

Maryland 4-H Animal Science Program Guidebook

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State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest Rules

Overview:

The State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest is held each year during the Maryland State Fair held in Timonium. The 4-H Livestock Judging Contest Superintendent is David Gordon, University of Maryland Extension 4-H Educator, Montgomery County, office phone: 301-590-2813 and e-mail: dgordon3@umd.edu.

The following General Rules apply to all 4-H Judging Contests (Division U) held annually at the State Fair:

1. Only 4-H members may compete in this division (U), unless otherwise noted. 4-H members may only compete in one State 4-H Judging Contest held at the State Fair per year.
2. All contestants must comply with “General State Fair Rules & Regulations”, “General 4-H and FFA Rules & Regulations”, these “Division Rules & Regulations” and the applicable “Section Rules & Regulations”. Please note that additional State 4-H Judging Contest Guidelines & Procedures may apply.
3. Contestants will participate according to their 4-H Age (as of January 1 of the current year): Junior (ages 8-10); Intermediate (ages 11-13), Senior (ages 14-18) - unless noted.
4. Entries will be made by the 4-H Extension Educator, not the individual. Unless otherwise noted in section, a 4-H office may enter: A Team (consisting of 4 members) in each age division and 4 Individuals in each age division. All will participate in the contest.
 - a. Verification that each 4-H Member has participated in a 4-H educational program will be made by the 4-H Extension Educator.
 - b. Selection of contestants will be at discretion of the 4-H Extension Educator.
 - c. Substitutions/Alternates: Alternates are not allowed. If a Team Member is not present on the day of the contest, one of the pre-registered Individuals must be the substitute.
 - d. All Team Members must be enrolled in 4-H in the same county/city, exceptions are those 4-H Members that belong to a project club that crosses county/city lines (i.e., a tri-county livestock club). 4-H Members enrolled in such clubs may compete jointly as a team in that project area. The 4-H Extension Educator making the Joint Team entry must notify the State 4-H Office by July 31st.
 - e. Restrictions relative to college/vocational training for these contests are listed in the department.
 - f. There is a \$5.00 fee per participant for all judging contests. An additional \$8.00 lunch fee will be collected per participant in the Dairy & Livestock Judging

contests. Checks should be made payable to the Maryland 4-H Foundation and are due at time of entry.

5. A 4-H member who has represented Maryland on a team in a National Contest is ineligible for the State Contest in the same project area. A 4-H member may not represent Maryland 4-H at an out-of-state competition as a member of more than one team in a given year.
6. Contestants will not be allowed to take books, notes or writing paper into the contest except cards as provided by the superintendent. **Cell phones and other portable electronic devices are not allowed.** While the contest is in progress there shall be no communication among the contestants or between a contestant and any one else, except as directed by the superintendent or his representative. Contestants will be under the direct supervision of the group leader at all times.
7. **Scoring:** Unless otherwise noted, the top three scores of designated team members will determine the team score in the respective age divisions. All ties will be broken by the Superintendent using prescribed procedures.
8. **Awards:** Unless otherwise noted, all contestants (both team members and individuals) share in the individual awards. Ribbons and premiums will be awarded to the 20 High Individuals in each age division for each contest. Premiums: 1st (\$20), 2nd–10th (\$15), 11th–20th (\$5). Awards will be presented to the Team members in each age division for each contest as well as special awards (see section).
9. All contests, except for the Goat Judging Contest and Purchase Power, will be held on the second Saturday of the Maryland State Fair.

Specific State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest Rules and Regulations:

1. There is a \$5.00 participant fee and a separate \$8.00 lunch fee required for this event.
2. The contest will begin at 9:00am in the Cow Palace on the designated day of the State Fair.
3. This contest shall consist of placing not less than 9 classes of breeding and market animals selected from Beef Cattle, Sheep, Swine, and Meat Goats.
4. Juniors will be required to give 1 set of Oral Reasons (the particular species will be rotated every year: (2010 – Swine, 2011 - Sheep, 2012 - Beef), Intermediates will be required to give 3 sets (one per species) and Seniors will be required to give 4 sets. Seniors will have a total of 12 minutes to place each class with an additional 3 minutes for Reasons classes. Any potential goat classes will be placing only.
5. A designated number of High Senior Individuals, who are available for further training, will make up the group from which 4 will be selected to represent Maryland 4-H at the national contest.
6. A 4-H member is not eligible to participate in this contest if they have participated in any post-secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive event of a similar nature and in the same subject matter area. A 4-H member may not be enrolled in or have completed a post-secondary course in visual livestock evaluation and/ or carcass evaluation.