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**TO:** VCE Agents, Leaders and Volunteers Coaching 4-H Livestock Judging Teams  
**FROM:** Paige Pratt, Extension Specialist, Youth Livestock   
**SUBJECT:** 2013 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; registration will begin at 7:30 AM on Wednesday, June 26. Entry forms and a schedule for the day's activities are at the website. **Entries must be sent via e-mail, fax or postmarked by US mail no later than Friday, June 7th. Late entries will be charged a double entry fee up to June 19th; entries submitted after that time will not be accepted!**

**ELIGIBILITY** - 4-Hers must be enrolled in the Extension unit they represent in this contest. 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, 2013, but cannot have had their 14th birthday as of January 1, 2013. Senior division contestants are 14 through 18 as of January 1, 2013. Youth who have had their 19th birthday on or after January 1, 2013 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 (at least 1 each for cattle, swine, and sheep). Juniors will give 2 sets of reasons.** Performance information on some breeding classes will be provided, containing a production scenario and performance data for several traits on each animal. **A set of up to 10 questions will be asked on 2 classes, each question will be worth 3 points.** Meat goats will not be used for a reasons class, but could be used for a questions class. Contestants will not answer questions and give reasons on the same class. See the website for data sheets and questions used in past contests.

**CONTEST FORMAT** - The State 4-H contest will once again be held in combination with the second day of the State FFA contest. Contestants may participate in both contests. To do so they must be separately enrolled in the FFA contest and also in the 4-H contest. 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 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!**

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**AWARDS** – Awards will be given in each age division for placing in each species as an individual and team; placing in reasons as an individual and team; and placing overall as an individual and team. A participation ribbon will be given to all contestants.

**ENTRIES and LODGING** - Use the appropriate forms to register your junior and senior contestants and adults that will accompany them. There is no limit to the number of teams or individuals you may enter. Make photocopies if necessary. Please enclose payment of \$12.00 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, so don't pay for them in advance. You are on your own for lodging.

**STATE JUDGING TEAM** - The top 8-placing senior individuals will be invited to work for a spot on the state team. Members will participate in up to 4 contests and 2 workouts of several days' duration. In addition, the first and second high placing teams 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 below. For more helpful information on oral reasons please see the "Livestock Judging and Oral Reasons" document on the youth livestock webpage.

Livestock Judging- Publication on the basics to placing a class of market steers

[http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an\\_sci/extension/animal/4hyouth/Livestock%20Judging/ASWeb032-approachsteers.pdf](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/animal/4hyouth/Livestock%20Judging/ASWeb032-approachsteers.pdf)

Livestock Judging- Publication on evaluating and selecting swine

[http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an\\_sci/extension/animal/4hyouth/Livestock%20Judging/ASWeb039-swinejudging.pdf](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/animal/4hyouth/Livestock%20Judging/ASWeb039-swinejudging.pdf)

Livestock Judging- Publication on reasons terminology for breeding cattle

[http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an\\_sci/extension/animal/4hyouth/Livestock%20Judging/ASWeb030-breedbeefterms.pdf](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/animal/4hyouth/Livestock%20Judging/ASWeb030-breedbeefterms.pdf)

Livestock Judging- Publication on reasons terminology for market lambs

[http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an\\_sci/extension/animal/4hyouth/Livestock%20Judging/ASWeb033-marketlambterm.pdf](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/animal/4hyouth/Livestock%20Judging/ASWeb033-marketlambterm.pdf)

Livestock Judging- Publication on reasons terminology for market steers

[http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an\\_sci/extension/animal/4hyouth/Livestock%20Judging/ASWeb037-steerterminology.pdf](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/animal/4hyouth/Livestock%20Judging/ASWeb037-steerterminology.pdf)

Livestock Judging- Publication of sample sets of reasons

[http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an\\_sci/extension/animal/4hyouth/Livestock%20Judging/ASWeb038-samplerreasons.pdf](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/animal/4hyouth/Livestock%20Judging/ASWeb038-samplerreasons.pdf)

cc: Cathy Sutphin, Dan Eversole, Andy Seibel, Scott Greiner, Mark McCann, Mark Wahlberg