

2026 NACTA JUDGING CONFERENCE ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY



NACTA

NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGES
AND TEACHERS OF AGRICULTURE

ILLINOIS STATE

Agriculture

Ag Computers

Contest Official Rules

Contest Chair:

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2026 NACTA Ag Computers Contest

Hosted by Illinois State University

Contest Director: Michael Barrowclough, mjbarr4@ilstu.edu, 309-438-3269

A. Teams and Eligibility

1. All contestants must be currently enrolled undergraduate students at either a two-year or four-year institution.
2. Teams from two-year and four-year institutions will compete in separate divisions using the same contest components. Separate awards will be given for:
 - Top 3 teams from four-year institutions,
 - Top 3 teams from two-year institutions,
 - Top individual performer (Part I only) from four-year institutions,
 - Top individual performer (Part I only) from two-year institutions.
3. A team shall consist of four (4) members, competing individually in Part I and together in Part II. Only one designated official team from each school is eligible to compete for team awards, and official team members must be designated in advance. Only contestants on the official team are eligible for individual awards. Schools may enter additional unofficial contestants who will compete in Part I only.

B. Contest Format and Scoring:

1. The contest evaluates fundamental computer knowledge and application skills with an emphasis on:
 - Application of Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint for problem-solving,
 - Personal computer hardware and software,
 - Internet and web technologies.
2. There will be two (2) parts to this Contest. Part I is a 50 multiple-choice question exam worth 100 points (2 points per question). One hour will be allowed to complete Part I. Part II is a team application problem worth 100 points that will evaluate a team's ability to analyze a problem, conduct a financial analysis using Microsoft Excel, and present findings in a professional and convincing manner using Microsoft PowerPoint. Two hours will be allowed to complete Part II. Every team member will receive the same score for Part II. Each student's final individual score will be the sum of their Part I score and their team's Part II score, for a maximum of 200 points per student. Team rankings will be determined by the total combined scores (Part I + Part II) of all four team members. The maximum possible team score is 800.

C. Contest Procedures and Conduct

1. There will be no communication among students during Part I of the contest.
2. Only Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint may be used during Part II of the contest.
3. For Part I and Part II, internet use, including the use of AI, is not permitted.
4. For Part I and Part II, the use of cell phones is not permitted.
5. No additional materials are allowed during Parts I and II of the contest.

D. Required Equipment:

1. Contestants are required to use a #2 pencil for Part I.
2. Contestants must bring a personal laptop computer with Microsoft Excel and Microsoft PowerPoint installed to complete Part II of the contest.
3. Each team must use a blank USB flash drive for submitting Part II contest materials.