HELPING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY!

Success in any field depends to a great degree on one's ability to make the right decision at the right time. The opportunities offered through Indiana's 4-H/FFA Career Development Events (CDEs) contribute to a young person's success by teaching them decision making skills and content matter knowledge.

Making decisions: Participants are taught to make decisions, based upon sound educational principles. These principles form the basis for applying judgment in the decision making process as a life skill. Evaluation forces one to make choices. Through continued practice, youth find that CDEs train the mind in sound reasoning. In a similar manner, CDEs train youth to apply principles in the process of making choices.

Applying content matter knowledge: Youth study a variety of disciplines including: agronomy, animal science, engineering and technology, entomology, forestry and natural resources, food science and horticulture. By comparing strengths and weaknesses youth experience a thought process that requires their evaluation of multiple dimensions to arrive at a logical decision. There is no substitute for a mind trained to see all sides of a problem or an opportunity.

Being objective: A CDE experience teaches an individual the value of using principles. The experience gained in using acceptable principles in the appraisal of the differences between class specimens is at the very heart of the CDE experience.

The values of participating in 4-H/FFA CDEs include:

1. Learning to evaluate traits of economic importance and making sound, logical decisions.
2. Learning to accurately describe and compare animals, specimens, samples, land sites, etc., with proper and accepted terminology.
3. Learning to establish and defend conclusions.
4. Learning to speak and present ideas in a convincing manner.
5. Stimulating interest in agricultural commodities.
6. Improving the power of observation and memory development.
7. Building personal confidence and promoting team spirit.
8. Contributes to development of positive leadership skills.
9. Develops inquiring minds and teaches decision-making through real life participation.
10. Creates a positive impact on career decision making and major areas of study.

The skills of observation, analysis and communication are lifelong. Contestants in these career development events enjoy fellowship, fun, teamwork and the competitive spirit generated through a CDE experience.

CDEs are a natural for volunteers and for young people. Pick a subject, train a team, join in on the action of helping tomorrow's leaders today!