

## 2017 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

COLUMBIA, Mo. – The University of Missouri Extension 4-H State Livestock Judging contest on Aug. 26 drew 136 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 2017 contest included two age divisions: Junior for ages 8 – 13 and Senior for ages 14 – 18.

The top ten 8-10 year old competitors were Marissa McEwen of Shelby County, first; Clayton Jennings of Boone County, second; Callan Wheeler of Clark County, third; Austin Day of Clark County, fourth; Jack Dunard of Franklin County, fifth; Hayden Birge of Callaway County, sixth; Andi Belt of Shelby County, seventh; Kallie Cloud of Jasper County, eighth; Selby Hulse of Marion County, ninth; and Callie Jennings of Boone County, tenth.

The top 10 junior competitors were Harrison Wepener of Bates County, first; Brayden Gast of Vernon County, second; Larissa Larrick of Shelby County, third; Jake Haines of Audrain County, fourth; Cole Murphy of Saline County, fifth; Kaitlin Kleiboeker of Lawrence County, sixth; Libby Shaver of Laclede County, seventh; Avery Wiegand of Randolph County, eighth; Meg Shively of Shelby County, ninth; and Logan Archer of Laclede, tenth. The top five junior teams represented the following counties: Shelby, first; Vernon, second; Laclede, third; Bates, fourth; and Boone, fifth.

In the senior division, the top 10 individuals were Wyatt Thompson of Boone County, first; Aaron Mott of Boone County, second; Mardee Sadowsky of Daviess County, third; Elise Bailey of Boone County, fourth; Reed Bruns of Lincoln County, fifth; Derek Strawn of Boone County and Matthew Meyer of Jasper County, tied for sixth; Caleb Hudson of Lincoln County, eighth; Payge Dahmer of Vernon County, ninth; and Lexi Plackemeier of Lincoln County, 10th. The top five senior teams represented the following counties: Boone, first; Lincoln, second; Jasper, third; Linn, fourth; and Vernon, 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).