

## **2025 Kansas FFA Floriculture CDE Guidelines**

**Sunday, May 4, 2025**

**Lobby, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor - Throckmorton Plant Science Center**

**Time of check-in: 3:45-4:10 pm**

**Time of event: 4:15-6:30 pm**

**Irina Sheshukova AIFD, CFD; and Kimberly Williams Ph.D., Coordinators**

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**Date of last update: December 2024**

### **General Information**

Teams of four can compete; the top three scores will count for the team total.

This contest will have **four rotations** as described below and be scored with <http://JudgingCard.com>. To accommodate the scorecard formats that are available, we reserve the ability to alter the number of questions in each section. Regardless of item number, each of the four CDE sections will account for 1/4 of each contestant's final score. In case of a tie between contestants, ranks will be determined by scores of written test, followed by plant identification, followed by greenhouse production practicum, followed by floral design practicum.

Official FFA dress is not required for the Floriculture CDE.

### **What to bring:**

- A clean clipboard
- At least two No. 2 pencils
- A calculator—calculators used in this event should be battery-operated, nonprogrammable, and silent with large keys and large displays. Calculators may have only these functions: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, equals, percent, square root, +/- key, and one memory register. No other calculators can be used during the event.

### **What NOT to bring:**

- Cell phones and smart watches will not be permitted.

### **People permitted in contest spaces:**

- Contestants
- KSU staff and volunteers assisting with the contest

**No other people will be allowed to enter contest spaces at any time during the contest. If items needed for the contest are left behind, adults are not permitted to bring them to their students.**

## Contest sections and point values

A. . *Written Test - (100 pts.) 30 minute time slot*

50 Multiple Choice or True/False questions over general knowledge of the horticulture industry, greenhouse production practices and floral design. Up to five of the questions will be problems to solve associated with placing orders, production planning, and/or determining sales prices of goods produced. Each contestant should bring a simple calculator; smart phones are not allowed.

B. *Plant Identification - (80 pts.) 30 minute time slot*

40 specimens selected from the updated list of 2025 Kansas FFA Floriculture CDE plant materials. The changes were made to match the National FFA Floriculture Plant Identification List (2024) and are in effect for the 2025 *Kansas Floriculture CDE* (see 2024 *Floriculture Plant Identification List*) from the National Floriculture CDE contest guidelines)

C. *Floral Design Practicum – (75 pts.) 30 minute time slot*

Retail floriculture practicum: questions will focus on floral design and marketing, to potentially include evaluation of floral arrangements and cut flowers; principles of floral design; supplies and equipment used in a flower shop; product selling (involving telephone and/or face-to-face); developing a product display; floral design construction (from creating to product sale); and customer service handling. Examples of hands-on activities for this category include: preparing a cut flower stem for use in a floral design or greening a container before flowers are added to a floral design. See: *Kansas FFA Floral Design Practicum Review* as a resource for one category of practicum information.

D. *Greenhouse Production Practicum – (75 pts.) 30 minute time slot*

Questions will focus on greenhouse production practices, to potentially include evaluation of bedding plants or flowering potted crops, supplies and equipment used in a greenhouse (see 2024 *Floriculture Equipment and Supplies* from the National Floriculture CDE contest guidelines); constructing a dish garden; technical growing procedures (including potting, asexual propagation, pinching, etc.); and plant disorder identification and management (including nutritional, diseases and arthropod pests, mechanical and chemical damage). Examples of hands-on activities (allow 5 to 7 minutes) for this category include: potting up a cell pack of begonias from plugs, taking a cutting of coleus or African violet, or properly harvesting a stem of cut flowers. See *Kansas FFA Floriculture Disorders Practicum Review* as a resource for one category of practicum information.

## References and resources

On the K-State FFA Resources website, [www.ag.k-state.edu/ag-experiences/ffa/](http://www.ag.k-state.edu/ag-experiences/ffa/), four files are available:

- Floriculture Plant Identification List, **updated for 2025**
- Floriculture Plant Identification PowerPoint, **updated for 2025**
- Floriculture Disorders
- Practicum Activities
- Floriculture Equipment and Supplies, **updated for 2025**

Content for the Kansas Floriculture CDE is well aligned with the content of the National Floriculture CDE. Resources provided for the National Floriculture CDE are relevant for study and review for the Kansas Floriculture CDE. The materials are posted at [www.ffa.org/participate/cdes/floriculture](http://www.ffa.org/participate/cdes/floriculture) (login required). These include:

Four videos by Ball Horticulture that describe greenhouse production techniques evaluated as practicums:

- Potting of Young Plants
- Asexual Propagation of Plants
- Pinching Plants
- Making a Mixed Planter Combination

### Floriculture Classroom Resource developed by FFA National:

1. Unit One: *Greenhouse Care and Maintenance*
  - a. Lesson One: Materials and Equipment
  - b. Lesson Two: Growing Procedures
  - c. Lesson Three: Handling Chemicals
2. Unit Two: *Plant Disease and Pest Management*
  - a. Lesson One: Nutritional and Environmental Disorders
  - b. Lesson Two: Plant Diseases
  - c. Lesson Three: Insects and Pests
3. Unit Three: *Floral Design*
  - a. Lesson One: History of Floral Design
  - b. Lesson Two: Floral Design Concepts
  - c. Lesson Three: Equipment Identification and Floral Crops
  - d. Lesson Four: Pricing a Floral Arrangement
  - e. Lesson Five: Mechanics of Floral Design
4. Unit Four: *Business Practices*
  - a. Lesson One: Customer Service and Sales
  - b. Lesson Two: Advertisement Media
5. Unit Five: *Employment Skills*
  - a. Lesson One: Job Applications
  - b. Lesson Two: Building a Resume
  - c. Lesson Three: Job Interview

## **Key Content References**

American Institute of Floral Design (AIFD). The AIFD Guide to Floral Design: Terms, Techniques and Traditions.

Ball Redbook, Volume 1&2. 18<sup>th</sup> ed. Ball Publishing.

Ingels, Jack. Ornamental Horticulture: Science, Operations, and Management. 2009. Fourth Edition. Delmar Publishers.

Reiley, H. Edward and Carroll L. Shry, Jr. Introductory Horticulture, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. 2010. Delmar Cengage Learning.

Scace, Pat Diehl and James M. DelPrince. 2015. Principles of Floral Design: An Illustrated Guide. Goodheart-Wellcox Company, Inc.

Schroeder, C.B., E.D. Seagle, L.M. Felton, J.M. Ruter, W.T. Kelley, and G. Krewer. Introduction to Horticulture Science and Technology, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.. 2015. Interstate Publishers, Inc.

## **Floral Design Videos:**

By Nevada FFA Association: Learning about Floriculture Design and Management

- Making a grid: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfPu43ZQrdI>
- Making a cube arrangement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tj0prBxxN4Y>
- Recipes and vase types: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0HG5TUfJ69Y>
- Corsages and hair combs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DnfYC8Xqvg>

Comprehensive series of floral design videos by National Floriculture CDE Committee Member Randy Wooten, AIFD, available at PLOW (Professional Learning Online Workshops)  
[www.plowforteachers.com](http://www.plowforteachers.com), \$99/year