

2024 OHIO STATE FAIR 4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST
Thursday, July 25

Check-In: 8:30 am – 9:30 am – *Voinovich Livestock Center Show Arena*
Contest Instructions: 10:00 am – *Voinovich Livestock Center Show Arena*
Judging Begins: 10:30 am – *Denny Hales Arena*
Awards Presentation – Following Contest Critiques in Voinovich

Entry Deadline – Monday, July 8th Via Qualtrics Survey
Checks Mailed In By July 8th (Postmark) - \$15.00 per Contestant.
Teams that register will be mailed limited parking admission for the Ohio State Fair.
Pre-Registration REQUIRED

SETH EBERT, Lecturer and Livestock Judging Coach, OSU ATI, Superintendent

MATTHEW CHANEY, Livestock Evaluation Coordinator, OSU Main, Superintendent

MACKENZIE DORE, Program Assistant, Ohio 4-H Animal Sciences, Superintendent

Note: Rule changes and/or additions are underlined.

GENERAL RULES:

1. All participants must be current 4-H members as of January 1, 2024.
2. Each JUNIOR contestant must either be 8 years of age and in the 3rd grade or 9 years of age in any grade as of January 1, 2024 and must not have passed his or her 13th birthday by January 1, 2024. (Therefore, youth turning 14 on or before December 31, 2023, must participate in the Senior Contest.)
3. Each SENIOR contestant must have passed his or her 14th birthday and cannot have passed his or her 19th birthday by January 1, 2024. (Therefore, youth turning 19 on or before December 31, 2023, are too old to participate.)
4. Contestants must not have participated in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest (i.e., North American International Livestock Exposition) to be eligible to compete.
5. Contestants must not have participated in or enrolled in official post-secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive events of a similar nature and in the same subject matter area. A competitive event is defined here as an event open to more than one educational institution (or its students) in which scores are kept and awards are offered to any or all participants. Neither shall a contestant have completed or be currently enrolled in a postsecondary course related to visual livestock and/or carcass evaluation.
6. Junior and senior teams, as well as all individuals, are eligible for awards. Each county may enter multiple teams.
7. A team must consist of a minimum of three and maximum of four members within the same age category.
 - a. When four members judge, the contestant with the lowest overall score will be designated as the alternate, however, s/he will still be eligible for individual awards.
 - b. If a county does not have enough members for a team, they may enter one or two individuals to compete for individual placings only or see rule 8 for cross-county information.
8. In both the Junior and Senior contests, cross-county teams are allowed to participate if one county does not have enough members to complete a team (less than 3 members). For cross-county teams:
 - a. Members must represent their true county of 4-H enrollment.
 - b. Members from one or more additional counties can make up a cross-county team.

Cross-county team members must be from neighboring counties with **touching borders**.

- c. One Extension professional from the county in which the team is registered must sign the registration form.
 - d. One Extension professional from the other county where the cross-county team member(s) is/are enrolled must provide enrollment documentation in the form of a letter attached to the team's registration form. This letter must be written on county Extension letterhead.
 - e. Documentation will be confirmed upon receipt of registration.
9. **Entries and payments for teams and individuals must be postmarked by Monday, July 8.** Entry fees are \$15.00 per contestant (no refunds). Limited parking admission will be mailed for the Ohio State Fair. **Pre-Registration required.**
10. A county Extension professional must sign each team's registration form.

CONTEST STRUCTURE AND RULES:

