolio* is a collection of materials used to document and illustrate the work of the project. Materials must be contained in the official RIO RICO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION Career Development Events binder. A decorative and/or informative cover may be included. All materials, including the *content divider pages* and tabs, must fit within the cover, be one-sided, and may not contain more than 36 pages. Once a hardcopy portfolio has been turned in to evaluators, participants may not switch to an *electronic portfolio*.

**Electronic Portfolio**

An electronic *portfolio* may be either in PowerPoint, Prezi, or other electronic format that can be viewed by the evaluators and room consultants prior to the oral presentation. The electronic *portfolio* and the hardware (method) to view it (i.e. equipment, files, projectors, screens, and laptops) will be turned in to the room consultant at the designated participation time. Participants assume the responsibility of providing the technology used to show the evaluators the project. Once an electronic portfolio is turned in to the evaluators, participants may not switch to a hardcopy portfolio. Portfolio may not exceed 47 slides, as described below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1-8 1/2&quot; x 11&quot; page or 1 slide</th>
<th>Project Identification Page</th>
<th>Plain paper or slide, with no graphics or decorations; must include participant’s name(s), chapter name, school, city, state, event name, and career investigated.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-8 1/2&quot; x 11&quot; page or 1 slide</td>
<td>Table of Contents</td>
<td>List the parts of the <em>portfolio</em> in the order in which the parts appear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-8 1/2&quot; x 11&quot; page or 2 slides</td>
<td>RIO RICO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION Planning</td>
<td>Summarize how each step of the <em>Planning Process</em> was used to plan and implement the project; use of the <em>Planning Process</em> may also be described in the oral presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Evidence of Online Project Summary Submission</td>
<td>Complete the online project summary form located on the &quot;Surveys&quot; tab of the RIO RICO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION Portal, and include proof of submission in the <em>portfolio</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-7</td>
<td>Content Divider Pages or Sections</td>
<td>Use 0 to 7 <em>content divider/section</em> pages or slides. <em>Content divider/section</em> pages may be tabbed may contain a title, a section name, graphic elements, thematic decorations, and/or page numbers. They must not include any other content.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 25 8 1/2&quot; x 11&quot; pages or 35 slides</td>
<td>Self-Assessment</td>
<td>Document evidence of self-assessment. Examples include examining personal interests, values, aptitudes, skills, personality traits, and learning styles. Describe the role of self-assessment in the selection of the specific career.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evidence of Career Research</td>
<td>Provide detailed research including job description; duties and responsibilities; qualifications; entry-level position and advancement opportunities; job outlook; and salary.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Experiences with Business, Industry, Agencies, and Organizations</td>
<td>Document experiences in selected career field. Examples of documentation may include but are not limited to written summaries of interviews from business, industry, agency, organization personnel; written narrative of job shadowing or cooperative work experiences; and photographs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Samples of School Work</td>
<td>Include examples or samples of Agricultural Sciences and academic coursework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use of Agricultural Sciences Coursework/Standards</td>
<td>Describe ways Agricultural Sciences coursework and/or standards will be used in selected career.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Career Planning</td>
<td>State career goals and create a plan for achieving goals. Include plans for high school and further education and training as well as extra-curricular and intra-curricular activities that will enhance possibilities for achieving goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Works Cited/Bibliography</td>
<td>Use MLA or APA citation style to cite all references. Resources should be reliable and current.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appearance</td>
<td><em>Portfolio</em> must be neat, legible, and professional and use correct grammar and spelling.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>