

2026 Kansas FFA Floriculture CDE Guidelines

Sunday, May 3, 2026
Lobby, 1st Floor - Throckmorton Plant Sciences Center

Time of check-in: 3:35-4:10 pm

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

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Date of last update: January 2026

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 the 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, non-programmable, 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 forgotten by contestants, 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 related to placing orders, production planning, and/or determining the sales prices of goods produced. Each contestant should bring a simple calculator; smartphones are not allowed.

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

40 specimens selected from the 2026 Kansas FFA Floriculture CDE plant materials list in this packet. See *Kansas Floriculture CDE Plant Identification Review*.

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

Floral design 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, greening a container before adding flowers to a floral design, or creating a small floral arrangement. See: *Kansas FFA Floral Design Practicum Review* and posted floral design videos as resources 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 *2026 Floriculture Equipment and Supplies* from the National Floriculture CDE contest guidelines); technical growing procedures (including potting, asexual propagation, pinching, evaluating a mixed combo planter, etc.); *greenhouse maintenance and management practices* (e.g. mixing a fertilizer solution or using an injector; programming a greenhouse irrigation timer, repairing a greenhouse water line; mixing a pesticide, programming a thermostat, 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 the *Kansas FFA Floriculture Disorders Practicum Review* as a resource for one category of practicum information.

References and resources

On the Kansas FFA website, four files are available:

- Floriculture Plant Identification List
- Floriculture Plant Identification PowerPoint
- Floriculture Disorders
- Practicum Activities
- Floriculture Equipment and Supplies, p. 15 of National 2026 Floriculture CDE Handbook, **updated for 2026**

Content for the Kansas Floriculture CDE is well aligned with the 2026 National Floriculture CDE Handbook. Resources provided for the National Floriculture CDE are relevant to the Kansas Floriculture CDE's study and review. The materials are posted at

<https://ffa.app.box.com/s/b60omh0qjy09b8qfz4xc3iyla0k36zni>. 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. 18th 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, 8th ed. 2010. Delmar Cengage Learning.

Seace, 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, 5th ed, 2015. Interstate Publishers, Inc.

Floral Design Videos:

By Kansas State University, Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources: Learning about Floral Design.

<https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/teacher-resources.html>