The following criteria must be met in order for a 4-H member to compete in state 4-H animal science competitive events:

1. Contestants must be bona fide 4-H club members carrying a 4-H Project and approved by the 4-H Extension Educator or Staff of their respective county.

2. Maryland 4-H members must be between the ages of 8 - 18 as of January 1st of the current year.
   a. Juniors are between 8 – 10 years of age;
   b. Intermediates are between 11 – 13 years of age;
   c. Seniors are between 14 – 18 years of age.

3. Contestants must not have previously competed in the respective national contest (i.e. Eastern National 4-H Horse Round Up Horse Bowl Contest) prior to participating in the state contest.

4. Senior contestants receiving college or vocational training beyond high school in areas relative to a particular contest (i.e. livestock judging, dairy judging, dairy quiz bowl, etc.) are restricted from competing in the state contest.

5. Novice divisions, if offered, are usually only open to 4-Her members who have never competed in a particular contest before as a 4-Her.