

# The NACTA Crops Contest

## A Capstone Experience for Program Assessment and CCA Exam Preparation

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### NACTA Contest Overview

- Sponsor: North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA)
- Held at campus locations each April (Texas Tech Univ. April 3-5, 2013)
- Crops contest is one of 6-10 total contest areas (also a soils contest)
- Includes both 2-year and 4-year college divisions (400+ contestants)



### Crops Contest Components

- Plant and Seed Identification
- Written Exam
- Lab Practical
- Math Practical

### Contest Content References

- International Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Performance Objectives
  - Nutrient Management
  - Soil and Water Management
  - Pest Management
  - Crop Management
- Review course work completed in typical agronomic curricula



### Kansas State's Involvement

- Over 20 year history of participation
- Senior students try out for the team
- Practice 4-6 hours/week spring term
- Credit course available if desired
- CCA exam taken following contest

#### Average CCA Exam Scores 2012 K-State Agronomy Seniors

|                              | International CCA Exam Score | Kansas CCA Exam Score |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| NACTA Contest Students (n=7) | 91.4%                        | 85.0%                 |
| Non-NACTA Students (n=9)     | 84.2%                        | 79.5%                 |

All students participated in a two-night CCA workshop conducted by departmental faculty

### NACTA Crops Team Benefits

- Agronomy capstone experience
- Student learning assessment tool
- Students learn about agricultural and cultural diversity during travel
- Personal and team recognition



Link to detailed contest rules at: [www.nactateachers.org](http://www.nactateachers.org)

Link to CCA performance objectives at:

[www.certifiedcropadviser.org/exams/icca-performance-objectives](http://www.certifiedcropadviser.org/exams/icca-performance-objectives)

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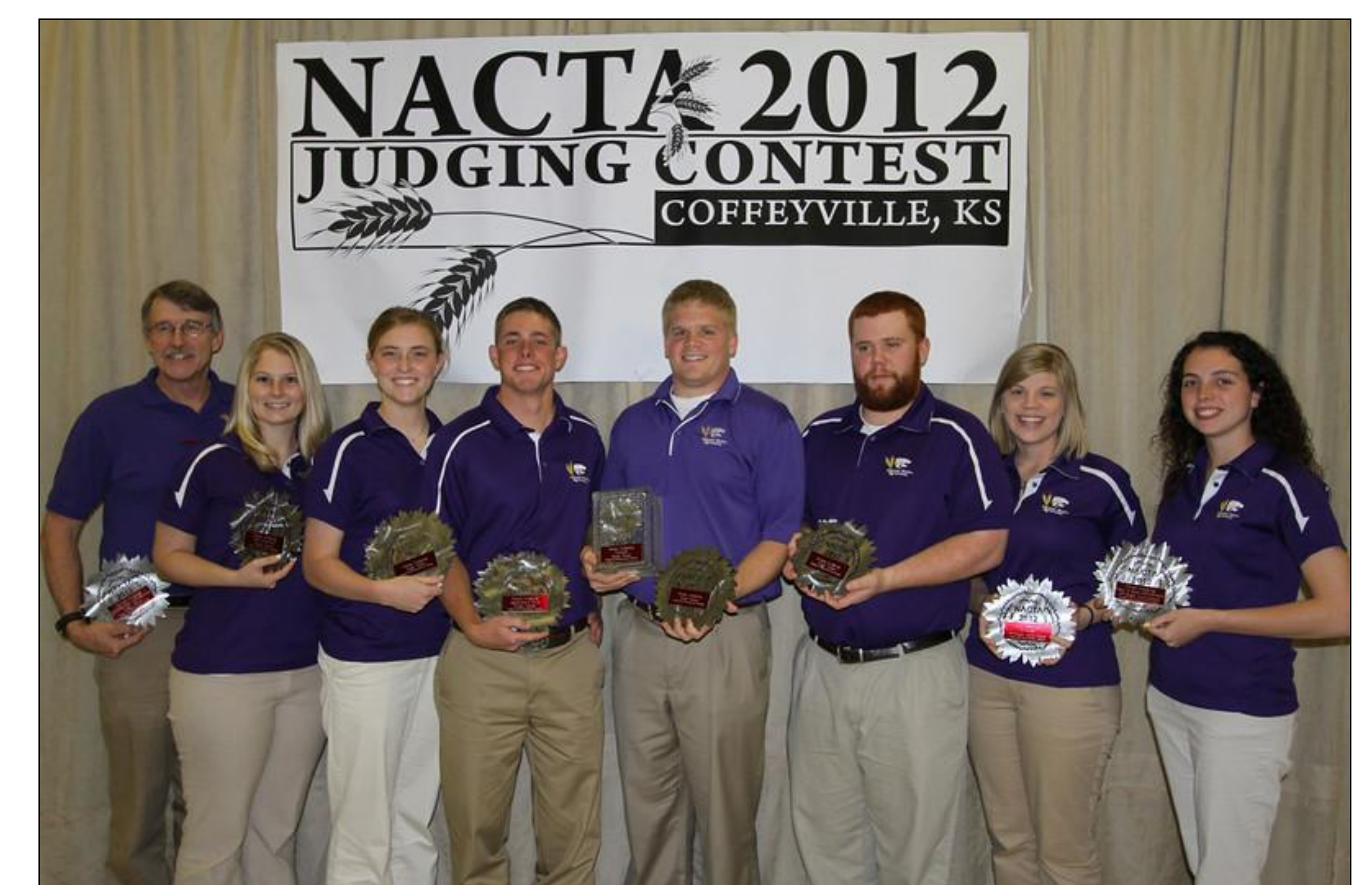
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### Student Testimonials

Jessica: "The best activity I participated in during college was competing on the NACTA Crops Team. It was a perfect way to bring together everything that I had learned."

Bryson: "By reviewing notes and exams from past classes, as well as other material for the contest, I was able to refresh my memory of agronomic areas that I had become familiar with over the past four years, and it helped me recognize areas that I needed to improve upon. Preparing for the NACTA contest also allowed me to get equally prepared for the CCA exam that I took the following week."

Kim: "I really enjoyed preparing for and participating in the NACTA competition. It was fun to apply the knowledge I had gained from all my agronomy courses and compete against other students. Studying for NACTA also helped me prepare for the CCA exam because the content is similar."



### Conclusion

Participating in the NACTA contest, linked with departmental support for seniors to take the CCA exam, has provided a useful undergraduate program assessment tool and enhanced student learning outcomes.

