May 4, 2015

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

FROM: Joi Saville, Extension Programming Associate, Youth Livestock

SUBJECT: 2015 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 24. Entry forms and a schedule for the day’s activities are available on the website. Entries must be sent via e-mail to joi.saville@vt.edu by Friday, May 29th. All entry forms and payments must be postmarked by Wednesday, June 3rd. Late entries will be charged a double entry fee up to June 12th; triple entry fees will be charged from June 13 – 24.

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, 2015, but cannot have had their 14th birthday as of January 1, 2015. Senior division contestants are 14 through 18 as of January 1, 2015. Youth who have had their 19th birthday on or before January 1, 2015 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. 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. Questions session will be conducted following judging of all classes. Contestants will be given opportunity to study their notes prior to questions being asked. However, the class will not be visible, nor may contestants 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 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 set 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!*

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 10 senior individuals overall in this contest will be invited to try out for a spot on the Virginia State 4H Livestock Judging Team (to represent Virginia at national contest at the North American in November). Additional at-large invitations to participate on the team may be extended to individuals at the discretion of the state Youth Livestock Specialist (coach of the state team). State team members will participate in up to 4 contests, along with additional multi-day workouts during the fall. Additional details on the state team and commitments/requirements will be provided to qualifying individuals following the contest. In addition, the first and second high teams overall 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 available on the Youth Livestock website under Livestock Judging resources at: [http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/youth-livestock/resources/index.html#select=5](http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/youth-livestock/resources/index.html#select=5).

cc: David Roper, Cathy Sutphin, Dan Eversole, Lane Woodward, Scott Greiner, Mark McCann