

FLORICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Location: Pride of Kansas Building

Manager: Deb Wilson – Phone 836-651-2290

Online entry available May 1, 2026

Entry Deadline is August 1

Late Entry: August 2 (12:01 a.m.) to August 15 (11:59 p.m.) - \$5.00 late fee, per exhibitor.

August 16 (12:01 a.m.) to August 19 (11:59 p.m.) - \$25.00 late fee, per exhibitor.

No entries will be accepted after August 19 (11:59 p.m.)

If you do not receive a confirmation email following registration and entry, please contact the Fair office at 620-669-3621

Receiving / Drop off

Group A:

- Tuesday, September 8, Noon-5
- Wednesday, September 9, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Thursday, September 10, 8 a.m. – Noon

Group B

- Wednesday, September 10, 8 a.m. – Noon

Release / Pick up

- Sunday September 20, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Monday September 21, 9 a.m. -1 p.m.

Drop-off tags are available from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Vehicles are NOT allowed on the Fairgrounds past 9 a.m.

Contact the Competitive Office – 620-669-3621 if you require a ticket or drop-off tag for Group B Check-in.

Exhibitor Social Security Numbers ARE REQUIRED. The Kansas State Fair is a State-entity, and the State of Kansas requires the correct SSN for verification of premium payments.

GENERAL AND DEPARTMENTAL RULES

1. **DEADLINE DATES:** All exhibitors are required to submit their entries online by the deadline date of **August 1, 2026**. Assistance for online entries is available during regular business hours only. (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) by calling the competitive office at 620-669-3621.
2. **REQUIRED EXHIBITOR FEES:** ALL exhibitors are required to pay a \$1.00 processing fee per person as well as a \$1.00 per item entry fee. Exhibitor Social Security Numbers ARE REQUIRED. The KSF is a State-entity, and the State of Kansas requires the SSN for verification of premium payments.

3. ENTRIES/LATE ENTRIES: Entries will be accepted online at www.kansasstatefair.gov, beginning May 1, 2026. Entries will be accepted after August 1, 2026, in accordance with the following schedule: **NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER AUGUST 19, 2026.**
 - August 2 (12:01 a.m.) to August 15 (11:59 p.m.) - \$5.00 late fee, per exhibitor.
 - August 16 (12:01 a.m.) to August 19 (11:59 p.m.) - \$25.00 late fee, per exhibitor.
 - No entries will be accepted after August 19 (11:59 p.m.)
4. An exhibitor may enter one (1) item per class, unless noted differently.
5. Exhibitors have up to 15 minutes to arrange, display or touch-up their exhibit upon arrival, prior to checking in.
6. Exhibits cannot be prepared or assembled on-site, unless it is a “real time” contest, and it is stated in the rules. Department Managers or Competitive Exhibit Coordinator have the right to disqualify an entry or exhibit if anyone, other than the exhibitor, has prepared it. **ALL WORK MUST BE THAT OF THE EXHIBITOR.**
7. Displayed exhibits may be limited – KSF reserves the right to only display what room allows. Any item not being displayed will have designated pick-up times. First place through third place is guaranteed to be shown. Every effort will be made to display ALL items entered in the fair.
8. Any item that does not meet Kansas State Fair requirements will not be accepted. If an item is accepted due to oversight, it may later be disqualified and/or not judged or displayed.
9. During check-in, a Kansas State Fair staff member may question if you entered your item properly, if it is obvious the item may not meet the class requirements. If an exhibitor is not sure if the item(s) are entered properly, they must ask a staff member for assistance **BEFORE** the item is checked in. This process can only be done during receiving hours and at the request of the exhibitor. If you question the class entered, and the Department Manager can justify the error, it may be moved to the proper class. Once an item has been checked in, **IT CANNOT BE MOVED**, without the prior approval of the Competitive Exhibit Coordinator. Check-in finalizes your entry. Kansas State Fair does not allow any item substitutions. If an item is entered into an incorrect category, it may be disqualified by a judge.
10. Entries will not be entered or judged in “Any Other Items” or “Not Specified” class if another class for that item is available.
11. All exhibits must have been created, grown, or harvested by the exhibitor during the season of current year unless otherwise stated. All creative items must have been completed since the 2025 Kansas State Fair (Since September 20, 2025).
12. If a “real-time” contest has fewer than two entered contestants, the contest may be changed to allow walk-up entries, with the approval of the KSF Competitive Exhibit Coordinator and sponsor (if the Division is sponsored).
13. After arrangements of exhibits for prizes, no change will be allowed except for authority from KSF Competitive Exhibit Coordinator.
14. Our primary audience consists of family and youth. We reserve the right to reject any entry that may be considered objectionable by that audience.
15. Youth Division: Youth exhibitors must be 18 or under as of January 1 of current year. Youths MAY enter the Youth Division and again in any other division for which they qualify.
 1. Adult Division: Adult exhibitors must be 19 or over as of January 1 of the current year. Adult exhibitors MAY enter the Adult Division and again in any other division for which they qualify.
 2. Entering in a specific age division does not exclude entry into other divisions for which they qualify.
16. A brief description of your item when entering online (as to color, size or pattern, brand) is required.
17. For the protection of the exhibitor, claim stubs are required at the time of release for items. If you do not have a claim stub, items **will not** be released to anyone other than the exhibitor with proper ID.
18. Each article in a collection or plural exhibit must show the exhibitor’s name and class of competition.
19. All exhibits will receive the best care and protection in their surroundings. The exhibits are subject to owner’s risk and in no event will the Kansas State Fair, KSF staff, or volunteers be responsible for any damage which may occur. Delicately constructed items requiring more than normal careful handling should not be submitted. All exhibits will be displayed at the discretion of the KSF Staff.

