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

**FROM:** Katherine E. Carter, Assistant Youth Livestock Programming Specialist

**SUBJECT:** 2019 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 19. Registration will begin at 7:30 AM. Entry forms and a schedule for the day's activities are available on the website, at this link. *Entries must be sent via e-mail to [carterke@vt.edu](mailto:carterke@vt.edu) by Friday, June 7. All entry forms and payments must be postmarked by Friday, June 7th. **NO LATE ENTRIES or additions** will be accepted, NO EXCEPTIONS.*

**ELIGIBILITY** - 4-Hers must be enrolled in the Extension unit they represent in this contest, by **JUNE 1, 2019**. *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, 2019, but cannot have had their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday as of January 1, 2019. Senior division contestants are 14 through 18 as of January 1, 2019. Youth who have had their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday on or before January 1, 2019 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 will contestants be 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.

**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, provided FFA contestants earned the opportunity to compete in Day 2 of their 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 set will be recorded in the official scoring calculation for both contests.

**All contestants**, senior and junior, 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 form 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 for 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 \$20.00 for each contestant, which includes contestants' lunch and the Scantron form (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. **Substitutions are only allowed between teams within the same division, and only with a participant who was correctly entered and eligibility verified prior to the June 7<sup>th</sup> deadline.**

**STATE 4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM** - The top 20 overall senior individuals will be invited to a two-day workout to try out for the 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. Those final individuals selected for the state team will participate in up to 4 contests and multi-day workouts during the late summer and fall. Additional details on the state team and commitments/requirements will be provided to qualifying individuals following the contest.

**REPRESENTATION IN NATIONAL CONTESTS** - The first through third high teams overall will be given the opportunity to represent Virginia at one of several national and regional contests (American Royal, Ak-Sar-Ben, Keystone, Southeastern Regional, Stockman, or the National Western Stock Show) with the high placing team having first choice. The state youth livestock office will pay up to \$125 toward the entry fee for the first and second place teams. Financial support to cover travel expenses is the responsibility of the team.

**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: Jeremy Johnson, Bain Wilson, Scott Greiner, Andy Seibel