
LIVESTOCK JUDGING



OBJECTIVES

Targeted Life Skills: self-esteem, decision making, problem solving, critical thinking, communication, cooperation, and teamwork

This activity will train 4-H members in live animal evaluation of breeding and market animals. In their training prior to the annual state contest, the 4-H'ers should learn the parts of each of the four species which they are to be evaluated: beef cattle, sheep, swine, and goats. They should also learn breed differences within the species. 4-H members should learn to make their own decisions based upon the best available information. Experience is given in developing their speaking ability through the use of oral reasons and critical thinking skills through a questions class. The oral presentation justifies the contestant's placement of the class and can be the most beneficial part of the contest. Individuals and teams are encouraged to compete in livestock judging contests as they are available for additional training prior to the state contest.

ACTIVITY

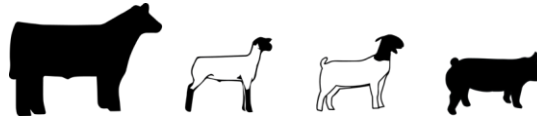
The State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest will be held Thursday, April 29, 2021 in Barton Coliseum at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds in Little Rock. **All teams and individuals must be registered via Judging Card by their County Extension Agent by April 22, 2021. The fee for teams is \$75 and the fee for individuals is \$20.**

Registration will be from 9-9:45 a.m. the day of the contest. Contestants should be in the stands by 9:45 a.m. for announcements about the contest. The contest will start as close to 10 a.m. as possible. Once contestants are finished evaluating classes they will go back to the stands for the questions class. Scantrons will be collected at the end of the questions class and a short lunch break will be given to contestants before reasons start. Contestants are not allowed to leave the designated areas during the break.

After the last scantron is collected, scores will be calculated and coaches will be handed a slip of paper with their team and individual scores for them to check for errors. Coaches will have 15 minutes for error disputes. Once scores have been finalized, the awards ceremony will start.

Note: Only contest officials, agents, and leaders assigned to the contest will be allowed on the arena floor during the livestock judging contest. Classes may be reviewed after the contest is complete.

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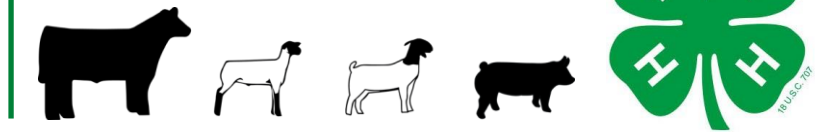
ELIGIBILITY

- The contest is open to Junior and Senior 4-H members.
 - Juniors must be 9-13 years old.
 - Junior members are youth aged 9-13 as of January 1.
 - Seniors must be 14-19 years old.
 - Senior members are youth who are 14 as of January 1 and who have NOT reached their 19th birthday by January 1 of the current year. *Example: If a 4-H'er is 18 on January 1 and turns 19 on January 2, they are eligible to compete because they were 18 on January 1. If a 4-H'er turns 19 on December 31, they are ineligible to compete because they were 19 as of January 1.*
- For a county to be eligible for team competition, it must have at least three entries. A county may enter four individuals, but only the top three scores will count toward the winning team.
 - A county may only enter one junior and one senior team.
 - A county may enter an unlimited number of individuals.
- Individuals from counties that do not have a team will be placed on a mixed team, as geographically close as possible, in order for them to be eligible for team awards.

METHOD OF CONDUCT

1. Contestants should be prepared to place 8-12 classes of beef cattle, swine, sheep, and goats. (The final class number and selection will be based upon availability of suitable animals.)
2. Oral reasons will be required. Contestants in the Junior Division will give two sets of reasons. Contestants in the Senior Division will give three sets of reasons. (The final number of reasons classes may change by contest officials depending on classes available.)
 - Contestants should not use notes while delivering oral reasons.
3. One class will serve as a questions class. Both the Junior and Senior Division contestants will participate in the questions class. Contestants will be asked specific questions pertaining to one class designated by the contest officials.
 - Contestants are not allowed to use notes while answering questions.

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4. At least one class will have a set of evaluation data and a production situation statement.
5. Contestants shall not wear any clothing that will reveal what county they are from.
6. Contestants are highly encouraged to wear khakis and a blazer. No T-shirts or hats are to be worn during the contest.
7. All electronic devices are prohibited. If a contestant's phone should ring, or if they are discovered using an electronic device during the contest, the contestant will be disqualified.
8. Contestants will be divided into groups for the contest and will remain with their assigned group throughout the contest and the delivery of oral reasons.
9. While the contest is in progress, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by contest officials. Offending contestants may be disqualified.
10. Contestants will be provided a scantron and blank paper before the contest. Contestants should bring pencils and a clipboard.

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

A committee of judges shall place all classes, listen to oral reasons, and come up with questions. One judge will listen to one specific set of reasons for all contestants in that category (2 for juniors and 3 for seniors).

DETERMINATION OF RANKINGS

- Fifty (50) points shall constitute a perfect score for placing classes, reasons, and questions.
- Teams and individuals shall be ranked in order of total score (placings, reasons, and questions) for the classes comprising each species or award category. The team or individual having the highest score shall be declared the winner in each category of the contest.
- In case of a tie in team or individual overall scores, ties will be broken in the following manner:
 1. Higher total reasons score
 2. Higher total questions score

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3. Lower total placing score in reasons class

- In the case of a tie in team or individual scores within species or category, ties will be broken in the following manner:
 1. Higher total reasons and/or questions score within species/category
 2. Higher total reasons score overall
 3. Higher total score overall
- In the case of a tie in team or individual reasons scores, ties will be broken in the following manner:
 1. Lower placing score in reasons classes
 2. Higher total overall score
- The scores tabulated via the scantron machine, reviewed by contest officials, and team coaches and submitted to Judging Card shall be final once they have been publicly announced.

RESOURCES

For examples of past contest materials as well as a scantron, please visit

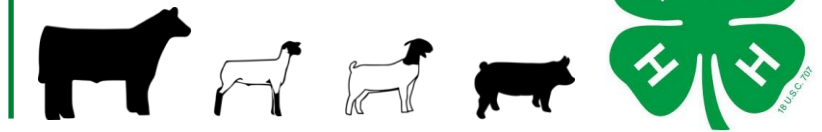
<https://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth/activities-programs/animal-poultry-science-original.aspx>.

AWARDS

The following awards will be given in both the Junior and Senior Divisions.

- 1st-5th Overall Team
- 1st-5th Overall High Point Individual
- 1st-3rd Place Cattle Team
- 1st-3rd Place Cattle Individual
- 1st-3rd Place Swine Team
- 1st-3rd Place Swine Individual
- 1st-3rd Place Sheep Team
- 1st-3rd Place Sheep Individual
- 1st-3rd Place Goat Team
- 1st-3rd Place Goat Individual
- 1st-3rd Place Reasons Team
- 1st-3rd Place Reasons Individual

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National trips for the Senior Division:

- Overall 1st Place Team
 - National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky (stipend provided by Animal Science Department)
 - American Royal 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Kansas City, Missouri
 - AKSARBEN 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Grand Island, Nebraska
- Overall 2nd Place Team
 - Western National Round Up 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Denver, Colorado
 - AKSARBEN 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Grand Island, Nebraska
- Overall 3rd Place Team
 - AKSARBEN 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Grand Island, Nebraska

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