



NATIONAL WESTERN INVITATIONAL 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

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RULES AND REGULATIONS

Entry

Each state is invited to enter one 4-H and one FFA livestock judging team consisting of no more than four members. The three members with the three high scores will be counted for the team points; however, all individuals are eligible for individual awards. The team members will be selected in a manner determined by the state 4-H/FFA leader or advisor. The contestants must be approved by the state 4-H or FFA office. All entries must be submitted in accordance with the registration for the Western 4-H Roundup.

Contestants and Eligibility

I. Eligibility

- A. A State/territory/District of Columbia is allowed only one entry in only one division of a contest in a national 4-H competitive event each year. An entry is an individual, in the events where individuals compete against individuals only, or a team in events where total team scores are computed and recognition given to the team. Individuals may be recognized in those events that are primarily team events.
 1. Each state may enter only one (1) team of four (4) or five (5) contestants. One team member will be designated as alternate if five (5) are entered. Teams may be selected by any procedure, which the state deems appropriate.
 2. Teams may be selected by any means appropriate to the state they represent and must be certified as eligible by the State 4-H Leader.

- B. Entries not officially entered will not be permitted to participate for any reason.
- C. An individual may enter a National 4-H competitive event in a specific program area only once. Participating members of a team entry (even if they are designated alternate by low score) are ineligible to enter the same event again as a part of another team.
- D. The eligibility requirements to enter a National 4-H Competitive Event are:
 - 1. Contestant must already have passed his or her 14th birthday, and may not have reached his or her 19th birthday, as of January 1 of the year in which the National 4-H Competitive Event is held*. However, the State 4-H Leader may grant a special authorization to compete, for youth with developmental disabilities who exceed the upper age limit.
 - 2. All contestants must be members of 4-H in the state they are representing during the year in which the National 4-H Competitive Event is held.*
 - 3. The contestant(s) or team(s) of contestants must be certified as the official state entry by the State 4-H Leader or by a person designated by the State 4-H Leader. The individual(s) or team(s) may be selected by any procedure the State 4-H Leader believes is appropriate.
 - 4. The contestant, his or her county 4-H staff member, and the State 4-H Leader must certify as follows on the application form or an accompanying memo:
 - 5. State 4-H/FFA leaders or advisors are responsible for determining the eligibility of participants in the National Western Invitational 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging contest from their respective states, particularly those that have completed high school prior to the contest.
 - 6. Both 4-H and FFA entries must comply with the USDA Policies and Guidelines for entry for National Competitive Events. Contestants must be bona-fide 4-H club or FFA chapter members approved by the Extension Service of their respective states or their State FFA advisor. All teams must qualify for the national event through an approved state competition or selection process conducted or sanctioned by the representative organization.

“This contestant has not participated in post-secondary coursework in the subject area of the national 4-H competition, nor has he or she participated in training for post-secondary competition in the subject area of the national 4-H competition.” Violation of this will result in forfeiture of any awards or recognition which have been won in the National 4-H Competitive Event.”

- E. All participants must first qualify through the represented state and meet all the state eligibility rules.

Competing in Both 4-H & FFA National Events

The National offices of 4-H and FFA have agreed on the following national policy, in the interest of consistency between events and between organizations in eligibility for national competition.

"Participation by the same individual in both a National 4-H and a National FFA competitive event in the same year may occur only when the following is accomplished:

One for 4-H:

Participation in a National 4-H competitive event will require that all youth participating be a "bona fide" current 4-H participant and must qualify for the national event through an approved state competition of selection process conducted or sanctioned by the representative organization.

One for FFA:

Participation in a National FFA Career Development event will require that all youth participating be a "bona fide" member of an FFA chapter and must qualify for the national event through an approved state competition conducted or sanctioned by the representative organization.

4-H and FFA determined to establish a consistent policy for all their National 4-H Competitive Events, and National FFA Career Development Events. Criteria for the policy include:

- 1) Assure that participants in national events are genuine representatives of their state and organization.
- 2) Assure that each individual is given all the opportunities he or she has legitimately earned.
- 3) Assure that the policy is easy for participants and states to understand.
- 4) Assure that the policy does not require extra efforts from the Management Committee to enforce.
- 5) Assure that the national offices of 4-H and FFA are supportive of each other, and consistent in their interpretation of eligibility.