20. The Kansas State Fair reserves the right to cancel any class or place if the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition or an award is not merited.
21. Participants will not have access to their items once they have been received by the Kansas State Fair staff.
22. Release/Pick-up dates will be listed in the department handbooks. Any Exhibitor who does not claim their exhibit during the listed times will be required to make an appointment with the Competitive Exhibits Coordinator for release of their exhibit. Perishable items (food) and plants will be discarded and/or donated immediately following the Fair. Non-perishable items not claimed by October 15, of the current year, will be discarded.
23. **All** Division Champions and Reserve Champions will receive a Rosette.
24. The Kansas State Fair reserves the right to cancel, eliminate, or change the published premium amounts due to lack of sponsorship.
25. If, at the Judge's discretion, an entry does not merit a placement, the Judge shall give no award under any circumstances. The rule applies whether there are one or more exhibits in the class. If a tie occurs in any division or class, a judge will determine the winner.
26. When attending the Kansas State Fair, you enter an area where photography, audio, and video recording may occur. By entering the Fairgrounds, you consent to such recording media and its release to be used for news, telecasts, web casts, promotional purposes, advertising, social media, and websites. You further waive all rights you may have to any claims in connection with publication *of these materials, regardless of the purpose or sponsoring of such publication.*
27. No duplicate samples for exhibition will be admitted in any class, with the following exception: duplicate exhibits from any one farm will be considered if the exhibits are from separate parcels of ground.

Department Rules:

1. Plants must have been in possession of exhibitor at least (60) sixty days prior to the Fair. You must identify the plant or flowers, including type, at the time of entry.
2. Cut flowers must have been grown by the exhibitor, except where noted.
3. Errors in naming will not disqualify, but judges will recognize correctness and accuracy of naming in consideration of an exhibit in a close competition.
4. Exhibitors shall furnish all vases or other containers necessary for the proper staging of their exhibit.
5. Collection consists of (5) five stems, unless otherwise specified.
6. All cut flower and arrangement containers must be able to hold water and not leak.

HINTS FOR ENTRIES IN FLORICULTURE

- Cut your flowers in the late afternoon the day before they are to be exhibited. Place the flowers immediately in water that has been set out in the garden all day. Some stems seal over immediately after cutting so cut stem under water. Cutting should be done at about 4:00 pm since at that time there is the greatest amount of sugar in the leaves; unless it is extremely hot weather, at which time cutting in the early morning is optimum. Keep flowers in water, in a cool, dark place overnight.
- To arrange, cut stems cleanly at an angle under water with a sharp knife and place them in water-filled container. Cut stems as long as possible. All foliage that is below the water line should be removed. Foliage should be clean; any broken or disfigured foliage or petals should be removed, as foliage and stems as well as blooms count in judging. It is better to have more stem and foliage than too little. All stems should be in proportion to the water.

