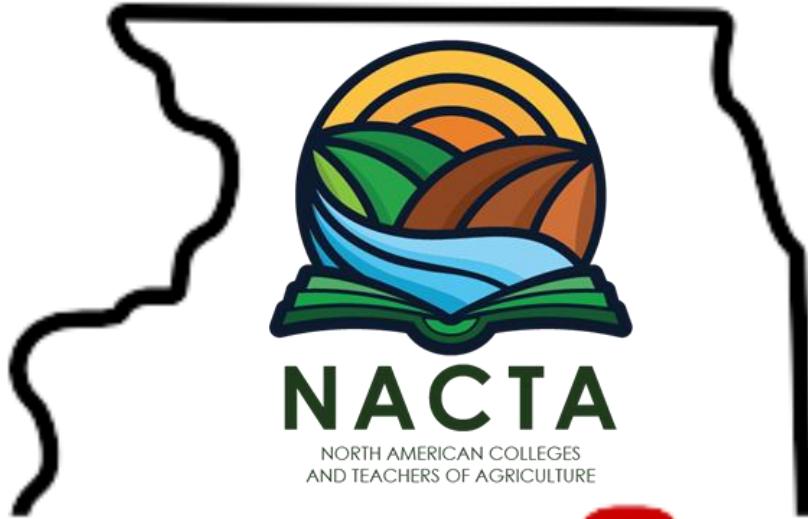


# 2026 NACTA JUDGING CONFERENCE ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY



# ILLINOIS STATE

## *Agriculture*

Agribusiness

Contest Official Rules

Contest Chair:

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## **2026 NACTA Agribusiness Contest**

Hosted by Illinois State University

Contest Director: Michael Barrowclough, [mjbarr4@ilstu.edu](mailto:mjbarr4@ilstu.edu), 309-438-3269

### **Agribusiness Contest Official Rules**

There will be two (2) parts to the Agribusiness Contest. Each part is worth 150 points, totaling 300 possible points per student. Part I is an individual knowledge exam worth 150 points per student. Part II is a team case study presentation worth 150 points per team. 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 300 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 1200.

1. Part I is a 150-point individual knowledge exam (multiple choice, computation, and true/false) that may cover, but is not limited to, the following disciplines:
  - Microeconomics
  - Macroeconomics
  - Ag Economics
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Ratio Analysis
  - Agribusiness Management
  - Production Functions
  - Sales and Sales Communications
  - Ag Marketing
  - Ag Business Law
  - Ag Finance
  - Time Value of Money
  - Depreciation Methods
  - Absolute and Comparative Advantage
2. Part II is a 150-point team case study focused on an agribusiness operation in the local region. The case study materials will be released on March 1, 2026, and will include background information about the businesses along with several options to consider. Teams will have until the contest date to develop a plan for the agribusiness that incorporates one or more of the options.

At the contest, teams will have two (2) minutes for set-up and five (5) minutes to present their plan to the judges. Judging will be based solely on the oral presentation; no written material will be reviewed. Teams will use PowerPoint to support their presentation. Each school must bring a USB drive containing its PowerPoint file. The host institution will

provide a computer and projector with Microsoft Office installed. Only members of the presenting team are permitted in the presentation room with judges during the competition.

3. Teams and contestants: Teams from two-year and four-year institutions will be evaluated separately using the same contest components. Separate awards will be presented to the top three teams and the top individual in each division (two-year and four-year institutions). 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 only in Part I of the contest. Unofficial contestants must pay full registration fees but will not lose eligibility to compete in future contests.
4. Eligibility: All contestants must be currently enrolled in a two-year or a four-year institution and pursuing an undergraduate degree. A student may compete in this contest up to four (4) times as an official contestant: twice in the two-year division and twice in the four-year division.
5. The total contest time will not exceed three (3) hours. One half of the teams will present on Part II while the other half completes Part I. The groups will then switch.
6. If an overall tie occurs (individual or team), Part I scores will be used to determine the winner. If a tie still remains, a coin toss will be used as the final tiebreaker.
7. There shall be no communication between opposing teams during the contest. Students can communicate with their own teammates only during Part II of the contest.
8. Contestants are permitted to use a #2 pencil and a basic, non-programmable calculator for Part I. The use of cell phones is prohibited in Part I and Part II of the contest.
9. Contestants will be provided with the necessary answer sheets.
10. The contest coordinator's announcement of scores and winners shall be final.