

2021 Southern Weed Science Society Summer Weed Contest

COVID19 Safety Guidelines

Corteva Agriscience – South Farm Research Center

Objective & Intent:

Corteva Agriscience and the Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS) understand the severity and concerns the global pandemic presents to volunteers and contestants at the Weed Contest event. Given the large number of people in attendance, it is the intent of Corteva and SWSS to create guidelines and safety measures to ensure the safety for all involved. At any point if Corteva Agriscience or the SWSS Board feel a safe event cannot occur, the contest will be cancelled and postponed till 2022.

Overview of Process for Communication with SWSS, Coaches, and Volunteers of Guidelines:

- SWSS Weed Contest Safety Guidelines document will be reviewed by SWSS Board. It will be developed by the Corteva Agriscience Environmental, Health, and Safety group based upon best available procedures for outdoor events with large groups that follows CDC recommendations.
- The Safety Guidelines document once approved will be emailed to the SWSS Membership. Team coaches are encouraged to seek approval by authorized University administration prior to team registration for the contest. This creates awareness, accountability, and ownership of said Safety Guidelines for each respective University Team.
- There will be frequent and continual review (by Corteva and in consultation with SWSS) of the overall COVID19 pandemic situation in the U.S. with emphasis on states in the SWSS region to monitor potential outbreaks to restrict volunteers or teams travel that could create an unwanted spreader event. This is the discretion of Corteva Agriscience EH&S COVID19 Travel protocol.

Key Measures to be Enacted at the Event Site:

It is the sole responsibility for all volunteers, coaches, and contestants to adhere to the following guidelines for well-being, especially traveling to the event, at the hotel of choice, while eating outside of the event timeframe, and while traveling back to their place of residence. The following guidelines only pertain to the safety of those in attendance of the Contest Events on August 3rd, 2021 from 7am to 4pm CST.

- Currently, there will be NO orientation meal or Awards Banquet in accordance with COVID19 prevention guidelines. Following the end of all events and score analysis a virtual awards ceremony will be scheduled to announce winners of events. Awards (Individual and Team Plaques, monetary awards, score sheets, and Broken Hoe trophy) will be mailed after the virtual announcements.
- Breakfast is on-your-own prior to arrival at contest site.
- Per Corteva event guidelines, while under the threat of COVID19 no more than 10 individuals (volunteers and contestants) will be located at one event site (an appropriate distance will always be maintained between all 10 person groups).

- Due to event group size limitations and in order to provide a safe contest, the number of graduate level contestants from a University (team members including alternates) will be limited to six students (4 person team plus 2 alternates). Only 1 undergraduate team of a maximum number of 6 members will be allowed per University.
- A strictly required health check-in with PPE wearing volunteers will be conducted as participants arrive on site. All participants temperature must be below 99.5 Fahrenheit measured and documented and answer a health survey (could be an online QR code generated and archived results).
- Masks will be mandatory once participants arrive and be worn at all times outside vehicles. Extra masks, gloves, etc. will be made available by Corteva.
- All events will be hosted outdoors with plenty of shaded cover provided (tents, awnings, covered sheds). Where applicable, cooling down sites (electric fans and in extreme overheating cases air conditioned vehicles or buildings will be available if needed).
- Iced waters/drinks will be available at tour trailers and event sites. One PPE outfitted volunteer will dispense beverages.
- Upon entry to the Corteva Research Center a strict adherence to the **6 ft separation** spacing between volunteers, coaches, and contestants at all times, regardless of whether riding trailers, at each event site, eating lunch, etc. Willingly or excessively ignoring safe distancing could result in removal from the contest site and forfeiture from the event. Should a team participant be evicted for violation, an alternate team member will be used to substitute the missing scoring values.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at multiple locations:
 - Entrance/Exit to the Corteva Research site
 - On tour trailers
 - At each individual event site
 - Bathrooms
 - Lunch pickup site
- Sanitizer wipes will be available and recommended to be used at bathrooms and covered lunch areas (tables, chairs, etc).
- Multiple bathrooms will be provided near all event sites with soap, water, towels, and sanitization wipes provided.
- At event sites such as team calibration/mystery event where there will be materials used between individuals or teams a sanitization wipe down will occur between each team cycle by volunteers. An attempt to limit such situations will be a high priority.
- All tour trailers will be of sufficient length to provide 6 ft separation between individuals. Orderly loading and unloading of the trailer so distance is maintained is expected.
- At each event site tents will be provided in order to maintain the appropriate 6 ft separation.
- Boxed lunch will be provided by Corteva and hand delivered by specific volunteers who will wear appropriate PPE. There will be multiple lunch areas that will be located under a cover/shade and with proper 6 ft spacing mandated and observed by volunteer(s). Depending on the number of contestants/teams, lunches will be spread out in order to maintain a limited number of individuals at the lunch site. Lunch will be delivered to volunteers at event sites (again by PPE wearing volunteers).
- Upon completion of all events the contestants are asked to exit the premises and not socialize in the parking lot. Once off the premises it is up to each individual or respective University coach to provide a safe environment.