SHIPPING:

SHIPPED ITEMS

Shipping charges on all exhibits must be prepaid. Packages should be addressed to: Kansas State Fair, ATTN: (*Fine Arts, Clothing, etc*) Department, 2000 N. Poplar, Hutchinson, KS 67502 and *must* arrive by August 23, 2026. A copy of your entry receipt should also be included in your package with your pre-registered items. Please make sure all items are labeled in a manner that can be removed before judging (a note attached by a rubber band, twist tie, masking tape, safety pin, etc.)

ITEMS TO BE RETURNED

Nonperishable item(s) will be shipped back at the exhibitor's request and expense after the fair and in its original packaging. **A Prepaid shipping label must be included with the original packaging, along with any special instructions.** Additional

insurance must be included on the Prepaid Shipping Label. KSF will not add additional value to any shipment.

Note: A prepaid shipping label may be purchased on usps.com. Attach the label to an email and send to melissa.zimmerman@ks.gov

New to Floriculture Department

Flowerpot Decorating - Youth- Division 500.2

Floral Photography-Division 501

2026 FLORICULTURE – GROUP “A” SEASONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Kansas State Fair General Rules must be followed by ALL exhibitors in addition to any department, division and class rules listed.

All work must be that of the exhibitor. A 15-minute allowance will be given if "touch up" is required on an exhibit prior to check-in. No exhibits may be assembled on the KSF premises. If such exhibit is a youth entry, youth must be present and are required to do the work. (Refer to Rule 5 & 6 in additional dept. rules)

YOUTH DIVISION

Division 500 - Junior Arrangement Show

Juniors are participants 18 or under as of January 1, current year.

**Premiums awarded for this division are 1st - \$7.00, 2nd - \$6.00 and 3rd - \$5.00.
Division Champion will be awarded \$10 Gift Card and a rosette.
(Not eligible for Grand/Reserve Champion Awards)**

Your choice of materials: fresh, dry or artificial. Accessories permitted in classes ****NOTE: Class 1-5 are exhibit classes. Class 6-14 must be in a clear container. If a youth decides to enter any other divisions, they cannot enter the same classes if they entered below.**

Exhibitors must identify plants and flowers, including type, at time of entry.

Class:

1. Happy 250th Birthday, America – Must be Patriotic Exhibit.
2. Celebrating Kansas.

Division 500.1 – Junior Cut Flowers

**Premiums awarded for this division are 1st - \$7.00, 2nd - \$6.00 and 3rd - \$5.00.
Division Champion will be awarded \$10 Gift Card and a rosette.
(Not eligible for Grand/Reserve Champion Awards)**

Class:

1. Cosmos – Collection
2. Marigolds – Collection of African
3. Marigolds – Collection of French
4. Ornamental Grasses – Named & Tagged
5. Petunias – Collection
6. Sunflowers – Any Variety
7. Wildflowers – Named & Tagged
8. Zinnia – Collection
9. Other Than Listed – Not specified, named and tagged

Division 500.2 – Youth Flowerpot

Juniors are participants 18 or under as of January 1, current year.

**Premiums awarded for this division are 1st - \$7.00, 2nd - \$6.00 and 3rd - \$5.00.
Division Champion will be awarded \$10 Gift Card and a rosette.
(Not eligible for Grand/Reserve Champion Awards)**

- Make a decorated flowerpot Critter, Creature, Person or Face, using 1 or more plastic or clay flowerpots.
- No identifying marks or pictures with the pot.
- Decorated pots must be done by the child.
- No props or support permitted.
- Maximum space allowed is "15" wide or 15" deep. No height limit.
- Entries will be accepted with or without a plant.

Class:

1. Youth Ages 5 – 7
2. Youth Ages 8 – 10
3. Youth Ages 11 – 13
4. Youth Ages 14 – 18 * See Age Rules.

In Honor of America's 250th Birthday, please submit a Patriotic Entry!!!

ADULT DIVISIONS

Grand Champion will be awarded \$25 and Reserve Grand Champion a Gift Certificate. Both will receive rosette. Divisions include 502, 503, 550, 552.



