COACHES’ PRE-CONTEST INFORMATION SHEET

2015 National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest
North American International Livestock Exposition

NOTE: For additional information, see the Guidelines: National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, available from your State 4-H Program Leader or http://extension.umd.edu/charles-county/4-h-youth/national-4-h-livestock-judging or Matt Gunderson at MGunderson@farmersnational.com. You may also contact Bonnie Boyden at bboyden@umd.edu

National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest Rules and Regulations

Each state is invited to enter one 4-H Livestock Judging Team consisting of three or four members. Only the top three overall scores from each team will be used to make up the team total. The contestant with the low score on a four-member team, however, is eligible for individual awards. Team members will be selected in a manner determined by each state’s respective Extension Service. Team and individual entries for contestants must be certified by their State 4-H Program Leader (or their designee) and filed with the North American International Livestock Exposition by October 1, 2015 (postmarked).

Contestants and Eligibility

1) Contestants must be bona-fide 4-H Club members approved by the Extension Service of their respective states.

2) Each contestant must have passed his/her 14th birthday and not have passed their 19th birthday as of January 1, 2015.

3) To be eligible to participate as a contestant in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at the North American International Livestock Exposition, an individual:

   a) SHALL NOT 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 competitive event is defined here as an event open to more than one educational institution (or its students) in which scores are kept and awards offered to any or all participants;

   b) neither shall a contestant have completed or be currently enrolled in a post-secondary course primarily related to visual livestock and/or carcass evaluation; and

   c) shall not participate in the North American International Livestock Exposition Junior College Judging Contest in the same year he/she is a contestant in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.

   D) have not competed in the International Royal Highland Contest in the past.

Violation of these eligibility rules shall disqualify all members of the entered team as contestants in this or future National 4-H Livestock Judging Contests held at the North American. Further, the coach will be barred from participation in the current, as well as, the following year’s contest at the North American.

State 4-H Program Leaders are responsible for determining the eligibility of participants in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest from their respective states, particularly those that have completed high school prior to the contest.

4) Contestants who have previously judged (regardless of whether their score counted towards their team total) in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest are ineligible to compete a second time.
METHOD OF CONDUCT

1. Contestants and coaches are permitted to visit the North American International Livestock Exposition starting on Saturday, November 16th. However, they are required to stay out of the East Hall where the contest will be held and the West Wing and Hall where the beef cattle are stalled. All participants and coaches shall avoid the East Hall (including hallways) on Monday during the Senior Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest. Any violation could result in disqualification of the team. Contestants and coaches are allowed to watch the beef cattle show in Freedom Hall, visit the trade show, or sit in the stands to watch the sheep show. Contestants and coaches must stay out of all beef and sheep stalling areas. Contestants or coaches who plan to exhibit at the show and are planning to visit those areas that are not approved, must receive permission from the Superintendent of the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest by November 1st.

2. A coaches’ meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 16th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Airport, 830 Phillips Ln, Louisville, KY 40209. At that time, the contest procedures will be explained and contest instructions will be given. Coaches should be prepared to check names, addresses, and ages of their contestants. Be sure your contestants have their social security numbers with them at Louisville.

3. All contestants and coaches will report to the East Hall of the Exposition Center on Tuesday, November 17th at 7:30 a.m., where they will receive instructions regarding the remainder of the contest.

4. No contestant shall wear any clothing, pins, or badges that will in any way reveal his/her identity or the state that he/she represents. The contest will be held inside, so dress accordingly. No hats are to be worn during the contest.

5. All electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, PDA’s, calculators, etc.) are prohibited. Advise your contestants to remove these devices prior to the start of the contest. If a competing contestant’s phone should ring, or if they are discovered using such electronic devices during the contest, the contestant and their team may be disqualified.

6. Contestants will be divided into groups for the contest and will remain with their assigned group throughout the contest, including the oral reasons session. While the contest is in progress, there is to be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by the Superintendent or his/her representative. Offending contestants may be disqualified.

7. The contest will be comprised of eleven (11) classes of livestock. Of these eleven classes, four will be beef, three will be swine, three will be sheep, and one will be a class of meat goats. All classes will be comprised of four animals, and the animals will be designated with numbers 1-2-3-4. At least one breeding class from each species will have performance data and a scenario included. However, contest administrators and officials will strive to include performance information and scenarios for all breeding classes, if possible. New for 2014 there will be an additional questions class on beef. See the Guidelines: National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest for a description of scenarios and performance definitions. Of the four species being evaluated, a minimum of one class may be made up of intact males.

8. Reasons will be given on four classes (two beef, one swine, and one sheep). Questions will be asked on three classes. One swine (breeding or market) and one sheep or meat goat (breeding or market) class and one beef (breeding or market) will comprise the three question classes. A breeding beef class with performance data will automatically be an oral reasons class. Contestants will be provided with a blank notebook/pad on the morning of the contest. Contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving oral reasons.

9. Two minutes will be allowed to give oral reasons on each class.

10. Contestants will be allowed twelve (12) minutes to place non-reasons classes.

11. Contestants will be allowed fifteen (15) minutes on each reasons class, to make their observations, take notes, and fill-out their placing card.
12. Breeding cattle and steers will **NOT** be handled. All judging of non-reasons cattle classes will be done from a distance of 10-15 feet. Close inspections **may** be allowed. This will be determined after selection of the classes.

13. Breeding sheep and goats will not be handled since they will be judged loose in a pen. When handling market lambs, contestants will stand in line and will be given 15 seconds to handle each lamb individually. Lambs may not be re-handled at any time.

14. All coaches and assistants (spouses, if they want to) should be available during the morning of the contest to assist with the running of the contest. Job responsibilities will be assigned at the coaches’ meeting on Monday evening prior to the contest.

15. Please fill-out the enclosed Coaches’ Report Form and return it to the Superintendent by **October 15**th. Be sure to list others who will accompany your team, as we must arrange passes. Hotel reservations deadline is **October 15**th. The original should be sent to the hotel (or it may be faxed/phoned in), and a **copy should be sent to the contest superintendent**. The contest entry form must be postmarked by **October 1**st. The original form should be sent directly to the North American International Livestock Exposition (with the $100.00 entry fee), and one photocopy should be sent to the contest superintendent.

16. The contest awards breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 19th in the South Wing at the North American International Livestock Exposition. A photographer from the North American will be available to take team pictures starting at 7:00 a.m.

17. You will be mailed a CD from the NAILE containing photographs of teams and awards following the contest. These are for local publicity. Please provide them to your local press.