

2026 Advisor Information for the MD FFA Floriculture Contest

We look forward to hosting the Maryland FFA Floriculture CDE on Saturday March 28, 2026, at the Carroll County Ag Center in the Medford Building. **This event will start at 9 am.** Students may enter through the Blizzard building at 8:45 am.

Attire: Students are expected to wear FFA Official dress.

Participants may also bring an apron and/or a tool belt and towels.

Students must be familiar with the General Rules for the event:

- All participants will be given an identification number by which they will be designated throughout the event. This number must be properly identified on the scantron scoring sheet for the student to receive credit/score for their efforts.
- The event superintendent will assign the participants to group leaders who will escort them to various event staging sites. Participants must know their participant number and are expected to stay in their assigned group at all times or until told to change event areas.
- All participants are expected to be prompt at their stations throughout the event. No provision will be made for tardiness, which will in most cases cause the late participant to lose event points.
- Under no circumstances will any participant be allowed to touch or handle plant material during the event except when instructed by the event staff.
- Any communication between participants during the event will be sufficient cause to eliminate the team from the event. The exception to this is the team activity.
- Any participant caught cheating during the event will be expelled from the event.
- Any assistance given to a participant from any source during the event, other than a floriculture official, will be sufficient cause to eliminate the team from the event.
- Any participant in possession of an electronic and/or communication device (CELL PHONE) in the event area will be disqualified. **CELL PHONES ARE NOT TO BE BROUGHT TO THE EVENT AREA!! They will be collected at the door upon entering the contest area.**

What to bring: MATERIALS STUDENTS NEED TO PROVIDE:

- Clean clipboard, free of notes.
- Two sharpened No. 2 pencils.
- Floral tools and materials may consist of any or all of the following materials: o floral scissors, o ribbon shears, o pruners, o wire cutters, o floral pliers, o green waterproof tape, o clear waterproof tape, o floral wire, o and floral adhesive (in dot, strip, or liquid form).
- Apron
- Tool bag, box, or belt for carrying supplies.
- Calculator — Should be battery operated, non-programmable and non-scientific (basic five function only). No other calculators can be used during the event.
- Participants will not be allowed to bring any material into the competition area that could be used to enhance the creativity of their design(s) that is not supplied to all participants; this includes but is not limited to floral ribbon, wired ribbon, decorative wire, bullion wire, and any floral accents. Supplies will be checked at team check-in before the competition starts; unapproved items will be returned to the advisor before students enter the competition area.

Here's what you need to know to prepare your students for this event.

(Refer to the 2026 Floriculture Handbook)

All students will complete the following individual activities:

Identification of plant material, equipment, and disorders (200 points) ***THIS PRACTICUM WILL BE COMPLETED ON LINE PRIOR TO THE IN PERSON EVENT.*** Forty specimens from the floriculture plant, and disorder identification lists will be displayed for participants to identify by technical/scientific and common names. A number will be designated for each specimen. Five points will be awarded for each specimen that is correctly identified. **Each participant will be allowed 25 minutes to complete this event phase.**

General Knowledge and Problem-Solving Examination (175 points) ***THIS PRACTICUM WILL BE COMPLETED ON LINE PRIOR TO THE IN PERSON EVENT.*** Participants will answer 30 multiple-choice general knowledge questions and will solve five problems related to the various aspects of the floriculture industry identified in the event objectives, including flowers and material from the wholesaler and how they are handled, stored, and used in the flower shop; knowledge of floral design (arrangement) and marketing of floral products from the floral shop as well as participants' knowledge and understanding of basic biological and scientific principles of producing and marketing flowers, plants and foliage. Each problem will describe the situation or create the problem and list four possible solutions to the problem. The participant must decide on the best possible solution to the problem. All materials and information necessary to solve the problem will be available to the participants as they solve the problem. **Each participant will be allowed 50 minutes to complete the 35-question exam.** **Each answer has a value of five points.**

Annual Practicums (300 points) Each participant will complete two annual practicums.

Individual Practicums:

Creating a Floral Arrangement (100 Points)-Make a floral arrangement in compliance with the scenario provided. Participants will be allowed 20 minutes to complete their arrangement using the materials provided. At the beginning of the practicum, the event assistant will provide participants with the flowers and foliage they will use in their arrangements. Scoring criteria are presented on the Floral Arrangement Practicum scorecard, page 13 in the Floriculture Handbook, which a judge will record.

Explanation of Floral Arrangement Terms

Design: Category interpretation: design follows the objective/scenario given

Balance: Physical and visual

Creativity: Artistic inventiveness

Depth: Placement of materials at different levels throughout the arrangement

Focal Emphasis: Design has one area of design that attracts the eye to it Line:

Movement Mechanics: Professional techniques and application

Scale: Proportion

Unity: Cohesiveness of design

Color: harmonious use of color

Potting of Young Plants (Plugs or Liners) (100 points-) Participants will be asked to plant young plants in the pots provided. Each participant will be given a group of young plants from which to select their transplants, an appropriate pot or pots, a potting medium, an ID stake, and a marking pencil. Scoring criteria are presented on the Potting of Young Plants Practicum Rubric, page 16, which a judge will record. **Ten minutes will be allowed for this section**, including questions from the judges. Seven (7) minutes will be allowed to complete the assigned task, one minute for judges' questions, and two minutes for judges' scoring.

Team Activity: page 22 in the handbook

Theme: Blue and Gold FFA Banquet

Team members will have 45 Minutes to work together to construct the following designs:

2 Multiflowered corsage with bow for the Ambassador contestants; pin-on style

2 Pin on matching Boutonnieres for the Ambassador contestants.

1 Hand tied Bouquet for presentation to the retiring advisor.

1 arrangement to be used in front of a free-standing (floor) speakers' podium. Retail pricing will also be determined on this item based on the formula given on page 9 of the handbook.

4 Decorated individual plants (assembled during the potting practicum) for thank you gifts for community supporters.

Note: bows must be constructed without the use of a bow guide.

Tentative Schedule for the day:

9:00-9:10 am-Blizzard Building-Welcome, Introductions and Review of Event Rules

9:15-9:25 am- Medford Building-Plant Potting Activity

9:30-9:50 am-Medford Building-Floral Arrangement Activity

10:00-10:10 am- Blizzard building- Team Activity over view

10:15-11:00 am-Medford Building- Team Activity

11:00-11:15 am- Medford Building- Team activity clean up

11:15-12:00 pm-Lunch-Extension Office Classrooms A & B

(Students can bring their lunch or Advisors order through FFA Alumni at time of registration)

12:00-2:00 pm- Blizzard and Medford Buildings-Team Activity Presentations- depending on the number of Teams, it may run longer or shorter.

2:15-2:30 pm- Event review for students and Advisors. General feedback of student work will be given.

A sample of the designs students were to construct will be displayed.

3:00 pm- Event dismissal, time may vary depending on the number of teams participating.

NOTE: All references to time limits are approximate. The committee reserves the right to adjust the schedule based upon the specific practicum and anticipated skill of the students, and the number of teams participating.