Division 501 – Floral Photography

Additional Photography Division/Classifications are listed in the Fine Arts Department Handbook

**Premiums awarded for this division are 1st - \$10, 2nd - \$7. 3rd - \$5.
Division Champ will receive \$25.00 a rosette.**

Sweepstakes Winner – Sweepstakes Winner is determined the highest collective judging points within a division, will receive \$10.00 gift card and ribbon.

Come "Celebrate Kansas" with photographs that capture the beauty of our State.

**Photography formatting for the Kansas State Fair is not always the same as your County Fair requirements.
Any item not following the State Fair requirements will not be accepted at check in.**

Basic editing is allowed, cropping only. No adding of other objects to the original image.
No solid mats with photo adhered to middle, top or edges. * 4H must cut down mats.
Dry mount or on an 8" x 10" foam board is recommended - but not required.

ONLY 8" x 10" photos will be accepted. A matted photo will be allowed in an 11" x 14" mat. Photos must remain at the original 8" x 10" size. Photos must be securely mounted in pre-cut opening mat (not poster board). Hangers will be provided. ***NO FRAMES. MAT MUST BE WHITE.

No collages.

Print MUST BE on photo paper. **Not Metallic.**

No adding or subtracting items within photos. No photoshopping!

Ask yourself, if we showed your photo to a thousand people, where would their eyes go first?

No Canvas Photos

***Photo must be securely mounted to mat. Mats that come unattached from photos will be removed from display. White Matting ONLY – Colored mats will be disqualified.**

Class

1. Fall/Harvest – Color Only - Black & White photos will not be accepted.
2. Spring/Flowers – Color Only – Black & White photos will not be accepted.
3. Summer/Gardens - Color Only - Black & White photos will not be accepted.
4. Sunflower(s) – Color Only – Black & White photos will not be accepted.
5. US Flag in Your Yard – Color Only – Black & White photos will not be accepted.

Division 502 – Plants

**Premiums awarded for this division are 1st - \$7.00, 2nd - \$6.00, 3rd - \$5.00.
Division Champion will be awarded \$20.00 and a rosette.**

Sweepstakes Winner - determined by the individual with the highest collective judging points in 1 – 11, will receive \$10.00 gift card and ribbon.

Exhibitors must identify plants and types at time of entry.

Class

1. African Violet
2. Asparagus Fern (Sprengeri, Plumosus, Foxtail & Others)
3. Begonia
4. Cacti or Succulent
5. Geranium
6. Hanging Baskets
7. House Vine Plant
8. Sanseveria (Snake Plant)
9. Specimen House Plant
10. Sun Coleus (pots)
11. Other Than Listed - Plant not Specified.

Division 503 – Seasonal Arrangements

**Premiums awarded for this division are 1st - \$7.00, 2nd - \$6.00, 3rd - \$5.00.
Division Champion will be awarded \$20.00 and a rosette.**

Sweepstakes Winner - determined by the individual with the highest collective judging points in Classes 1 – 14, will receive \$10.00 premium and ribbon.

Accessories are permitted. All accessories and extra pieces must be attached to the main

arrangement. Arrangements are not to exceed 26" in height. Flowers may be artificial or real. Exhibitor must identify plants and flowers, including type, at time of entry. Wreaths must have hanger attached.

The exhibitor may make suggestions to the Fair employee regarding how they want the exhibit positions, including which direction it faces. The employee may request assistance from the exhibitor.

Class:

1. Celebrate Kansas *Must include Sunflowers.
2. Fall
3. Garden Season *Must include a garden tool
4. New Years
5. Religious, suitable for altar or worship center; fresh, dry or artificial
6. Spring
7. Summer
8. Thanksgiving
9. 4th of July – Happy 250th Birthday, America.
10. Winter - made of dried material in their natural color. Arranged in suitable containers.
11. Arrangements – Other than listed.
12. Wreaths - made of burlap ribbon with artificial flowers. Wreaths not to exceed 24".
13. Wreaths - Farmhouse Style - made with fresh, dry or artificial flowers. Wreath not to exceed 24".
14. Wreaths - Other Than Listed

Division 504 – The Mini

Premiums awarded for this division are 1st - \$20.00, 2nd - \$10.00 and 3rd - \$5.00. People's Choice Award will win a \$10.00 gift card.

Judging will end on Wednesday, September 10 at noon.