11. **The contest will be comprised of two divisions: Juniors and Seniors. Contestants will mark their placings on scantrons.**
- a. SENIORS will place up to eight classes (approximately two from each species) and are required to give four sets of oral reasons, which will all be included in the scoring for both team and individual awards. Reason sets will be determined the day of the contest by the superintending committee.
 - b. JUNIORS will place up to eight classes (approximately two from each species) and are required to give two sets of oral reasons, which will all be included in the scoring for both team and individual awards. The reason set will be determined the day of the contest by the superintending committee
 - c. JUNIORS will also answer two sets of questions. The questions will be predetermined by the superintending committee prior to the contest. Juniors will fill out a scantron with their answers to the questions while in front of the class of animals.
12. REASONS: If a youth has to rely on their notebook during the process of giving reasons, the maximum score that the youth can receive is 30 points.
13. The contest will be judged in two rounds, with an attempt to arrange four classes per round. Contest organizers will announce which classes will be questions classes and/or oral reasons classes the day of the contest.
- a. If there are market lamb and/or market goat classes, and the disposition of the animals allows, they may be presented in holding stands to be handled.
 - b. Performance data, expected progeny differences (EPDs), and/or scenarios may be provided for breeding classes. Genetic information such as Scrapie susceptibility, TH status, etc. may be included, if appropriate for the class.
14. Contestants are not permitted to wear any apparel (shirts, jackets, belt buckles, etc.) that distinguishes in any manner who they are or where they are from (i.e., individual's name, 4-H club or FFA chapter, county, etc.). Contestants are expected to wear appropriate apparel for the contest (at a minimum, jeans and collared shirts). Shorts, t-shirts, and hats are strongly discouraged.
- a. It is strongly discouraged for youth to wear jackets or blazers during the judging portion of the contest to prevent overheating.
15. Contestants are not permitted to have cell phones or any other electronic devices, including smartwatches, in their possession. If found with a cell phone or other electronic device during the contest, the contestant will be disqualified. Contestants may carry only plain paper/blank notebooks, a clipboard, and pencils or pens into the contest. **A clipboard is recommended for completing scantron sheets.**
16. Only officials, contest staff (group leaders, animal handlers, etc.), and contestants of the contest will be allowed on the floor of the arena. All others are required to have permission

- from the Superintendent to enter the contest arena. Coaches not assisting with the contest will be given the opportunity to briefly view the classes during the change-over of classes.
17. While the contest is in progress (including during lunch), there shall be no conferring between contestants, coaches, and anyone else, except as directed by the contest leaders. Any violation of this rule will be cause for immediate expulsion of offenders from the contest.

Seniors Only (18 & 19):

18. The **five** highest-scoring teams may be invited to represent Ohio 4-H at national or regional contests. This is dependent on university policy for youth team travel.

A full listing of contests will be made available to winning coaches after the contest is completed. A dollar amount may be designated per team for use for contest(s) attended but is not guaranteed. Any costs above the designated amount must be incurred by the team.

Available contests may include, but are not limited to:

- a. The American Royal, Kansas City, MO (usually held the last week in October)
- b. The National Western Roundup, Denver, CO (usually held the 1st Friday in January)
- c. The Keystone International Stockman's & Livestock Judging Contest, Harrisburg, PA (usually held the 1st weekend in October)
- d. The Southeastern Regional Livestock Judging & Skillathon Contest, Raleigh, NC (usually held the 1st weekend in November)
 - Can send up to three teams to this contest.
- e. Purdue Boilermaker Classic, West Lafayette, IN (usually held in mid-October)
 - No limit on the number of teams.

Selection Process:

- a. The first-place team can attend one contest. They will have the first choice from the available contest list.
- b. The second-place team can attend one contest. They will have the second choice from the available contest list.
- c. The third-place team may attend one contest. They will have the third choice from the available contest list.
- d. The fourth-place team may attend one contest. They will have the fourth choice from the available contest list.
- e. The fifth-place team may attend one contest. They will have the fifth choice from the available contest list.
- f. **All teams must come prepared to the state contest with their preferences for contests that they wish to attend. We will have a meeting immediately following the awards to discuss the contest choices.**

19. Ohio 4-H All-Star Team:

- a. This team will represent Ohio at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, KY.
- b. Funding for the all-star team will be supported by the Ohio 4-H Animal Sciences team.
- c. General Eligibility:
 - Contestants must have passed their 14th birthday and not passed their 19th birthday by January 1st of the current year.
 - Contestants must not have participated in any post-secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive collegiate livestock judging/evaluation contest/event at any level nor shall a contestant have completed or be currently enrolled in a post-secondary course primarily in visual livestock judging/evaluation.

- Anyone who participates in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest will not be allowed to exhibit or show a beef and/or sheep animal at NAILE.
 - Once a contestant participates at the NAILE, they are no longer permitted to participate in any state or national 4-H livestock judging competition
- d. Selection Process:
- The first-place team at the state contest will be allowed to represent the all-star team if all four members meet the requirements.
 - If the first-place team passes on the all-star team, the second-place team at the state contest will be allowed to represent the all-star team if all four members meet the requirements.
 - If the second-place team passes on the all-star team, the third-place team at the state contest will be allowed to represent the all-star team if all four members meet the requirements.
 - If the all-star team is not fulfilled within the first three teams in their entirety, the top three placing state team coaches alongside the Ohio 4-H Animal Sciences team may work together to form an all-star team with their team members and other members from the top 20 individuals who indicate interest.