

## 2016 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

COLUMBIA, Mo. – The University of Missouri Extension 4-H State Livestock Judging contest on Sept. 10 drew 166 competing 4-H members.

Working in partnership with volunteers from across the state and the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture Livestock Judging Team, the contestants were provided an opportunity to develop and hone their judging skills, and explore future career and educational options.

Youth involved with the livestock judging program develop key life skills to aid in their future career success. “Through involvement in a 4-H judging team members must make rapid, logical decisions and defend their decisions via oral reasons. Therefore, students improve their ability for critical thinking and accurate communication. In addition, students become organized and self-disciplined, learn to accept criticism, develop self-confidence and become leaders,” said Shane Potter, MU Extension 4-H youth development specialist. Alumni from the program have reported success in the livestock judging competition has translated to employment opportunities, internships and scholarships.

The 2016 contest included two age divisions: Junior for ages 8 – 13 and Senior for ages 14 – 18.

The top 10 junior competitors were Alex Kleinsorge of Montgomery County, first; Ethan Vanderwert of Boone County, second; Aaron Day of Clark County, third; Jadyn Lower of Cedar County, fourth; Brandon Overman of Barton County, fifth; Jared Milligan of Harrison County, sixth; Cole Taylor of Harrison County, seventh; Ethan Ball of Barton County, eighth; Lauren Crutsinger of Cape Girardeau County, ninth; and Madi Ridder of Franklin County, tenth. The top five junior teams represented the following counties: Cedar, first; Boone, second; Clark, third; Harrison, fourth; and Barton, fifth.

In the senior division, the top 10 individuals were Tanner Daugherty of Harrison County, first; Grayson Heath of Lawrence County, second; Audrey Martin of Linn County, third; Kortan Orth of Lincoln County, fourth; Lauren Parks of Linn County, fifth; Courtney Kaye of Lawrence County, sixth; Garrett Taylor of Harrison County, seventh; Mardee Sadowsky of Harrison County, eighth; Derek Strawn of Boone County, ninth; and Leo Hager of Cole County, 10th. The top five senior teams represented the following counties: Harrison, first; Lawrence, second; Linn, third; Lincoln, fourth; and Boone, fifth.

The members of the four championship senior teams will advance to national 4-H livestock judging contests held in the fall.

To find out more information or to join 4-H please visit [4h.missouri.edu](http://4h.missouri.edu).