



**MURRAY STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

**Hutson School of Agriculture**

**NACTA** Judging  
Conference 2019

**Precision Ag Contest Official Rules**

Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>

Location and Time to Be Determined

**Contest Director:**

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## Competition Guidelines

1. All official contestants and unofficial participants must be currently enrolled in a two-year or a four-year institution and pursuing an undergraduate degree. Two-year and four-year teams will evaluate the same contest components.
2. A school may enter a team consisting of four members. These team members must be registered prior to the contest.
3. Contestants are responsible for bringing the following items to the contest: safety glasses, a calculator (not including a smartphone calculator), appropriate dress and attitude for an exam located in a farm shop/outdoor row crop setting. Weather may determine exact location and set-up of the contest area.
4. Additional contestants beyond the four person team may participate in any one of the content areas (planting, harvest, spraying, UAS/drones) and are eligible for competition in the individual awards for these areas. Participants can only register for one of the content areas for the contest. If registering as an individual, contestants will be eligible for individual competition only and will not be included in a team score. They must register as with any other team or team member. Teams must consist of four designated members (noted during registration) to be eligible for the team award.
5. The contest will consist of four content areas. The total team score will consist of the combination of these four areas as a total team score.
6. Tie breakers. There will be no ties in the final scores. Any team scores that result in a tie will be broken according to the top score in each of the content exam areas. The order in which the scores will be examined will be alphabetical by exam content title.
7. No communication with other contests, contest areas, or anyone else except superintendents will be permitted after the contest begins. Coaches may not communicate with a team or individuals until the contest is finished. No text, chat, or other forms of electronic/social media contact will be allowed. Contestants violating this rule will be disqualified from the competition.
8. Since some activities will involve working with equipment, detailed instructions and safety procedures will be explained at each contest. Safety rules and instructions must be followed at all times. Safety glasses must be worn at all times. Any contestant violating safety rules will lose points dedicated to safety on an exam and may also become ineligible for individual awards or be disqualified for that exam.
9. The overall contest will take no more than 3 hours to complete.
10. The contest will be based on precision agriculture activities used during regular cropping seasons in the United States.
11. Three types of exams/activities will occur during each of the contest areas: a written exam, parts or component identification, and a skill activity.
12. In general, the contest will combine knowledge and skills from Agriculture Systems, Agriculture Business, and Agronomy. Students wishing to form a team are encouraged to study these areas.
13. Announcements the day of the contest will take precedence over any announcements prior to the contest. Availability of equipment, weather, or other factors may require adjustments to equipment type or exam content. Teams should check for possible updates before the contest.

## **Contest Organization**

14. Overall contest will be divided into four content areas – planting, harvest, spraying, and UAS/drones. Each of these areas will have specific knowledge, parts/components, and skills exams.
15. Each content area will have a total of approximately 2.5 hours to complete exam requirements. Each of the three exams within the areas will be allotted 45 minutes.
16. An individual score will be comprised of a written exam, parts ID exam, and a skills exam for a total of 300 points maximum. Team scores will total these areas for a four person team for a total of 1200 points maximum.
17. During registration/check-in, each contestant will need to identify their specialty area (i.e. planting, harvest, spraying, UAS/drones). All contest areas will not be in the same location and appropriate travel to these areas will be critical for the contest to start on time.
18. Each contestant will complete exams in their specialty area only. For the team score, this means that each member of the team must contribute their best effort and points for their contest area. Each team member must do their part to maximize the points and placement of the team. Team members will take exams in one content area only (i.e. a harvest specialist will only complete the combine/harvest exams).
19. The written exam will consist of questions that will evaluate the general knowledge of contestants concerning precision agriculture. Questions will include a variety of content from current precision agriculture topics, uses, and concepts.
20. Part identification exams will include parts and component needs, identification, procedures, skills, and problem solving abilities common to current needs in agriculture enterprises using precision agriculture.
21. Skills exams will include skills and abilities necessary to be successful in current production agriculture settings related to equipment/devices/machinery equipped with precision agriculture or technology systems. These skills could include but are not limited to: equipment operation, equipment settings and adjustments, calibrations, part/component uses, planning procedures, pre-operational checklists or procedures, evaluation or adjustments during operational conditions, equipment installation or repair, and troubleshooting procedures.