

# 98<sup>th</sup> Ohio FFA State Convention

April 30-May 1, 2026 • Ohio Expo Center • Columbus



To: 2026 Ohio Proficiency Award State Finalists and Advisors

From: Brenda Correll, FFA Program Assistant

Date: February 24, 2026

**Congratulations** on your achievement as a State FFA Proficiency Award Finalist! You will be recognized at the 98<sup>th</sup> Ohio FFA Convention in the Celeste Center at the Ohio Expo Center, Columbus.

**Virtual Interviews** will be conducted virtually on **Thursday, March 19, 2026** from 9 AM-2 PM. The schedule is FINAL; please do not ask to change times. Proficiency virtual interviews are 10-minute interviews. These interviews are Q&A only, no presentations, videos, etc. The scoring rubric that will be used is on the Ohio FFA website, under Programs, then Evaluations. We ask that student's wear official dress for these interviews. Additional information will be emailed the week of interviews with specific links.

**Ohio's Proficiency Award State Finalists** will be recognized during the **Second** or **Third** Session, on **Thursday, April 30, 2026**. Advisors, we ask that you have your FFA member(s) present for this presentation. We are recognizing Accounting through Equine Science during the Second Session and Fiber and/or Oil Crop through Wildlife Management during the Third Session.

A seating chart, for ease in locating the reserved seat, will be available at the registration booth in the Celeste Center. As a reminder, students appearing on stage must be in official dress.

All first place proficiency award winners will receive a check for \$250, second place individuals will receive a check for \$150, third place will receive a check for \$100 and fourth place will receive a check for \$50. Finalists are required to set up a display highlighting their SAE during the state convention in the Proficiency Area of the Bricker Building. **Failure to set up a display will result in the forfeit of award money.** Checks will be mailed to the Advisors at school in late August.

**STATE WINNING PROFICIENCY AWARD CRITIQUE:** Advisors of state winning proficiency applications are asked to attend a workshop on **WEDNESDAY, May 13, 2026** to help critique all state winning applications. This workshop will be held at the Ohio FFA Center beginning at 9:00 am. All state winning applications must be finalized/saved/new version created in the AET Degree/Application Manager by June 15, 2026 to be forwarded on to National judging.

**PROFICIENCY STATE FINALISTS DISPLAY:** Each Proficiency State Finalists is required to have a display highlighting their SAE Program at Convention in the Bricker Building. The goal of the display is for FFA members with successful SAEs to share ideas with other members. Attached are guidelines for developing your display. If you have questions after reviewing the enclosed guidelines, please email me.

## **GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING THE "PROFICIENCY" DISPLAY**

It is very important that you take the time to develop a neat and effective display for the State FFA Convention. You will be provided with one-half of an 8' table (a 48" by 30" area). Therefore, you should develop an effective tabletop display. Fellow members, advisors, sponsors and guests will be viewing your displays, so you need to put time and effort into telling the story about your SAE. Make sure to include good quality photos and check for misspellings in your captions. Please follow the guidelines below.

1. All displays should include the following information:

- a. Name of the Proficiency Award Sponsor(s) – Go to the Ohio FFA website, [www.ohioffa.org](http://www.ohioffa.org), click on Foundation Sponsors
  - b. Your name
  - c. Chapter Name and Advisor(s)
  - d. Photos with captions explaining your program
  - e. Describe the scope of your SAE – what makes up your program
  - f. How you got started in your SAE, future plans for you and your SAE
  - g. Suggestions to FFA members interested in starting this type of an SAE
  - h. The Ohio FFA Association will provide a header that has the name of the Proficiency Award Area - (i.e. Dairy Production - Placement)
2. All information on the display must be spelled correctly and grammatically correct.
  3. Displays should include photos and captions relating to the member's SAE. A member should display at least **six** photos. Photos need to be good quality, meaning...
    - a. Close up shots of your subjects.
    - b. Clear, focused pictures. Blurry photos don't work.
    - c. Good color. Not over exposed (too light) nor under exposed (too dark).
  4. **All display boards must be a standard, three-panel display board that unfolds to be 36" tall by 48" wide.** Members are responsible for designing their own display areas. Displays should fit on the four-foot area. Each member will receive one-half of an eight-foot table or four feet of space. You may want to consult an office supply store for a cardboard project display board (e.g. Science Fair display). The Ohio FFA will provide a project header board labeled with the proficiency award area.
  5. We suggest that proficiency finalists staff their displays at the following times, if not involved in other convention activities, to answer any questions members, parents or sponsors may have: 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m – 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day.
  6. **Set-up time is 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2026, in the Bricker Building.** ALL displays should be set-up by 9:00 a.m. Your display may be torn down after 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 1. You will have until 5:30 p.m. to remove your display before the building is locked for the evening.
  7. All displays will be located in the **Bricker Building**. Signs stating the name, chapter and award area of each participant will be provided on each table. When setting up your display, please set-up in your labeled area.

### **Proficiency Display FAQs**

Q: Did you have a picture size in mind? Would 6 or 8 5"x7" be the max with info?

A: Using 5" x 7" photos will more than likely provide for the aesthetically pleasing layout.

Q: What will the header look like? Will space need to be left at the top of the board to have it slip over?

A: The Ohio FFA will provide a 9 1/2x36 presentation board header that is similar in fashion to the one located at [www://www.staples.com](http://www.staples.com). It does appear that the header board will occupy a small space at the top of the board.

Q: Are there restrictions to decorations, board painting and matting of pictures.

A: With the exception of keeping the display boards neutral in appearance, students can utilize all of their creative talents to best display their SAE. Keep in mind, that students also have the area in front of their board on the tabletop that they can use to set up buddy boards and other small display items.