

State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

General Contest Information

- Missouri 4-H State Livestock Judging Contest is open to all individually enrolled Missouri 4-H members 8-18 years old. There is no limit on the number of members a county may enter in the contest. Youth and coaches must register using 4-H Online.
- Participants and coaches must register through 4-H Online by the set deadline. No late registrations are accepted.
- After registration closes, youth and coaches will receive an informational email with all the details of the contest.
- Missouri 4-H receives registration payments by credit/debit card or check. 4-H Online will receive your payment using credit/debit card. If paying by check, send your payment to your County Extension Office. Check with your county 4-H staff for whom you should make the check payable to.
- No refund will be granted.
- Contest check in will open at 8 a.m. the day of the contest. Registered youth need to be checked in by 8:30 a.m. Contest starts at 9 a.m.
- Lunch will be provided for all contestants, coaches, and workers that register.
- **COMPONENTS:** The contest will consist of three components:
 - **8-12 Placing Classes:** Classes can consist of any combination of breeding and/or market classes within beef, swine, sheep, and goat species. Performance data and/or a production scenario may be incorporated into 1 or more of these classes. 50 points each.
 - **Reasons:** Juniors will deliver two sets. Seniors will deliver at least three sets. 50 points each.
 - **Questions:** Juniors and seniors will also complete a set of 10 questions (5 pts each, 50 points total) on one of the non-reasons classes.

Rules

- Any Missouri 4-H member that has competed at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) Livestock Judging Contest will be ONLY allowed to compete at the Missouri State Contest as an INDIVIDUAL. They will be eligible for Individual Awards; however, their scores will NOT be able to compete for any Team Awards. This including a team total score or the Missouri All-Star Team.
- Registration will be through your 4-H Online account and must be completed by the set deadline. No late registrations are accepted.
- While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between the contestants, or between contestants and anyone else except as authorized by the contest superintendent or their representatives.

- Approximately 12 minutes will be allowed for contestants to judge the classes, make observations, take notes, and fill out their score cards.
- No parents or coaches are allowed in the arena during the judging process or teams will automatically be disqualified.
- A small clipboard and/or notebook and pencil are essential tools at the judging contest and participants must bring their own. Notes should not be used when giving reasons, using the notes while giving reasons will result in score deductions at the discretion of the official. Scantron scoring software will be used. Prepared judging aids are not allowed.
- **AGE BREAKS:** Junior Division 8–13; Senior Division 14–18 as of Dec. 31 of the current 4-H program year
- Following the announcement of the official placings and cuts after the contest, all coaches will be given a printout of placings scores and questions scores for each contestant on their team or teams. Coaches will have 15 minutes to confirm the scores or address mistakes. Scantrons will be double checked in the event of an issue. Once the scoresheet is signed off on by the coach and turned back in to contest officials, those scores become final and cannot be changed or challenged.

Team Vs Individual Determination

- All individuals competing in the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest (Junior OR Senior division) must be registered one of two ways:
 1. Under a "County Team" (as defined below) **OR**
 2. As an "Individual Contestant"
- Upon registration, participants will select either "compete as an individual" or "compete on a team." If the team option is picked, they'll need to specify their team name and coach's name. A team code for scantron use will be assigned to their team.
- **"COUNTY TEAM" is defined as the formation of a team based on the member's primary county of 4-H enrollment or an adjoining county/counties where members are enrolled (primary county).**
 - The primary county must be designated and used to create a county team. Team members are determined by their primary county of enrollment. Teams may be formed from the primary county or a county that directly touches or adjoins the primary county.
 - *Example – A "Linn County" team consisting of 4 contestants from Linn County, 1 contestant from Sullivan County, and 1 contestant from Grundy County would be permissible.*
 - Teams can have up to six (6) individuals. The top THREE final scores on contest day will comprise the total team score.
 - If there are more than six (6) individuals working with a group, we recommend that a second team be created so that everyone can participate on a team.

- SPIN (Special Interest) club members are invited to compete but must be individually enrolled in Missouri 4-H. The primary county of enrollment will be used to determine your team eligibility.
- Multiple teams can exist from one county, there is no limit to the number of teams a county can bring, as long as each team follows the definition of a "county team" as explained above.
- Coaches must work with the 4-H State Agriculture Educator to confirm team rosters and team code prior to the contest.
 - If an extenuating circumstance occurs, a team member may be substituted by another team member prior to the start of the contest, but no additional members can be added after the registration deadline. (ex. The 4th team member can be replaced with a different youth, but a 5th member cannot be added.)

Scoring

- Overall individual scores are composed of points from placing classes, questions, and reasons.
- Team scores are determined by the top three (3) individual scores of a designated county team as defined above.
- If a county team qualifies for a national contest, that national contest team roster can consist of anyone that was on that team's roster at the State Contest (up to 6 members). The selection of four (4) team members who will compete on the floor at those national contests are at the discretion of the team coach.

State Prizes and Award Ceremony

- Prizes will be assembled by Extension staff in combination with an awards committee made up of coaches, volunteers, and 4-H leaders/staff.
- Prizes are TBA closer to contest date and are dependent on funding.
- Top 5 teams and top 10 individuals will be recognized in each of the Junior and Senior divisions. Team and individual awards and recognition on specific species and reasons are dependent on funding.
- The top 10 of the 8–10-year-old participants will also be recognized. Those individuals are still eligible for awards in the Junior (8-13) division.
- The Awards Ceremony will take place shortly after the contest in Trowbridge.