

The NACTA Judging Conference: Past, Present and Future Directions

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Background



- The annual NACTA Judging Conference provides an active learning experience for students.
- Contests are held in multiple content areas spread over a three day event.

Benefits of Judging Contest Participation



- Active learning opportunity
- Student learning assessment tool
- Potential capstone experience
- Students learn about agricultural and cultural diversity during travel
- Personal and team recognition

Objectives



- Strengthening the relationship between the Judging Conference and the NACTA parent organization.
- Enhancing participation by faculty involved in the Judging Conference in other NACTA activities.
- Recognizing faculty contributions to the Judging Conference as a valued part of NACTA membership.

History - NACTA Judging Conference

- Idea for a judging contest was proposed in the very early years after NACTA was founded in 1955.
- 1959 - First Intercollegiate Livestock and Dairy Judging Contest held during 5th annual NACTA meetings at Berea College, Berea, KY.
- Held as part of the national meetings through 1962, then discontinued.
- Re-emerged in 1965 as the Southern Regional Livestock, Dairy and Soils Contest held at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN.
- Held through 1970, then renamed the NACTA Livestock, Dairy and Soils Contest.

History - NACTA Judging Conference

- 1971 - First independent national contest with NACTA name held at Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, TN.
- Has been held continuously for all but two years since (no contests in 1986 and 2001).
- 1972 - Junior colleges first invited.
- 1975 - Judging Conference officers first elected.
- Has operated independently with minimal interaction with the NACTA parent organization.

Historical List of Host Institutions

- 1971 – Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, TN
- 1972 – Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL
- 1973 – Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX
- 1974 – Agriculture Technical Institute, Wooster, OH
- 1975 – Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL (Co-hosted by Black Hawk East College, Kewanee, IL)
- 1976 – West Texas State University, Canyon, TX
- 1977 – Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO
- 1978 – University of Tennessee-Martin, Martin, TN
- 1979 – University of Minnesota Technical College, Crookston, MN
- 1980 – Ohio State University - Ag Technical Institute, Wooster, OH
- 1981 – Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS
- 1982 – Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX
- 1983 – Illinois State University, Normal, IL
- 1984 – Hawkeye Institute of Technology, Waterloo, IA
- 1985 – Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY

Historical List of Host Institutions

1986 – No contest

1987 – El Reno Junior College, El Reno, OK

1988 – University of Wisconsin - River Falls, River Falls, WI

1989 – Lake Land College, Mattoon, IL

1990 – University of Minnesota-Waseca, Waseca, MN

1991 – Cal Poly State University, Pomona, CA

1992 – El Reno Junior College, El Reno, OK

1993 – Hutchinson Community College, Hutchinson, KS

1994 – Eastern Oklahoma State College, Wilburton, OK

1995 – Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS

1996 – Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO

1997 – Panhandle State University, Goodwell, OK

1998 – University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI

1999 – Cloud County Community College, Concordia, KS

2000 – University of Minnesota-Crookston, Crookston, MN

2001 – No contest

Recent and Future Host Institutions

2002 – Cal Poly State University, Pomona, CA

2003 – Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

2004 – Black Hawk College, Kewanee, IL

2005 – Northeast Nebraska Community College, Norfolk, NE

2006 – Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL

2007 – Hutchinson Community College, Hutchinson, KS

2008 – Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX

2009 – Ohio State University-ATI, Wooster, OH

2010 – Redlands Community College, El Reno, OK

2011 – Modesto Junior College, Modesto, CA

2012 – Coffeyville Community College, Coffeyville, KS

2013 – Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

2014 – Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO

2015 – Black Hawk College, Moline, IL

2016 – University of Minnesota-Crookston, Crookston, MN

2017 – Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Current Status – Conference Format

- The judging conference is hosted by a different college each April.
- Contests are generally offered in 8-10 content areas.
- Six required contests are **livestock, dairy, soils, crops, agribusiness** and **knowledge bowl**.
- Separate competitions and awards are provided for 2-year and 4-year divisions.
- Typical participation includes over 500 contestant entries from about 40 different schools, plus faculty coaches.

Judging Conference Administration

- A NACTA Judging Conference Constitution provides general rules and eligibility criteria.
- Elected officers of the NACTA Judging Conference recruit host schools and guide overall conference administration.
- Officers and coaches meet annually to review issues, develop general guidelines, and modify the constitution if needed.
- Host schools determine specific contest offerings, provide detailed contest rules, set registration fees, and handle all contest registration, operations, and awards.

Current Status – NACTA connections



- A sweepstakes award, sponsored by NACTA, is presented to a school in each division based upon team rankings across multiple contests.

Current Status – NACTA connections

- To compete, a school must be a NACTA institutional member (or the team coach must be an individual NACTA member).
- The NACTA Judging Conference Liaison (currently Lyle Westrom, Univ. of Minnesota-Crookston) provides a formal link to NACTA and reports regularly to the NACTA Executive Committee.
- The first NACTA Judging and Student Service award will be presented at the 2014 NACTA annual conference this week.

Future Directions and Challenges

- Getting additional NACTA schools involved
- Securing host schools – time, expertise for multiple contests, administrative support, costs, facilities needed for the large group.
- Maintaining numbers in some contests.
- Consistency in rules and eligibility from year to year with different host schools needing to adjust to fit specific situations.
- Insuring that competing schools are members of NACTA in good standing.
- Developing a stronger relationship between NACTA and the Judging Conference.

Questions for Discussion

What more can or should the NACTA parent organization do to enhance their relationship with the Judging Conference?

What more can or should the Judging Conference do to enhance their relationship with NACTA?

How can faculty active in the Judging Conference be more involved in other NACTA activities, especially two-year and small four-year college faculty members?

How do we bring greater value and recognition by NACTA of faculty members' Judging Conference contributions?

Other opportunities or concerns?



April 8-10, 2015 i Wireless facilities in Moline, IL.

For more info contact Drew Cotton at 309-854-1842 or cottond@bhc.edu.

In addition to the judging contests:

- **Tours of local businesses and attractions**
- **Career fair and networking opportunities with leading agricultural companies**

Agribusiness Management

Agricultural Mechanics

Dairy Judging

Horticulture Judging

Meat Animal Evaluation

Soils Judging

Agricultural Computers

Crops Judging

Horse Judging

Livestock Judging

Meats Judging

Quiz Bowl

Thank You For Attending

