

Crops Specialist Career Program Area

Registration

Individual and Team Pre-registrations are due to the National PAS Executive Director on or before February 11th. Any changes to team members or individuals must be brought to the Crop Specialist orientation session prior to the start of the competition. The specific time for the orientation session will be set in the conference program.

Goals:

The purpose of The Crop Specialist Program area is to give the participant an overall view of the needed knowledge and problem solving skills necessary to work in a crop production system:

- The career program area will cover skills, tasks, knowledge and leadership abilities that would be beneficial in a student's education or employment.
- The career program area will pertain to all regions of the country without being partial to any region.

The Crops Specialist Career Program Area is designed to:

- encourage the development of specialist opportunities.
- provide incentives to develop and improve curricular and instructional techniques.
- evaluate participant and program efficiency.
- recognize individual accomplishments and educational curriculum in the crop production industry.
- encourage cooperation between education and industry.
- strengthen the PAS organization by encouraging active participation.

General Rules

Participants will only be eligible to compete in one Specialist Area at the national level per year. No participant shall be allowed to compete in more than one specialist area.

*Any participant who achieves 1st Place as an individual in The Crop Specialist program area at Nationals will not be eligible to participate in this program area in the coming years. If that participant is also a member of any team (no matter what their final official team position is - i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc) the 1st place individual will become ineligible and the other team member may return with a different team member if they so choose.

All career program areas requiring tests will be written by a non-affiliated representative or certification representative and if they are available will also administer the test. Power to select representatives will be under the direction of the National PAS executive director.

** Five points will be added to each individual's score (potentially 10 pts. for each team) for attendance at one of the Career Program area workshops or seminars in the afternoon of the same day! IT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARTICIPANT TO CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY WRITE THEIR NAME AND IDENTIFY WHICH CAREER PROGRAM AREA THEY ARE IN.

**** Participants need to provide a NON-programmable calculator, (2)No. 2 pencils and erasers.** Calculators will not be provided; it will be the responsibility of the participant to be prepared for the event. Cellular phones, Palm Pilots or any other type of programmable devices will not be allowed during the Crop Specialist event.

***Though not required, each team is highly encouraged to write a general un-sealed thank you letter to the career program area sponsor of the Crop Specialist event area. Thank you letters should be submitted to the Crop Specialist coordinators at the beginning of the competition.** If possible, write thank you letters on local or state PAS stationery. Therefore, participants will be responsible for their own thank you stationery and their own writing utensils.

Procedures

1. To achieve the overall objective of this career program area, you will need to resolve the problem-solving component by assuming the role of a crop consultant hired to make recommendations to the grower. Your overall proficiency level will be evaluated in the following formats:
 - a. Written Examination
 - b. Identification
 - c. Problem Solving
2. Subject Matter Areas:
 - a. Soils
 - b. Agronomy
 - c. Fertility
 - d. Pesticides
 - e. Crop Marketing
 - f. Crop Identification (field, forage, vegetables)
 - g. Pest Identification (insect, weeds, diseases, nutrient deficiency)
 - h. Crop Management (use of soil/tissue reports, pesticide labels, and general knowledge).
3. Each participant will be evaluated on performance in each of the three activity areas:
 - a. Written Examination = 100 pts. (Individual)
 - b. Identification = 50 pts. (Individual)
 - c. Problem Solving = 150 pts. (Team)

TOTAL 300 pts.

*****Team scoring will be based on:**

(2) Individual written scores = 200 pts.

(2) Individual ID scores = 100 pts.

(1) Team (problem solving) score = 150 pts.

Team Total 450 pts.

*The total time for this career program area may last up to four hours.

Crop Specialist Specific Rules

1. Each state may enter the following number of teams (based on their membership as of December's early registration numbers.

1-50 members	3 teams
51-100 members	4 teams
101-150 members	5 teams
151+ members	6 teams

2. Each team must consist of two members. The participants will compete both individually and as a team.
3. **In the event of a tie** for individuals, three (3) preselected questions from the written exam will be used and will continue in the same sequence until a winner emerges. **For teams**; the **1st criteria** will be the highest team score will win and if still tied; **2nd criteria** we will go to the same three preselected questions used to break individual ties as above.

Awards

First Place Team:	• 1 team plaque, \$200 for team, 1 individual plaque for each
Second Place Team:	• 1 team plaque, \$100 for team, 1 individual plaque for each
Third Place Team:	• 1 team plaque, \$50 for team, 1 individual plaque for each
First Place Individual:	• \$100
Second Place Individual:	• 2 nd place plaque
Third Place Individual:	• 3 rd place plaque

*Cash prizes may not be awarded for unfunded career program area events.

Coordinator

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