(This Division is not eligible for Grand/Reserve Champion Awards)

Have fun and be creative with a miniature garden in a container.

Rules:

- Must be a living miniature garden.
- Must be portable. – You must be able to carry your garden from your car to the display area and back to your car.
- Your miniature garden shall be planted, assembled, and decorated by the entrant, not purchased pre-made.
- All standard KSF rules apply.

Class

1. Best Miniature Garden in Container

Division 506– Planted Wheelbarrow

Premiums awarded for this division are 1st - \$20, 2nd - \$15, 3rd - \$10.

- **Wheelbarrows must be lined with black plastic to prevent leakage.**
- **Must have no more than ten (10) and no less than five (5) of your favorite plants.**
- **Exhibitors must identify plants and flowers, including type, at the time of entry.**

Will be judged on quality, quantity, variety, and general appearance.

(This division is not eligible for grand/reserve champion).

Class

1. Planted wheelbarrow

2026 FLORICULTURE – GROUP “B” SPECIMENS & COLLECTIONS

GROUP "B" SPECIMENS & COLLECTIONS

Division 550 – Garden Flower Arrangements

Premiums awarded for this division: 1st - \$7, 2nd - \$6, 3rd - \$5.

Division Champion will be awarded \$10 Premium and a rosette.

Sweepstakes Winner - determined by the individual with the highest collective judging points in in Classes 1 – 24, will receive \$10.00 Gift Card and ribbon.

Fresh materials only. Accessories permitted.

Exhibitors must identify plants and flowers, including type, at time of entry.

Class

1. All materials from Herb or Vegetable Garden
2. . Any white flowers. Must be displayed in white or clear glass containers provided by exhibitor. Greenery permitted.
3. Barnwood
4. Celebrating Kansas
5. Christmas Table
6. Dahlias, Suitable for small table
7. Happy 250th Birthday, America - Mixed Flowers Bouquet
8. Fall Dinner Table - Fruits, vegetables, flowers or a combination
9. Farmhouse
10. Flowers and Foliage in Homemade Container
11. Galvanized Metal Container
12. Gray plant material as background & 1 color or brilliant flower or flowers
13. Mantel Decoration - not to exceed 12" in height
14. Miniature, Flowers - No shorter than 2" or taller than 6"
15. Patio or Family Room
16. Patriotic
17. Pitcher of Flowers - arranged for effect
18. Prima Donna - use one flower and foliage
19. Roses - arranged for dinner table. Other foliage permitted
20. Rustic
21. Succulent

Division 552 – Specimens and Collections

**Premiums awarded for this division: 1st - \$7, 2nd - \$6, 3rd - \$5.
Division Champion will be awarded \$10 Premium and a rosette.**

Sweepstakes Winner - determined by the individual with the highest collective judging points in Classes 1 – 24, will receive \$10.00 Gift Card and ribbon.

Accessories permitted. Fresh materials only.

Exhibitors must identify plants and flowers, including type, at time of entry.

Class

1. Asters - Collection of stems
2. Cannas - 2 to 5 stem, single container
3. Chrysanthemums - Collection, any variety
4. Cockscomb - Crested; One stock
5. Cockscomb - Mixed varieties and color
6. Cosmos - Collection
7. Dahlias - 5 different varieties, named & tagged
8. Dahlias - Best large single, named & tagged
9. Dahlias - Collection of Pompon
10. Gladioli - 1 to 5 stems, single container
11. Marigolds - African; Single
12. Marigolds - Collection of African stems
13. Marigolds - Collection of French stems
14. One Rose - named & tagged
15. Petunias - 5 stems of different varieties
16. Roses - Collection of five different varieties, named & tagged
17. Snapdragons - Collection of stems
18. Wild Grasses and Wildflowers - 5 or more different varieties, named and tagged
19. Zinnia - one Large
20. Zinnias - Collection of large variety
21. Zinnias - Collection, Pompon or small variety 2" or smaller
22. Other Than Listed - Flower; 5 stems of one variety, named & tagged

Thank You to our Sponsors:

- Walmart, - Hutchinson
- Dillons Floral Dept. – Hutchinson
- Photography Society of America

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact the Department Manager or phone our Competitive Exhibits Dept. @ 620-669-3621