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TO: VCE Agents, Leaders and Volunteers Coaching 4-H Livestock Judging Teams

FROM: Joi Saville, Extension Programming Associate, Youth Livestock *Joi D Saville*

SUBJECT: 2017 State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

ALL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CONTEST IS AVAILABLE ON THE 4-H LIVESTOCK WEBSITE: <http://www.ext.vt.edu/youthlivestock>.

The State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest will be held at Virginia Tech's Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena on Wednesday June 28. Registration will begin at 7:30 AM. Entry forms and a schedule for the day's activities are available on the website. *Entries must be sent via e-mail to joi.saville@vt.edu by Monday, June 5. All entry forms and payments must be postmarked by Monday, June 5th. **NO LATE ENTRIES or additions** will be accepted.*

ELIGIBILITY - 4-Hers must be enrolled in the Extension unit they compete in this contest, by **JUNE 1, 2017**. *Those that are not properly enrolled by this deadline are ineligible to compete.* Because there is a national contest in this category, those rules regarding contestant age will be followed. Junior division contestants are 9 as of September 30, 2016, but cannot have had their 14th birthday as of January 1, 2017. Senior division contestants are 14 through 18 as of January 1, 2017. Youth who have had their 19th birthday on or before January 1, 2017 are not eligible to compete.

THE CONTEST - There will be 8 classes in the contest, including cattle, swine, sheep, and meat goats. Seniors will give 4 sets of reasons. Juniors will give 2 sets of reasons. Production scenarios and performance data will be provided on some breeding classes. A set of 10 questions will be asked on 2 classes, each question will be worth 3 points. Questions will be asked after the judging of all classes. Contestants will be given opportunity to study their notes for 5 minutes before each set of questions are asked. However, the class will not be visible, nor may contestants allowed to use their notes to answer questions. Meat goats could be used for either a reasons class or questions class. All classes are potential reasons classes for both juniors and seniors. Contestants will not answer questions and give reasons on the same class. See the website for data sheets and questions used in past contests.

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CONTEST FORMAT - The State 4-H contest will once again be held in conjunction with the second day of the State FFA contest. Contestants may participate in both contests. To do so, they must be registered separately in the FFA and 4-H contests. Reasons for both contests will be combined. Senior 4-H and all FFA contestants who participate in the second day of that contest will give 4 sets of reasons and the score for each reasons set will be recorded in the official scoring calculation for both contests.

All contestants in both the 4-H and FFA contest will use a scantron form. A PDF of this form can be found at the youth livestock webpage. All contestants will be asked to bring a clipboard and No. 2 pencils. ***The scantron cannot be folded, so please make sure contestants bring a clipboard and only No. 2 pencils are used!***

AWARDS – Awards will be given in each age division for individual and team placing in each specie, reasons, and overall. A participation ribbon will be given to all contestants.

ENTRIES - Use the appropriate registration forms junior and senior contestants and adults that will accompany them. There is no limit to the number of teams or individuals that may be entered. Make photocopies of registration forms as necessary. Please enclose payment of \$15.00 for each contestant, which includes contestants' lunch and the scantron (we will provide these for your contestants). Lunch is required for all contestants. Lunches for Adults will not be provided. Teams are to secure their own lodging.

STATE 4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM - The top 10 overall senior individuals will be invited to try out for Virginia State 4-H Livestock Judging Team that will represent Virginia at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at the North American in November. Additional at-large invitations to participate on the team may be extended to individuals at the discretion of the state Youth Livestock Specialist who will coach the team. State team members will participate in up to 4 contests and multi-day workouts during the fall. Additional details on the state team and commitments/requirements will be provided to qualifying individuals following the contest. In addition, the first and second high teams overall will be given the opportunity to represent Virginia at a national contest (American Royal, Ak-Sar-Ben, or the National Western Stock Show) with the high placing team having first choice.

REFERENCE MATERIALS – A list of helpful publications are available on the Youth Livestock website under Livestock Judging resources at: <http://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock/competitions/state-livestock-judging-index.html>.

cc: Bain Wilson, Cathy Sutphin, Dan Eversole, Brandon Monk, Scott Greiner