GENERAL INFORMATION
The North Dakota 4-H Livestock Judging Contest provides an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H Livestock projects to enhance their livestock evaluation and selection skills. Additionally, a judging contest improves their communication and decision-making skills giving them invaluable life skills towards career development. The purpose of the 4-H livestock judging contest is to teach youth how to evaluate livestock and how to make and defend their decisions. Participants will judge classes that include beef cattle, boer goats, sheep and swine. Seniors will then answer questions from a class to evaluate their thought processes and knowledge of the species judged. Participants will then prepare sets of oral reasons and meet one-on-one with an official to describe the reasons for their class placement. Competition in livestock judging fosters self-confidence, organization, critical thinking, teamwork skills and oral communication skills. Just as important, this contest advances their knowledge of the livestock industry. This contest provides an educational program for all project members, including those who may not own a project animal.

The winning 4-H senior team will have a choice to represent North Dakota at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at the Western National Round Up in Denver, Colorado.

OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES:
A. Stimulate learning in animal science and agricultural industry;  
B. Youth develop positive interests and attitudes about livestock evaluation, animal science and related careers;  
C. Youth gain a base of knowledge of livestock projects;  
D. Youth will utilize skills and abilities to solve everyday situations;  
E. Youth gain valuable producer experience  
F. Reward 4-H members for knowledge gained in a subject matter area;  
G. Provide a competitive setting where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail;  
H. Participants will process information, analyze complex problems and make informed decisions regarding current livestock and producer decisions;  
I. Develop teamwork, self-confidence, public speaking and decision-making skills;  
J. An increased number of participants seek out higher education opportunities and careers related to animal science.
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED (registration cost: $10 per individual)

Please pre-register online at JudgingCard.com: https://www.judgingcard.com/Registration/Info.aspx?ID=7630

1. By February 24th, 2018 to avoid a late registration charge. Changes and substitutions may be made at registration on the day of the contest. Deadline to enter is March 1st, 2018. Lunch is included (please email me directly for any youth with dietary needs: Holly.Halvorson@ndsu.edu). Coaches/chaperones may also order a lunch for $9 which must be specified by February 26th, five days before the contest is required per NDSU for food orders. Email Holly.Halvorson@ndsu.edu to place your order. You can pay the day of the contest for coaches/chaperones, otherwise you will be billed.

2. To register, use your ND County 4-H number and “ND” as your username and password. Example – If my county number were 7777, I would put ND7777 for the Username and ND7777 for the password.

 Lodging

Comfort Suites will be our host hotel for the contest. A block of rooms has been established under “4-H Livestock Judging” for $90/night
- 4417 23rd Ave. S. Fargo, ND
- Phone: 701-277-5576
- CALL BEFORE February 13th – cut off date!

Contestants and Eligibility

1. Contestants must be enrolled in North Dakota 4-H (4honline) as a full time member in the county they represent. Short-term 4-H members are not eligible to compete at the state level.
2. Counties may enter any number of participants in either age division. The high three individual scores will determine the team score.
3. All participants are eligible for individual awards.
4. Counties may combine to form a team provided neither county has more than 2 participants. Combination teams must pre-register together for the appropriate age group. A team of three (3) may not pick up a fourth member from another county.
   a. Both counties and coaches from the different teams must approve combining of individuals for a team.
5. Contestants in the senior division must be 14-18 years on December 31, 2017. The junior division is for members 8 years of age to 13 on December 31, 2017.
6. While the contest is in progress, there shall be NO conferring between contestants or anyone else other than the Contest Superintendents, Group Leaders or their representative. 50 points will be deducted from the total score for each talking infraction reported.
7. Individuals with disabilities are invited to request reasonable accommodations to participate in NDSU-sponsored programs and events. To request an accommodation(s), please contact Holly Halvorson at 701-231-7251 or Holly.Halvorson@ndsu.edu by February 24th to make arrangements.
8. 4-H members are not eligible for this contest if:
   a. He/she has taken first place at the ND State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in the SENIOR division
   b. He/she has judged at the National 4-H livestock Judging Contest in Louisville.
   c. He/she has participated in official post-secondary (university, college, junior college or technical school) competitive events of a similar nature in the same subject matter area. Neither can he/she be a member of a post-secondary team undergoing training in preparation of an event.
CONTEST DIVISIONS
Each age division is considered a separate contest and youth may enter one of the following divisions.

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Junior 4-H division: Youth ages 8 to 13 years old and enrolled in North Dakota 4-H as a full time 4-H member (not a short-term member) as of December 31, 2017.

Senior 4-H division: Youth age 14 to 18 on December 31, 2017 and enrolled in North Dakota 4-H as a full time 4-H member (not a short-term member).

