

2023 OHIO STATE FAIR 4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

Thursday, July 27 – Denny Hales Arena

Check-In – 8:30 am and Contest Instructions – 10:00 am in Voinovich Livestock Center
Show Arena

Awards Presentation – Following Contest Critiques in Voinovich

Entry Deadline – Monday, July 10th Via Qualtrics Survey

Checks Mailed In By July 10th (Postmark) - \$10.00 per Contestant.

Teams that register will be mailed limited parking admission for the Ohio State Fair.

Pre-Registration REQUIRED

SETH EBERT, Lecturer and Livestock Judging Coach, OSU ATI, Superintendent

DR. BENJAMIN WENNER, Assistant Professor, Dept. Animal Sciences, Superintendent

ELIZABETH SHARE-DULING, Livestock & Food Animal Specialist, OSU Extension, Co-Superintendent

Note: Rule changes and/or additions are underlined.

GENERAL RULES:

1. All participants must be current 4-H members as of January 1, 2023.
2. All participants must follow local health guidelines in place at the time of the contest.
3. Each JUNIOR contestant must either be 8 years of age and in the 3rd grade or 9 years of age in any grade as of January 1, 2023, and must not have passed his or her 13th birthday by January 1, 2023. (Therefore, youth turning 14 on or before December 31, 2022 must participate in the Senior Contest.)
4. Each SENIOR contestant must have passed his or her 14th birthday and cannot have passed his or her 19th birthday by January 1, 2023. (Therefore, youth turning 19 on or before December 31, 2022 are too old to participate.)
5. Contestants must not have participated in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest (i.e., North American International Livestock Exposition) to be eligible to compete.
6. Contestants must not have participated in or enrolled in official postsecondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive event of a similar nature and in the same subject matter area. A competitive event is defined here as an event open to more than one educational institution (or it's students) in which scores are kept and awards are offered to any or all participants. Neither shall a contestant have completed or be currently enrolled in a postsecondary course related to visual livestock and/or carcass evaluation.
7. Youth must represent their county of 4-H enrollment. A team must consist of a minimum of three and maximum of four members within the same age category.
 - a. When four members judge, the contestant with the lowest overall score will be designated as the alternate, however s/he will still be eligible for individual awards.
 - b. If a county does not have enough members for a team, they may enter one or two individuals to compete for individual placings only.
8. Junior and senior teams, as well as all individuals, are eligible for awards. Each county may enter multiple teams; however, only one county team will be eligible for travel awards.
9. In both the Junior and Senior contests, cross-county teams are allowed to participate if one county does not have enough members to complete a team. For cross-county teams:
 - a. Members must represent their county of 4-H enrollment.
 - b. Members from one or more additional counties can make up a cross-county team. Cross-county team members must be from neighboring counties with adjacent

- borders.
 - c. One Extension professional from the county in which the team is registered must sign the registration form.
 - d. One Extension professional from the other county where the cross-county team member(s) is/are enrolled must provide enrollment documentation in the form of a letter attached to the team's registration form. This letter must be written on county Extension letterhead.
 - e. Documentation will be confirmed upon receipt of registration.
10. **Entries and payment for teams and individuals must be postmarked by Monday, July 10.** Entry fees are \$10.00 per contestant (no refunds). Limited parking admission will be mailed for the Ohio State Fair. ***Pre-Registration required.***
11. A county Extension professional must sign each team's registration form.

