

Missouri 4-H State Poultry Judging Contest

General Contest Information

- Missouri 4-H State Poultry 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.
- **Age Breaks:** Junior Division 8-13; Senior Division 14-18 as of Dec. 31st of the current program year.
- 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 information email with 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 4-H staff for whom you should make the check payable to.
- No refund will be granted.
- Lunch will be provided for all contestants, coaches, and workers that register.
- 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.

Contest Components

- The contest will consist of the below components:
 - Production hens, market poultry, and market eggs will be graded on the basis of 100 points for a perfect score. Similarly, oral reasons for the production classes will be graded on the basis of 100 points for a perfect score.
 - In the production division, the scoring of the placings will depend on the 'cuts' between the hens and is based on the difficulty in separating each pair of hens.
 - There will be one (1) class of five (5) RTC broiler carcass grading, two classes of ten (10) RTC for the senior division and one class of ten (10) for the junior division, one class of ten (10) further processed poultry evaluations, and one class of ten (10) RTC parts identification.
 - There will be one class of ten (10) eggs for exterior quality and 1 class of ten (10) eggs for interior quality by candling.

Team vs Individual Determination

- All individuals competing in the State 4-H Poultry Judging Contest (Junior OR Senior division) must be registered in 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 2 contestants from Linn County, 1 contestant from Sullivan County, and 1 contestant from Grundy County would be permissible.*
 - Teams can have up to four (4) individuals. The top THREE final scores on contest day will comprise the total team score.
 - If there are more than four (4) 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.

Rules

- Ten (10) minutes will be allowed for each placing class. Also, a maximum of two (2) minutes will be allowed for each contestant for giving oral reasons. Contestants will shift to the next class only upon notification from the contest monitor. The broken out egg class will be judged at the end of the contest in groups assigned by the contest chairman.

Scoring

- For the five (5) RTC broiler carcasses, the possible grades are A, B, C, or No Grade. Each carcass or part is worth twenty (20) points. In scoring the class, six (6) points will be deducted for each grade separation line crossed between A-B and B-C. Eight (8) points will be deducted for crossing the C-No Grade line,
 - For example, if the correct answer was No Grade and contestant selected Grade B, six points would be deducted for crossing the B-C line and eight points for crossing the C-No Grade line, leaving the contestant with a score of six (6) points. If the correct answer was Grade C and Grade A was selected, six points would be deducted for crossing the A-B line and six points for crossing the B-C line, leaving the contestant with a score of eight (8) points. Twenty points will be deducted if a contestant fails to enter a grade for a carcass or more than one grade is entered.
- For the RTC parts grading classes of 10, the possible grades are A, B, C, or No Grade. Each part is worth ten (10) points. In scoring the class, three (3) points will be deducted for each grade separation line crossed between A-B and B-C. Four (4) points will be deducted for crossing the C-No Grade line.
 - For example, if the correct answer was No-Grade and the contestant selected Grade B, three points would be deducted for crossing the B-C line and four points for crossing the C-No Grade line, leaving the contestant with a score of three (3) points. If the correct answer was Grade C and Grade A was selected, three points would be deducted for crossing the A-B line and three points for crossing the B-C line, leaving the contestant with a score for four (4) points. Ten (10) points will be deducted if a contestant fails to enter a grade for a carcass or more than one grade is entered.
- For the further processed poultry evaluation class, each product is worth ten (10) points. There are five possible factors, and each factor is worth two (2) points. For each factor, the contestants are to indicate if it is present or not.

- For the RTC poultry parts identification, ten (10) points will be subtracted for each incorrect identification. If a contestant identifies less than ten (10) parts, a total of ten (10) points will be deducted for each unidentified part.
- For the exterior egg grading there will be one class of ten (10) eggs, each egg is worth ten (10) points. There are four possible grades – A, B, Dirty, and Loss. In scoring the exterior egg quality class, four (4) points will be deducted when the A and B grade separation line is crossed. Four (4) points will be deducted when the line between B and Dirty is crossed. Two (2) points will be deducted when the line between Dirty and Loss is crossed. Ten (10) points will be deducted if a contestant fails to enter a grade for an egg or more than one grade is entered for the same egg.
- For the egg candling class of 10 eggs, each egg is worth 10 points. The possible grades are AA, A, B, or Loss. In scoring the candled market egg class, two (2) points will be deducted for each grade separation line crossed except when the line between B grade and Loss is crossed; then six (6) points will be deducted. Ten (10) points will be deducted if a contestant fails to enter a grade for an egg or if more than one grade is entered for the same egg.
- Overall individual scores are composed of points from placing classes and reasons.
- Team scores are determined by the top three (3) individual scores of a designated county team as defined above.
- Tie-Breaking
 - Ties for overall, individual, or team will be broken using the following sequence:
 - Highest reasons score
 - Highest number of perfect scores
 - If ties cannot be broken by the first two procedures, a method will be decided upon by the contest officials.
- Team roster for the national contest can only consist of those youth that completed the state contest.

State Awards and National Recognition

- Prizes are TBA closer to contest date and are dependent on funding.
- Top 3 teams and top 5 individuals will be recognized in each of the Junior and Senior divisions in the judging contest. Team and individual awards and recognition on specific contest components and reasons are dependent on funding.
- The top 10 of the 8-10-year-old participants in the judging contest will also be recognized. Those individuals are still eligible for awards in the Junior (8-13) division.
- National Contest Qualifications
 - An All-Star Team will be formed and have the opportunity to represent Missouri nationally at the National Poultry and Egg Conference in Louisville, KY.

- The All-Star team is made up of, at minimum, the top four (4) highest placing youth (team or individual contest enrollment) from the senior division at the state contest. If one of those four youth is unable to attend the national contest, the next highest scoring youth will be contacted and so on down the scores until each of the slots are filled. The parents/guardians/coaches of the 1st and 2nd highest placing individuals will be asked to serve as the coach for the team. If they are unable to do, the other parents/guardians/coaches will be asked.