



Virginia Cooperative Extension
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TO: VCE Agents, VA Ag Ed Teachers, Leaders and Volunteers Coaching 4-H and FFA Livestock Judging Teams

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

SUBJECT: 2020 State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest with FFA Practice Contest/Division

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 Tuesday, August 4th at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds. While this will not serve as the official State FFA Livestock Evaluation Contest, we are excited to welcome FFA youth from across Virginia to participate in the contest in a separate FFA division. The entry system is now open and can be accessed at this link <https://tinyurl.com/2020-State-Livestock-Judging>. Once completed please email the Entry Summary Sheet to carterke@vt.edu no later than Tuesday, July 28th. **Entry fees are \$10/contestant and payment or proof of payment should be brought to the contest on August 4th. Entry deadline is Tuesday, July 28th.**

ELIGIBILITY - 4-Hers must be enrolled, by the entry deadlines, in the Extension unit they represent in this contest. *Those that are not properly enrolled by this deadline are ineligible to compete.* Because there is a National 4-H Contest in this category, those rules regarding contestant age will be followed. Junior division contestants must be 9 years old as of September 30, 2020, but cannot have had their 14th birthday as of January 1, 2020. Senior division contestants must be 14 through 18 years old as of January 1, 2020. Youth who have had their 19th birthday before January 1, 2020 are not eligible to compete.

This is not an official FFA event, nor does it qualify as the State FFA Livestock Evaluation CDE. However, FFA members are welcome to participate in the FFA division of this contest. FFA contestants must be an enrolled and eligible member of the chapter they represent during the 2019-2020 academic year. Contestants who are in the 6th, 7th, 8th, or 9th grades are eligible for the Junior FFA Contest, while those in the 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades can compete in the Senior FFA Contest. This contest will only include placing classes, questions, and oral reasons. There will be no team problems, keep/cull, or livestock grading classes.

THE CONTEST - There will be 8 placing classes in the contest. Placing classes could include market or breeding cattle, swine, sheep, and meat goats. All Seniors (4-H and FFA) will give 4 sets of reasons. All Juniors (4-H and FFA) 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

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on 2 placing classes with each question worth 3 points. 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. Contestants will be given 12 minutes to judge each class. Refer to the State Youth Livestock Program website for data sheets and questions used in past contests.

DUAL-ENTRY – Contestants may dual enter in both contests, provided they are enrolled, eligible members of both 4-H and FFA. Division designation for 4-H is based on contestant birth date, not grade. Therefore, coaches should take this into consideration when dual-entering youth. A contestant who qualifies as an FFA junior, but based on birth date is a 4-H senior, will be required to complete all classes required for senior 4-H contestants.

CONTEST FORMAT and COVID-19 GUIDELINES- Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and our requirement to comply with Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, and the CDC guidelines, this year's event format will look different. Further details regarding schedule will be released after entries close and the number of participants is confirmed. Coaches and contestants should prepare for a "Judge and Go" format with staggered arrival/start times assigned by contest management. Contestants should be prepared to deliver reasons as part of the class rotations, with limited, but adequate, time for preparation. Upon completion of all judging classes and oral reasons, teams will be asked to leave the contest area and Fairgrounds. Facemasks are recommended for all participants, but not required, and protocol will be put in place to ensure social distancing. Lunch will not be served during this year's event.

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!*** Scantrons will be collected and transported back to VT, where they will be scored in the days following the contest. It is the responsibility of coaches to teach contestants to properly fill out the Scantron form. There will be limited opportunity to fix mistakes with the contest scored offsite on days following the contest.

AWARDS – Results will be announced virtually via Zoom at 7:00 on Tuesday, August 10th. All coaches will receive a Zoom invitation and connection details to share with their teams. Awards will be mailed or otherwise distributed to coaches at a later date.

ENTRIES - Use the link <https://tinyurl.com/2020-State-Livestock-Judging> to enter all contestants. Contestants do not need to be assigned to teams prior to entry. You will need to know how many TOTAL contestants you wish to enter and the name, birth date, and 2019-2020 academic grade level (FFA Only) for each contestant. There is no limit to the number of teams or individuals that may be entered. Please bring payment, or proof of payment, of \$10.00 per contestant on the day of the contest for each contestant ENTERED. Acceptable payment forms and proof of payment request are detailed on the entry form. Only individuals who were pre-entered and verified as eligible 4-H and FFA members are allowed to compete.

STATE 4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM – The National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest is currently still scheduled for mid-November; however, a final determination has yet to be announced. The top 20 overall senior individuals in the 4-H contest will receive a questionnaire inquiring about their interest in competing on the State 4-H Livestock Judging Team, and representing Virginia at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at the North American International Livestock Exposition in November. Dr. Bain Wilson and Katherine Carter will work to determine the best course of action for selecting a state team and preparing for fall contests as the status of several fall contests are unknown at this time.

REPRESENTATION IN NATIONAL CONTESTS – In previous years, the first through third high teams overall were given the opportunity to represent Virginia at one of several national and regional contests (American Royal, Ak-Sar-Ben, Keystone International, Southeastern Regional, Stockman, or the National Western Stock Show) with the high placing team having first choice. While some contests have already been cancelled, the status of others is unknown at this time. We will keep those teams updated in the coming months and work to help make those opportunities available if at all possible.

REFERENCE MATERIALS – A list of helpful publications for preparing teams for the contest 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