

# Livestock Judging Contest

## I. Objectives:

- A. Learn to evaluate livestock based on knowledge and fact; make a decision and defend that decision.
- B. Learn livestock terms which can be used in a logical systematic way to defend the placing.
- C. Gain confidence in your ability and use of the English language by giving oral reasons to a judge.
- D. Learn to speak clearly, decisively and convincingly through the use of oral reasons.
- E. Teach youth good conformation, breed character and important marketing requirements in the different species.

## II. Eligibility:

- A. Each contestant must have reached his/her 9<sup>th</sup> birthday on or before January 1 of the current year and must not have reached his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to January 1 of the current year.
- B. Junior division is open only to those youths who have not reached their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday before January 1 of the current year.
- C. Senior Division is open only to those youth who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday as of January 1 of the current year and who have not reached their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday as of January 1 of the current year.
- D. Individuals who have enrolled in a post secondary university, college, junior college or technical institute beyond the first semester or quarter of the current year are not eligible for participation.
- E. Individuals who have participated in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, as team members or as alternates, are not eligible to compete in 4-H Livestock Judging activities in North Carolina.

## III. Rules & Regulations:

- A. Each County may enter an unlimited number of senior and/or junior teams and individuals. Counties must designate teams and individuals by age categories -- Senior or Junior Divisions. Those agents that are responsible for more than one county and are working with youth in those respective counties may enter those youth as a county team. However, the team name must list the counties in which the youth represented on the team reside.

- B. The entry form must be completed in its **entirety and postmarked by the deadline date** before it will be accepted for registration purposes.
- C. A team will consist of 3 or 4 club members. The team score will be a total of the 3 high individual scores of the designated team.
- D. Contestants will be divided into 4 groups for the contest. They will remain in these groups until reasons are completed.
- E. The **no-talking** rule will be strictly enforced. Contestants may not talk to each other. Questions for information or clarification of instructions should be directed to group leaders or officials. If contestants are caught talking or cheating, they will be removed from the contest.
- F. The format will be as follows:
  - 1. A total of 12 market and breeding classes of beef, swine, sheep and meat goats will be judged. Contestants compete in three divisions: placing classes, oral reasons, and questions. Performance data will be provided on at least one breeding class per species. The outlines for junior and senior divisions are shown below.

**Senior Class Divisions and Point Totals for the North Carolina  
4-H Livestock Judging Contest**

I. Placing Classes (600 points possible per 4-Her)

Twelve classes worth 50 points each are presented. At least three market classes (sheep, cattle, and swine) will be presented, with replacement female and bull classes comprising the remaining (each species represented at least once).

II. Oral Reasons (200 points possible per 4-Her)

Four sets of oral reasons are required of contestants: Two beef sets, one and one swine set (market or breeding).

III. Written Questions (100 points possible per 4-Her)

Two sets of questions (10 questions per set) worth 50 points per set will be asked verbally to contestants. Each question will count 5 points each.

**Total Points Per 4-Her - 900 points**

sheep

## Junior Class Divisions and Point Totals for the North Carolina 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

### I. Placing Classes (600 points possible per 4-Her)

Twelve classes worth 50 points each are presented. At least three market classes (sheep, cattle, and swine) will be presented, with replacement female and bull classes comprising the remaining (each species represented at least once)

### II. Oral Reasons (100 points possible per 4-Her)

Two sets of oral reasons are required of contestants: one beef set (one market or one breeding), one sheep or swine set (market or breeding).

### III. Written Questions (100 points possible per 4-Her)

Two sets of questions (10 questions per set) worth 50 points per set will be asked verbally to contestants. Each question will count 5 points each.

### **Total Points Per 4-Her - 800 points**

2. Twelve (12) minutes will be allowed for placing non-reasons classes. Fifteen (15) minutes will be allowed for placing and taking notes on reasons classes. At the conclusion of each class, a placing card will be handed in to the group leaders.
3. Where handling is permitted, fifteen seconds will be allowed for market lambs. Breeding classes of sheep and cattle will **not** be handled and may be shown loose in a pen or on halter.
4. Two minutes is the maximum time allowed for reasons. Use of notes will **not** be permitted. If data is provided on a reasons class, contestants should utilize the data in their reasons. Contestants should be prepared to answer questions on the reasons classes.
5. There will be separate groups of reason judges for seniors and juniors. The judges will be members of the official placing committee for the contest and will make the official placing while the contest is in progress. The official judges will discuss the classes after the reasons have been completed.

IV. **Awards:**

- A. The North Carolina State 4-H Livestock Judging Team will be selected from the high senior team and the top 10 senior individuals. These finalists will be invited to participate in 1 or more regional contests and the national contest. The coach of the high scoring senior county team will serve as the assistant coach of the State Team. The county team is expected to workout a minimum of two times per week in preparation for the National Contest. Partial funding will be available to help finance expenses obtained for the trips.
- B. The high scoring senior county team will receive a wall plaque which will hang in the County Cooperative Extension Office. Each team member will receive a plaque.
- C. The high scoring junior team will receive a wall plaque and individual plaques.
- D. The following properly inscribed plaques will be presented:

High Scoring Individual and Team --- Beef ----- Junior & Senior  
High Scoring Individual and Team --- Swine ----- -Junior & Senior  
High Scoring Individual and Team --- Sheep -----Junior & Senior  
High Scoring Individual and Team --- Meat Goats --Junior & Senior  
High Scoring Individual and Team --- Reasons ----- Junior & Senior  
High Individual and Team ----- Overall ----- --Junior & Senior

V. **Contact:**

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