Open division: Participants age 8 to 18 not eligible for 4-H divisions. 4-H/FFA dual members choosing to only judge in the State FFA Livestock Judging Contest this year may enter this division. Individuals from another state are welcome to enter this division.

The Senior FIRST place team overall has will represent North Dakota at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest held in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Kentucky. The FIRST place team is awarded $1,000 from the North Dakota 4-H Foundation to help with travel expenses. The SECOND place Senior team overall has the option to represent North Dakota at the Western National Roundup 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Denver, Colorado. The SECOND place team is not awarded funding for travel expenses at this time. Contestant must already have passed his/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.

County agents and coaches are responsible for determining the age and member eligibility of participants in the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest from their respective clubs.

DRESS CODE
Participants shall follow the 4-H Dress Code: 4-H members must be dressed neatly and wear a solid white, yellow, gray, or green shirt with 4-H emblem on the front. County names or other affiliation should not be worn at the state contest in order to avoid bias. The clover may be imprinted, screened, or attached with an adhesive (if clovers are pinned to the shirt, use multiple pins and place pins discreetly underneath the chevron). Failure to comply will result in the deduction of 50 points from the individual or team score. 4-H members are asked to stay in official dress until completion of awards.
CONTEST GUIDELINES
National 4-H Contest from Louisville will apply. Local managers may modify rules and procedures as needed to conduct the event in the allowed time.

3. A coaches meeting will be held on Friday night before the contest. At this time, the program will be explained and contest instructions will be given. Coaches/Agents should be prepared to check names, addresses, and ages of their contestants. Substitutions/changes may be made at this time or at registration the day of the contest.

4. There is a $10 registration fee to cover the box lunch and the cost of the scantron. Any extra will begin to go towards an awards fund for this contest. Coaches/chaperones may also order a lunch for $9 which must be specified by February 26th. Email Holly.Halvorson@ndsu.edu to place your order. You can pay the day of the contest for coaches/chaperones, otherwise you will be billed.

5. No electronic devices (phones, tablets, computers, etc.) will be allowed during the contest.

6. Twelve minutes will be provided to judge each class.

7. Scantrons will be used for the entire contest, judging and questions. An example for practice has been provided on our website: https://www.ndsu.edu/4h/programs_events/state_4_h_contests/livestock_judging/

8. Oral reasons will be given at the Memorial Union on the NDSU campus. Two minutes are allowed for oral reasons. Contestants should not have paper, cards or notes to assist while giving reasons.
GENERAL RULES:

1. **Juniors** – will judge 6 classes of livestock and give 3 sets of reasons.

2. **Seniors** – will judge 9 to 10 classes of livestock with 3 sets of reasons and a question class.
   a. The question class will be given when all contestants are seated in the reasons holding room. Absolutely no notes are allowed to be utilized. If caught, 50 points will be deducted from your score.
   b. Performance data may be provided on some classes.
   c. Once class of 10 questions will be given.

3. **Judging Phase** – 50 points per class
   Contest will consist of any or all of the following placing classes: breeding cattle, market cattle, breeding sheep, market lambs, breeding hogs, market hogs, meat goats or breeding does. A minimum of 12 minutes will be allowed for contestants to judge each class.

4. **Reasons Phase** – 50 points per set
   Two minutes are allowed for oral reasons. Contestants should not have paper, cards or notes to assist while giving reasons. Reading notes to a reasons taker will result in a score no higher than 25 points. Reasons are evaluated on content, accuracy, emphasis, completeness, terminology and presentation.

5. **Questions Phase** – 50 points total
   For seniors only. Ten questions will be asked. No notes are to be utilized to answer the questions. Participants will have five minutes to look over their notes before they are asked to put them away. Questions will be asked twice, and repeated if necessary. Incorrect answers will have 3 points deducted from the possible 50 points.

TIE-BREAKING
All ties overall, individual and team, will be broken using the following sequence:

1. Team Score (for team ties only)
2. Reasons scores overall
3. Judging scores overall
4. For Seniors – Questions scores overall
5. Species classes will be ranked prior to the start of the contest to serve as the final tiebreaker.

Ties within any phase are to be broken using the overall score first and then the same sequence as above.
**AWARDS**

1. Senior and junior 4-H division participants are eligible for the following awards:
   a. Individual ribbon awards for the top ten individuals and top five teams overall.
   b. Awards for the five high individuals in each species and reasons
   c. Plaques for the high individual overall in each division and first place senior team (top three scores and first alternate) sponsored by the North Dakota Stockmen’s Association.
   d. Ribbons will be awarded to approximately the top 50% of the participants.

2. Open division participants are eligible for the following awards:
   a. Ribbons for top five individuals and members of the first place team.

