



Virginia Cooperative Extension
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**2024 State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest
Wednesday, June 26th, 2024
Alphin-Stuart Arena at Virginia Tech**

The State 4-H and Day 2 FFA Livestock Judging Contest will be held Wednesday, June 26th at the Alphin-Stuart Arena on the campus of Virginia Tech. This event will serve as the Official State Contest for both 4-H and FFA youth contestants.

ENTRY PROCESS: There are different entry processes for 4-H and FFA contestants/teams. Please use the correct system.

4-H: The entry system is now open for 4-H entries and can be accessed at this link <https://tinyurl.com/2024-State-4-H-LJ-Contest> Once completed, please email the Entry Summary Sheet to carterke@vt.edu no later than Wednesday, June 12th at 5:00 pm. **Entry fees are \$15/contestant, and payment or proof of payment must be postmarked by Thursday, June 13th.**

PAYMENT OF 4-H ENTRY FEES: Payment in the amount of \$15/contestant is due for all youth that are entered. Payment or proof of payment processing is to be **postmarked by June 13th and mailed to Katherine Carter, Extension Youth Animal Science Specialist, 175 W. Campus Drive, 380 Litton Reaves, Blacksburg, VA 24061.** *****Please note: We are asking these entry fees be MAILED not brought to the contest.**

Acceptable forms of payment are:

- Personal or Business/Check, made payable to: Treasurer of Virginia Tech
- Copy of Virginia Tech or Virginia 4-H Foundation PO
- Copy of Virginia Tech/Hokiemart Internal Transfer Request
- Internal/Journal Transfers use: ORG #064300 and FUND #553931

FFA: FFA contestants and teams must enter using the FFA Convention Registration Link [Event Information \(judgingcard.com\)](http://judgingcard.com). The deadline for submitting entries and registration for 2024 State FFA Convention is Thursday, June 5th. **Questions regarding FFA entries and Day 1 FFA Contest details should be directed to Andy Seibel at gseibel@vt.edu**

DUAL-ENTERED CONTESTANTS: Contestants may dual enter for this contest and participate in both the 4-H and FFA Contests. However, any contestant that wishes to compete in the 4-H division MUST be entered using [this entry system](#) and pay the \$15.00 entry fee. Registration and participation in the 4-H Contest is not impacted by their participation in the Day 1 FFA Contest or their eligibility/return for the Day 2 FFA Contest. **An FFA Contestant that is not selected to return for Day 2 FFA is NOT eligible for the 4-H Contest unless they were pre-entered for the 4-H Contest by the June 12th deadline. NO DUAL ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED CONTEST DAY.** Entry fees for dual-entered contestants will be assessed through the 4-H entry system.

*****Junior FFA Contestants will ONLY Judge on Day 1 – No Junior FFA Contestants will return for the Day 2 contest.**

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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*****Dual-entered contestants who make the Day 1 FFA Cut and return for Day 2 are required to wear FFA Official Dress, no exception.**

DUAL-ENTERED CONTESTANTS, cont'd: Division designation for 4-H is based on contestant birth date, not grade. Therefore, coaches should take this into consideration when dual-entering youth. **It is possible, based on date of birth, for a contestant to be in a different age division for the 4-H vs the FFA Contest. Contestants who fall into that category will be required to complete all elements of both contest divisions if that is the case.**

ELIGIBILITY - 4-Hers must be enrolled in the Virginia 4HOnline system, **prior to your entry submission, and must be enrolled as a member 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, 2024, but cannot have had their 14th birthday as of January 1, 2024. Senior division contestants must be 14 through 18 years old as of January 1, 2024. Youth who have had their 19th birthday before January 1, 2024 are not eligible to compete.

Senior FFA Contestants and Teams will advance to Day 2 FFA Livestock Judging Contest based on the rules of the Virginia State FFA Livestock Evaluation CDE. *****Coaches please refer to the Dual-Entry rules above regarding Junior FFA Youth who qualify as Senior 4-H Contestants.**

*****Advancing Senior FFA Contestants should be prepared to adjust their schedules to accommodate a full day of judging and reasons on Wednesday, June 26th. Please do not make special requests for reasons order placement or “working ahead” due to schedule conflicts – this only complicates the schedule and increases the potential for error in recording scores.**

THE CONTEST - There will be 8 – 10 placing classes in the contest. Placing classes could include market or breeding cattle, swine, sheep, and meat goats. All Seniors will give 4 sets of reasons. All Juniors will give 2 sets of reasons. Production scenarios and performance data will be provided on at least 2 breeding classes. A set of 10 questions will be asked on 2 placing classes with each question worth 3 points. 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.

Day 1 FFA Contestants should refer to the [VA FFA Association Livestock Evaluation Handbook](#) for details and contest components for Day 1. Day 1 FFA Contest will be held Tuesday, June 25th, at the Alphin Stuart Arena on the campus of VA Tech – Time TBD.

All contestants, senior and junior, in both the 4-H and FFA contest will use a Scantron form to record their answers. A PDF of this form can be found at the youth livestock webpage, as well as this link <https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/476-3.pdf> . Coaches are encouraged to familiarize their participants with this form and explain how to complete and mark the Scantron. All contestants must provide their own 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!*** Contestant placings, on their Scantron, will be highlighted at the conclusion of each class. Contestants are not allowed to change their placing on a class after it has been highlighted. It is the responsibility of each contestant to have their group leader highlight their placing at the end of each class, as this denotes “turning in their card”.

Lunch will be provided for all contestants between judging classes and presenting oral reasons. The cost of lunch is included in the \$15.00 entry fee.

AWARDS – Class critiques and results for the 4-H Contest will be announced at the conclusion of oral reasons.

STATE 4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM – 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. Katherine Carter, Extension Youth Animal Science Specialist, will meet with the Top 20 individuals to schedule practices throughout the remainder of the summer.

REPRESENTATION IN NATIONAL CONTESTS – The Top High Team Overall will receive the opportunity to represent Virginia at a regional or national level contest with the entry fee paid by the State Youth Animal Science Program. There may be opportunities for the second and third place teams depending on contest availability in the Fall.

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>.

Schedule

Wednesday, June 26th

7:00 – 8:00 am	Registration	Alphin Stuart Arena Classroom
8:15 am	All Contestants Report to the Arena	
8:30 am	Contest Begins	
11:30 am	Lunch for all Contestants – included in entry fee	
12:30 – 2:30 pm	Reasons for ALL Contestants	
	ALL Juniors – 2 Sets	
	ALL Seniors – 4 Sets	
3:30 pm	Official Critiques/FFA Contestants return to campus	
4:00 pm	4-H Awards	

Times are tentative and subject to change if necessary