Method of Conduct

- 1) Contestants and coaches will be permitted to watch shows in the Stadium Arena and the Sheep and Swine Arena. Coaches and contestants are to stay out of stalling areas for cattle, including the hill and the yards. No contestants or coaches will be allowed in the yards prior to the contest.
- 2) A coach's meeting will be held at the contest headquarters at 4:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the contest. At this time, instructions for the contest will be given. Coaches should be prepared to check the names, addresses and ages of contestants for the contest. All coaches must have picked up their contest registration packets by 6:00 pm or the team is not eligible to compete. If there are travel issues, the coach must call the contest superintendent prior to that time.

- 3) A bus will be provided to transport all contestants from the contest headquarters to the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo complex. No coaches are allowed on the busses at any time. Lunch will be provided prior to the reasons session. A bus will transport all contestants to the contest headquarters for the oral reasons session.
- 4) No contestant shall wear any clothing, pins or badges that will in any way reveal his or her identity or state he or she represents. The contest will be held inside so dress accordingly. No hats are to be worn during the contest.
- 5) The contestants will be divided into groups for the contest and will remain with the assigned group throughout the contest. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except by the Superintendent or his assistants.
- 6) The contest will be comprised of 10 classes of livestock. Of these 10 classes, four will be beef, three will be sheep, and three will be swine. All of these classes will be comprised of four animals and the animals will be designated by numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4. If possible, performance data and a situation statement of the class will be provided on breeding classes.
- 7) Reasons will be taken on six classes, one market and one breeding of each species. Contestants may use a clipboard and/or notepaper of their choice - notebooks should be clean and free of notes. Only a page to record placings on is permissible. Contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving oral reasons or answering questions. Reasons classes may be market, breeding, and/or performance classes.
- 8) Performance data will be limited to no more than 10 pieces of information. Performance data used will reflect current industry trends for that specific breed or type of animal. Performance data may be actual animal performance (such as growth) or genetic predictors (such as EPDs) or a combination of the two.
- 9) Two minutes will be allowed to give oral reasons to the official judges.
- 10) Contestants will be allowed 12 minutes per class to make their observations, make notes if necessary and fill out their placing card.
- 11) Breeding cattle will not be handled. Steers will not be handled. All judging will be done from a distance to insure proper viewing (10 to 15 feet).
- 12) Breeding sheep will not be handled when they are judged loose in a pen. If sheep are in racks (market or fleeced breeding sheep), contestants will stand in line and will be allowed 15 seconds to handle each sheep individually.
- 13) Contestants will have a minimum of 20 minutes to prepare each of the six sets of oral reasons. Contestants will not be permitted to refer to any data or notes when delivering oral reasons.
- 14) 4-H and FFA contestants will judge the same classes. However, they will give reasons to separate officials. The contests will also be scored separately, and the awards given for high individuals and teams in beef, sheep, swine, reasons, and overall.
- 15) All contestants and coaches are expected to be present for the Awards Breakfast on Sunday after the contest.
- 16) Contestants will not be allowed to carry electronic devices on the floor while judging. This includes mobile phones, pagers, PDA's, and other device capable of transmitting information. If a contestant is found with a device, the contestant's cards will be pulled and the contestant removed from the contest.

Superintendents

- 1) It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to see that all rules and regulations of the contest are carried out. They shall decide all questions which may arise in connection with the interpretation of the rules governing the contest.
- 2) They shall have helpers to assist them.
- 3) The Superintendents will not take part in rating the contest.
- 4) They shall have charge of all records and shall have ratings tabulated and totaled.

Clerks and Assistants

The clerks, assistants and attendants shall be under the direction of the Superintendent and shall carry out all assignments in an orderly manner; and none of them shall confer with a contestant unless directed by the Superintendent.

Judges

- 1) A committee of judges will place all classes and hear and score all reasons.
- 2) The judges shall place the classes while the contestants are working in the area. The judges shall enter their placings on the placing card, indicate the cuts to be made, and file that card with the Superintendent.
- 3) During the reasons session, the judge will score the contestant when he or she has finished.
- 4) The official placings and cuts will be given by the judges immediately following the reasons session.

General Information

For specific contest details or questions, contact the Superintendent listed at the beginning of this packet.

For Western National Roundup information and assistance, please contact:

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