3. Senior 4-H division first place team (top three scores plus first alternate) will be eligible to represent North Dakota 4-H at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky. The North Dakota 4-H Foundation will provide $1000 towards the expenses of this trip. **In order to represent North Dakota 4-H and judge in a national contest, participants must judge in this state contest.**

**RESULTS**

Results will be posted on [https://www.judgingcard.com/](https://www.judgingcard.com/) and on a PDF on the NDSU North Dakota State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest page: [https://www.ndsu.edu/4h/programs_events/state_4_h_contests/horse_judging/](https://www.ndsu.edu/4h/programs_events/state_4_h_contests/horse_judging/)

**SUPPLIES**

1. Individuals competing in the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest should come prepared with a #2 pencil for all phases of the contest.
   a. Scranton forms will be utilized for the contest.

2. Individuals should have a notebook for the judging portion of the contest.
OFFICIALS:
In order to provide a rewarding experience for our youth, volunteers are key to the successful operation and efficiency of each contest. If you would like to serve as an official during the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, please send an email to LeighAnn.Skurupey@ndsu.edu.

1. **Superintendent(s):** Oversees all aspects of the contest, assists contestants and other officials. Arrange for qualified Judge(s). Publicize contest. Ensure rules are updated. Arrange for and select animals for classes. Secure other officials, supplies, and paperwork to efficiently run the contest. Establish contest on Judgincard.com and develop contest within the system. Introduces the contest and ensures the PA system is working. Works to ensure results, reasons, and classes are being conducted in a professional and timely manner. Assists in presenting awards and posting awards.

2. **Moderator(s):** The moderator should be knowledgeable in livestock judging procedures, guidelines, and regulations. The moderator assumes complete direction of the contest (may also be the superintendent), calls rotation of the animals and rotation of the participants during the judging phase. Gathers the official placings and cuts for tabulation.

3. **Judge(s):** A judge can be anyone with a strong background in livestock judging. The judge(s) will make informed decisions on the official placing for each class. Along with the moderator, they will come to an agreement on official cuts based on the difficulty or ease of placing each class. The judge(s) may or may not be used as reasons takers. Should give reasons for the class placings and official placings/cuts before the awards ceremony after the contest is complete.

4. **Time Keeper:** The timekeeper will monitor elapsed time for each timed rotation of stations allowing **12 minutes** for each class to be judged, giving adequate time for each rotation to settle in prior to starting the time clock after each rotation.

5. **Reasons taker(s):** An industry professional knowledgeable in livestock. Reasons taker listens to each participant to evaluate the content, accuracy, emphasis, completeness, terminology and presentation for each class. A reasons taker should make their best effort to score consistently throughout the contest. Reasons takers will listen to the first three sets together and collectively score them, to make every attempt to maintain uniformity. Reasons takers should be on the same page when participants read off their notes (highest score allowed being **25 points**).

6. **Livestock handlers:** Assist with moving animals around in a pen to help participant’s ability to see all sides of each animal. Help transport animals from pen to pen during rotation. Help lead or hold animals if needed.

7. **Group leaders:** Volunteers, coaches, chaperones, agents that assist with leading each group of contestants during the rotation of classes. They are responsible for collecting cards when the class is complete from each participant. They are the only individual that participants are allowed to talk to during the judging portion of the contest. Group leaders help to ensure participants are not talking amongst themselves and report illegal behavior (cell phones, talking, cheating, etc.) to the superintendent or moderator.

8. **Tabulators:** Collecting reasons cards and scantrons. Helping to input reasons scores into the JudgingCard.com system. Double-checking the top ten individuals for each category.

9. **Reasons room advisors:** Help to ensure participants are not talking to each other and the volume of voices are held at an appropriate level for contestants to work and respect each other. Ensuring participants are not conversing with each other.

10. **Hallway advisors:** Beneficial in helping each participant find their way to their respective reasons rooms. Ensure participants are not conversing with each other.

11. **Extra volunteers:** Help with assembling and passing out lunch. May help with registration desk. May run scorecards and reasons cards to the tabulation room.
OTHER RESOURCES

NDSU Livestock Judging Terminology Manual:
To purchase, contact:

Brad Johnson
Lecturer and Livestock Evaluation Team Coach
Department of Animal Sciences
NORTH DAKOT STATE UNIVERSITY

Hultz Hall 163 | Dept 7630 | PO Box 6050 Fargo, ND 58108-6050
bradford.m.johnson@ndsu.edu | p. 701.231.7205 | f. 701.231.7590

Goat judging resources:
- http://surechamp.com/blog/category/judging-goats/
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udSKBuPe9Wk

NDSU does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of age, color, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, participation in lawful off-campus activity, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, spousal relationship to current employee, or veteran status, as applicable. Direct inquiries to Vice Provost, Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 201, 701-231-7708, ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu