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**2026 State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest
Monday, June 15th, 2026
Alphin-Stuart Arena at Virginia Tech**

The State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest will be held Monday, June 15th at the Alphin-Stuart Arena on the campus of Virginia Tech. This event will serve as the Official State Contest for Virginia 4-H. **Please take note that for 2026 the Virginia FFA Livestock Evaluation CDE and Virginia 4-H State Livestock Judging Contest are being held on two separate dates. There will not be a joint event this year.** The information in this letter pertains only to the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.

Questions regarding the State FFA Livestock Evaluation CDE entry process should be directed to Andy Seibel at gseibel@vt.edu ***Do not use the link below to enter FFA youth in the State FFA Livestock Evaluation CDE.

ENTRY PROCESS:

4-H: The entry system is now open for 4-H entries and can be accessed at this link <https://tinyurl.com/2026-VA-4-H-Livestock-Jdg> Once completed, please email the Entry Summary Sheet to carterke@vt.edu no later than Tuesday, June 2nd at 5:00 pm. **Entry fees are \$20/contestant, and payment or proof of payment must be presented at check-in on Monday, June 15th.**

PAYMENT OF 4-H ENTRY FEES: Payment in the amount of \$20/contestant is due for all youth that are entered. **Payment or proof of payment processing is to be presented at contest check-in on Monday, June 15th.**

- 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

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 upon entry 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, 2026, but cannot have had their 14th birthday as of January 1, 2026. Senior division contestants must be 14 through 18 years old as of January 1, 2026. Youth who have had their 19th birthday before January 1, 2026 are not eligible to compete. Enrollments must be entered AND approved in 4HOnline at the time of entry submission. Date of birth and enrollment will be verified as entries are received.

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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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 entered contestants must give reasons. 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 and may be provided on all 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.

All contestants, senior and junior, 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 \$20.00 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 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 up to \$500 of 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

Monday, June 15th, 2026

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	
3:00 pm	Official Critiques	
3:30 pm	Recognition of Graduates and YAS Participants	
4:00 pm	4-H Awards	

Times are tentative and subject to change if necessary