



Flowers & Finances

A Floral Design and Agribusiness Contest

September 12, 2026



BE BOLD. Shape the Future.®
College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences

Contest Registration Due: Friday, August 28, 2026

Online Contest Registration links and entry fee portal links are on NMSU Agricultural

Contests link: <https://extension.nmsu.edu/internships/competitions.html>

Contest Superintendent: TBA

Contest Contact: Frannie Miller, Associate Professor Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business; franniem@nmsu.edu 575-636-9305 cell

Concept: A contest for New Mexico youth to both express their floral design skills and test their ability to use agribusiness concepts including calculation of costs of goods, pricing, and marketing concepts.

Entries: This year the registration works slightly differently.

Pre-entry is required. Entries must be received by August 28, 2026. There will be a limit of 20 teams due to a limited number of resources and space. First come first to enter, once 20 team entries are received, the contest will be closed to further entries.

First – register at this link: https://acesnmsu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a5EiiTFpyzkHaYe

Second – On September 2, 2026, a payment portal will open, accepted teams will have to attend a mandatory Zoom meeting on that same day, and use the payment portal to make the payment, or you can mail a check to:

ATTN: Frannie Miller

NMSU - ACES | Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business

MSC 3169, PO Box 30003

Las Cruces, NM 88003

Checks must arrive by September 2, 2026.

The \$30 registration fee is \$30 per team (\$15 per participant). Access to the NMSF and parking is not included in the registration fee. All participants and accompanying family members will need to purchase fair and parking passes at the NMSF website under the exhibitor link.

A MANDATORY ZOOM Q&A ON September 2, 2026, at 5:30 pm IS REQUIRED FOR ALL “FLOWERS AND FINANCES” COMPETITORS. Join the meeting here: <https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/89022556791>

If you are unable to attend at that time, please contact contest coordinators.

Contest Format: A team of two students will have one hour to: 1) design a floral arrangement within a designated budget; and 2) to complete paperwork identifying bouquet costs and suggested price.

The top bouquets will be auctioned after the contest.

No more than the top half of bouquets will be auctioned, this number may be reduced if necessary for time constraints.

Half of the proceeds from auction item will be given to the participants who created the bouquet, 40% of bouquet proceeds will be used for contest expenses. Auction purchases are conducted through the New Mexico Junior Livestock Foundation for a 10% fee.

Time Limit: 1 hour

Age Requirements: Ages 14 or in the 8th grade through 12th grade and still in high school are eligible to participate.

Flexibility: This is the second year of this contest. We expect this to be a fun contest, and we will do our best to ensure that the contest is fair, but participants should be aware that some plans and details may change and should be ready to adapt with sportsmanlike behavior.

Timing: The contest will start exactly at 4:00 pm. A contestants meeting will be held at 3:30 pm to observe the materials, receive price sheets, and to ask questions. After the meeting, contestants will draw for worktable locations and can set up to be ready for the starting bell. Check-in will begin at 3:00, and all contestants must be checked in by 3:30 pm.

Teams: Each team will consist of two eligible participants working together to create a floral arrangement..

- All live floral material will be provided. Teams will need to bring their own floral tools.
- A container/vase will NOT be provided to construct arrangements within. Each team must bring their own vase, between 3 inches to 6 inches in diameter and not more than 12 inches tall. The theme for the 2026 New Mexico State Fair is "**100 Years of Historic Route 66,**". Points will be awarded for creative arrangements that reflect and celebrate the 2026 New Mexico State Fair.
- Soaked floral foam will be provided in buckets throughout, in standard size cubes, as will the live stem flowers.
- Once a live stem is taken out of the bucket and to the table, it must be used. Points will be deducted for unused floral material remaining on the table once time is called.
- All non-floral decorative elements are limited to materials that can fit within a standard-sized shoebox (12.5 in x 9 in x 5 in). Points can be subtracted for overuse of non-floral materials/decorations.
- **The vase and the decorative elements will NOT be returned to the team.**
- The contest will be timed, (1 hour for creating the arrangement and answering questions) warnings will be given at 45 minutes, 30 minutes, 10 minutes, 5 minutes and 1 minute for final touch-ups. .
- Contestants must have hands off of the table when final time is called.
- **NO** help from ag teachers or supervisors during the contest or contest set up is permitted, supervisors may not be present at the contest work-station at all. This may result in the team's disqualification. Supervisors may be part of the audience, but must refrain from any coaching during the contest and contest set up period.

- Monitors will be available to observe and answer questions that may arise.
- At the end of the time given, the completed official price sheet and question answers must be given to a monitor with team numbers on all submissions. These must be within the pre-determined budget level. This level will be given at the beginning of the contest.

