Managing 4-H/FFA Area and State CDEs

Situation

The Indiana 4-H/FFA CDE partnership has been a classic example of a true collaboration at the local and state levels. Both organizations have committed major resources to the program and both have benefited through shared participation in the program. In every partnership/collaboration, however, the organizational resource allocation/benefits received ratio needs to be reviewed occasionally to affirm perceived outcomes. Because of changing needs, participation, and costs, there appears to be a need to revise resource allocation in this partnership to better equate to participation (outcomes) by each organization.

Present Situation (2010-11)

2,539 youth participated in 13 4-H/FFA CDEs in 2010/11. Area qualifying contests are held in 8 programs with Extension educators serving as area coordinators and site hosts. The state 4-H/FFA CDEs are led by Extension Specialists and the chairperson of the State 4-H/FFA CDE Committee (composed of 10 Agriculture Education Instructors and 10 Extension educators) is a member of the 4-H Youth Development Program. State FFA staff and State FFA officers assist in coordinating state contests and securing donors for state contest winners from both organizations.

To better reflect resource allocation and program benefits, the following management responsibilities for the 4-H/FFA CDEs were initiated in the 1997-98 school year.

1. Management of all qualifying area CDEs is a joint responsibility between FFA and 4-H. The structure to make this happen is as follows: the State 4-H/FFA CDE Committee is composed of ten (10) members from each organization; i.e., a representative from each of the ten (10) Extension areas. Members on the committee have a two-year term (with one half of the committee being new each year) and serve as an area 4-H/FFA CDE coordinator; i.e., communicate committee decisions to all teachers, coaches, and educators, call a fall meeting of teachers, coaches and educators to make area CDE plans, insure that each host contest site has co-chairs (4-H and FFA representatives) to plan and implement specific contests, assign and clarify pre-contest tasks to teachers, coaches, and educators as well as day of contest responsibilities.

2. Management of all state 4-H/FFA CDE contests is the responsibility of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. FFA staff are invited and expected to assist as needed.

3. The State 4-H/FFA CDE Committee is under the leadership of an Extension Specialist with ten (10) voting delegates from each organization representing the ten Extension areas.

4. Securing of donors and recognition remains the responsibility of FFA.