



June 5-9, 2024
It's A Barnyard Mardi Gras
35th District Agricultural Association



Floriculture

Roses, Succulents & Perennials – Oh My!

The beautiful Floriculture exhibit features a variety of amazing floral and plant displays, plus additional creative arrangements that are sure to surprise and please Fairgoers! Whether you are a gardener, simply have a love for fresh flowers or are looking to take in the beautiful landscapes and arrangements, there is something for everyone at this year's Floriculture Exhibit – and more interactive activities than ever!

“Chopped Gone Floral” FFA Floral Arrangement Competition

A play on the popular Food Network's reality cooking show “Chopped,” nine FFA competitors will receive a box with undisclosed elements and all must be used to construct an award-winning floral arrangement. Competitors are given 45 minutes to create their masterpiece. Competition is held on Friday, June 7 at 7:00 p.m.

NEW! “Small Engine” FFA Competition

Three high school teams, with two top 5 high schools in the nation (Golden Valley and Atwater High) will compete in the Small Engine Competition! Teams will compete in two classes, Trouble Shooting – where they fix an engine to get it up and running; and Timed Tear Down – to see who can get the engine teared down in the quickest time. And now, family and friends can watch the competition take place! Competition will be held on Saturday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m.

NEW! The Power of Plants

Plants surround us in our everyday lives...but do you know how much power plants really have? Visit this NEW visual display in the Floriculture Building and engage your senses while you learn how plants have supported the planet, our ancestors and us today in so many ways.

“Bee Theater” is Back!

Do you know how bees communicate? They come into the hive and do a dance; the different dances signal different locations of nectar to help direct the hive. This is witnessed in one of the videos through small cameras placed on the backs of the bees to give you a rare glimpse into the hustle and bustle of a beehive!

Continuing to build awareness of the importance of bees and how you can help curb their decline, the Fair will be showing five of the top bee documentaries in the popular “Bee Theater!” “Bees are vital to our survival....to our ability to grow the nation's food supply. This is our way to contribute to the educational push while providing Fairgoers a nice spot to sit down and relax,” said Bunnie Becker, Floriculture Building Superintendent

Live Beehive Display

Mother and Son team – Erich and Diana Delmas – will be at the fair with their actual live beehive, giving you a glimpse into the incredible world of bees.

Garden in a Wheelbarrow

Don't have much green space? No problem! See how exhibitors transform an ordinary standard-sized wheelbarrow into a lush garden. The exhibition classes will include themes of “Ready for Mardi Gras Parade” – exhibitors' choice and “Lively” – exhibitors' choice.



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Amateur Gardens

Gardening is a therapeutic activity for anyone to enjoy! This year's floriculture Amateur Gardens features two themes: "Bourbon Street" – a lively porch 'influenced' by Bourbon Street in New Orleans; "Jefferson Island" – a quiet romantic garden influenced by Jefferson Island in Louisiana.

Professional Gardens

Sit back, relax and enjoy the view! This year's floriculture Professional Gardens inspires contestants to create an upscale patio for entertaining in the theme of "New Orleans." These gardens are incredible and make you feel like you've transported to a New Orleans itself!

Dried/Silk Arrangements

These arrangements are far from ordinary and provide a unique twist on fresh arrangements that wilt. This year's categories feature "Oh Feathers" and "Sweet Magnolia," the latter of which must include branches and flowers. Discover how creative Merced County exhibitors really are when strolling through the gardens!

Decorated Wreath or Swags

These decorations must include an amount of dried, silk or fresh flowers or foliage. Exhibitors will be provided a plain white door to best create a decoration in the themes "Throws" and "Colors of Mardi Gras" that actually hangs on the door!

Wind Chimes

Enjoy the beautiful sounds of wind chimes outside your window. This year's Wind Chimes theme is "Bon Appetit."

Window Boxes

Lighten up your windows with a colorfully planted window box! This year's theme is "Allons Manger!" – meaning "Let's eat!" influenced of Cajun or French Café

"Each year our exhibitors continue to impress us with their incredibly beautiful and creative entries. Gardening is a true art that takes time and practice to perfect...here in Merced County we have some of the most talented 'garden artists.' You don't want to miss the chance to come marvel at their works of art on display this year."

- Bunnie Becker, Floriculture Building Superintendent