CONTEST STRUCTURE AND RULES:

12. **The contest will be comprised of two divisions: Juniors and Seniors. Contestants will mark their placings on scantrons.**
- a. SENIORS will place up to eight classes (approximately two from each species) and are required to give four sets of oral reasons, which will all be included in the scoring for both team and individual awards. Reason sets will be determined the day of the contest by the superintending committee.
 - b. SENIORS will also answer one set of questions. The question class will be determined by the superintending committee. Contestants will fill out a scantron with their answers to the questions after walking away from the class.
 - c. JUNIORS will place up to eight classes (approximately two from each species) and are required to give one set of oral reasons, which will all be included in the scoring for both team and individual awards. The reason set will be determined the day of the contest by the superintending committee
 - d. JUNIORS will also answer three sets of questions. The questions will be predetermined by the superintending committee prior to the contest. Juniors will fill-out a scantron with their answers to the questions while in front of the class of animals.
13. The contest will be judged in two rounds, with an attempt to arrange four classes per round. Contest organizers will announce which classes will be questions classes and/or oral reasons classes the day of the contest.
- a. If there are market lamb and/or market goat classes, and the disposition of the animals allows, they may be presented in holding stands to be handled.
 - b. Performance data, expected progeny differences (EPDs) and/or scenarios may be provided for breeding classes. Genetic information such as Scrapie susceptibility, TH status, etc. may be included, if appropriate for the class.
14. Contestants are not permitted to wear any apparel (shirts, jackets, belt buckles, etc.) that distinguishes in any manner who they are or where they are from (i.e., individual's name, 4-H club or FFA chapter, county, etc.). Contestants are expected to wear appropriate apparel for the contest (at a minimum, jeans and collared shirts). Shorts, t-shirts and hats are strongly discouraged.
15. Contestants are not permitted to have cell phones or any other electronic devices, including smart watches, in their possession. If found with a cell phone or other electronic device during the contest, the contestant will be disqualified. Contestants may carry only plain paper/blank notebooks, a clipboard, and pencils or pens into the contest. **A clipboard is recommended for completing scantron sheets.**
16. Only officials, contest staff (group leaders, animal handlers, etc.) and contestants of the contest will be allowed on the floor of the arena. All others are required to have permission from the Superintendent to enter the contest arena. Coaches not assisting with the contest will be given the opportunity to briefly view the classes during the change-over of classes.

17. While the contest is in progress (including during lunch), there shall be no conferring between contestants or between contestants and anyone else, except as directed by the contest leaders. Any violation of this rule will be cause for immediate expulsion of offenders from the contest.

Seniors Only:

18. The three highest scoring teams may be invited to represent Ohio 4-H at national or regional contests. This is dependent on university policy for youth team travel.

A full listing of contests will be made available to winning coaches after the contest is completed. A dollar amount may be designated per team for use for contest(s) attended but is not guaranteed. Any costs above the designated amount must be incurred by the team.

Available contests may include, but are not limited to:

- a. The American Royal, Kansas City, MO (usually held the last week in October)
- b. The National Western Roundup, Denver, CO (usually held the 1st Friday in January)
- c. The Keystone International Stockman's & Livestock Judging Contest, Harrisburg, PA (usually held the 1st weekend in October)
- d. The Southeastern Regional Livestock Judging & Skillathon Contest, Raleigh, NC (usually held the 1st weekend in November)

Selection Process:

- a. The first place team can attend one contest. They will have the first choice from the available contest list **and must make their selection one week following the contest.**
 - b. The second place team can attend one contest. They will have the second choice from the available contest list **and must make their selection one week after the first place team chooses.**
 - c. The third place team may attend one contest. They will have the third choice from the available contest list **and must make their selection one week after the second place team chooses.**
19. The team that represents Ohio at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, KY will be determined through a selection process targeting the most talented members from across Ohio 4-H that is at the discretion of Ohio 4-H Animal Sciences. Members may be selected to the team from any county regardless of their team's performance at the Ohio State Fair. For an individual to be eligible for the team, they must participate in the current year's Ohio State Fair Livestock Judging Contest and declare their interest to be a member of the team. The team will be selected based upon their performance at the Ohio State Fair Livestock Judging Contest and during practices held in the late summer and fall. Participation in practices/exercises is a requirement to compete on the state team. Practices may be held in person or virtually. Please note: Once a contestant participates at the NAILE, they are no longer permitted to participate in any state or national 4-H livestock judging competition.