Floral Accounting Sheet: (attached to Floral Design Contest rules)

Floral Accounting Sheets contain:

- Individual prices of each item given by the contest.
- **Each participant's team number MUST be on all written material, or scores will not be counted.**
- Scratch paper will be provided for math work but will not be graded.
- Unfinished paperwork will not receive penalty points but completed work may receive higher scores.

Judging:

- Judging for each category will be based on the following: (each worth several points, each contest will vary in judging requirements)
 - Design Aesthetics – Line/form, color, and space
 - Design Principles – Balance, proportion, and unity
 - Mechanics/Execution – Neatness and cleanliness of design, proper coverage of foam, and sturdiness of design
 - Creativity
 - Correctly calculating all the items on the floral accounting sheet for their arrangement.
 - Appropriate answers for scenario questions.
 - Ability to remain within the assigned budget or price limit.
- The judge's decisions are final.
- Judging will be conducted by a panel of judges as soon as the last team has finished.
- Results will be announced and awarded one hour after the contest has ended.
- Buckles and scholarships to NMSU College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences will be awarded for the contest.

The contest was created through work at NMSU Agricultural Economics & Agricultural Business Department with the support of Cooperative Extension Service.



Buckles and scholarships are generously sponsored by AgTrust Farm Credit. Please let them know you appreciate their support of our amazing New Mexico youth!

AgTrust Farm Credit Services, 5600 Clearfork Main Street, Fort Worth, TX 76107

TEAM # _____

Floral Design Contest Price Sheet

Each item from inventory is assigned a certain price per item used in your arrangement, and each contestant must be able to calculate the total price of their arrangement and remain under the assigned budget.

Budget:

Item	Assigned Price per Item	Amount Used in Arrangement	Total Price for item (Calculated)

(calculate) TOTAL ARRANGEMENT COST:

EXAMPLE Scenario and Questions:

TEAM #_____

Please read the two markup strategies below to complete your given scenario.

- a. Value-based pricing is a strategy that involves basing your prices on how the customer perceives the value of your product or service.
- b. A cost-plus markup strategy is a pricing method where a fixed percentage (your choice; EX: 20%, 30% of price without current markup) is added on top of the production cost (price without current markup) for one unit of product (your arrangement).

Scenarios will be announced during the mandatory pre-contest Zoom.

TEAM #_____

Judges' Rubric:

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Points Earned:
Design (Worth Double Points)	Shows high quality of design, Needs little or no improvement.			Shows some uses of design. Needs improvement.			Shows little or no use of design. Needs much improvement.			x2	
Balance	Shows visual and actual balance. Needs little or no improvement.			Shows attempt at balance. Needs some improvement.			Not balanced. Needs much improvement.				
Proportion	Container and flowers are in good proportions. Needs no improvement.			Shows attempt at proportion. Needs some improvement.			Shows lack of proportion. Needs improvement.				
Rythm	Shows good use of rhythm. The eyes move smoothly through arrangement. Needs little or no improvement.			Shows some use of rhythm but needs improvement.			Shows little or no use of rhythm. Needs much improvement.				
Unity	The whole composition is a complete unit. Needs little or no improvement.			Shows use if unity but needs improvement to become a complete unit.			Complete lack of unity. Needs much improvement.				
Color	Combination of color is pleasing and appropriate for occasion.			Combination of color needs improvement.			Poor use of color or is not suitable for occasion.				
State Fair Theme THEME: FAIR-FAMOUS	The design and container reflect the theme of the NMSF well. Theme can be easily seen through design.			The design and container somewhat reflect the theme of the NMSF. Theme can be seen with interpretation.			The design and container do not reflect the theme of NMSF at all, needs much improvement.				

Accuracy	The overall accuracy of the arrangement and mark-up calculations/strategies reflect those of the real world. Needs little or no improvement.	The overall accuracy of the arrangement and mark-up calculations/strategies mostly reflect those of the real world. Needs improvement.	The overall accuracy of the arrangement and mark-up calculations/strategies do not reflect those of the real world. Needs much improvement.	
Calculations	Calculations are correct and under budget.	Calculations are mostly correct and attempted to remain under budget.	Calculations are incorrect and do not make sense.	
Explanations	Explanations are clear and relate to genuine floral concepts with no grammatical errors.	Explanations are mostly clear and relate to genuine floral concepts with some grammatical errors, needs improvement.	Explanations are not clear and do not relate to genuine floral concepts or have too many grammatical errors.	
Overall Evaluation	Participant shows honesty, knowledge of floral design and completeness in creating, calculating and explaining the design.	Participant shows some honesty, knowledge of floral design and completeness in creating, calculating, and explaining the design.	Participant lacks honesty, knowledge of floral design and completeness in creating, calculating and explaining the design.	
Penalty points				
			TOTAL SCORE (out of 120 possible):	

Participant #1 First and Last: _____

Participant #2 First and Last: _____

Chapter: _____

Total Rubric Score: _____