



North Dakota State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest Rules

State Specialists

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Registration:

www.judgingcard.com/Registration/Info.aspx?ID=10866

To register, use your North Dakota county 4-H number and “ND” as your username and password. Example: If my county number is 7777, I would put **ND7777** for the username and **ND7777** for the password. **Do not change passwords; the numbers are** on the last page.

General Information

The North Dakota 4-H livestock judging contest provides an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H livestock projects to enhance their livestock evaluation and selection skills. Additionally, a judging contest improves their communication and decision-making skills, giving them invaluable life skills toward career development. The purpose of the 4-H livestock judging contest is to teach youth how to evaluate livestock and how to make and defend their decisions. Participants will judge classes that include beef cattle, boer goats, sheep and swine. Seniors then will answer questions from a class to evaluate their thought processes and knowledge of the species judged. Participants then will prepare sets of oral reasons and meet one-on-one with an official to describe the reasons for their class placement. Competition in livestock judging fosters self-confidence, organization, critical thinking, teamwork skills and oral communication skills. Just as important, this contest advances their knowledge of the livestock industry. This contest provides an educational program for all project members, including those who may not own a project animal.

The winning 4-H senior team will have a choice to represent North Dakota at the national 4-H livestock judging contest at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky., in November or the Western National Roundup in Denver, Colo. The second-place team has the option to compete at the Western National Roundup in Denver and still compete next year at the state level to qualify for NAILE.

Objectives and Outcomes:

- Stimulate learning in animal science and agricultural industry
- Have youth develop positive interests and attitudes about animal science and related careers
- Have youth gain a base of knowledge of animal science projects
- Have youth utilize skills and abilities to solve everyday situations
- Reward 4-H members for knowledge gained in a subject matter area
- Allow youth to gain valuable producer experience
- Provide a competitive setting in which attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail
- Allow participants to process information, analyze complex problems and make informed decisions regarding current agricultural, environmental, livestock, producer decisions and industry issues
- Have youth develop teamwork, self-confidence, public speaking and decision-making skills
- Have participants seek higher education opportunities and careers related to animal science

Preregistration Required (*registration cost: \$5 per individual*)

Please preregister online at JudgingCard.com: www.judgingcard.com/Registration/Info.aspx?ID=10866

- Changes and substitutions may be made at registration on the day of the contest.
- **To register**, use your North Dakota county 4-H number and “ND” as your username and password. Example” If my county number is 7777, I would put **ND7777** for the username and **ND7777** for the password. County numbers are listed on the last page of this document.

The deadline for the winning state 4-H livestock judging team to decide to go to nationals: July 1

Contestants and Eligibility

1. Contestants must be enrolled in North Dakota 4-H (4honline) as a full-time member in the county they represent. Short-term 4-H members are not eligible to compete at the state level.
2. Counties may enter any number of participants in either age division. The high **three individual** scores will determine the team score.
3. All participants are eligible for individual awards.
4. **Counties may combine to form a team, provided neither county has more than two participants.** Combination teams must preregister together for the appropriate age group. A team of three may not pick up a fourth member from another county.
 - a. **Both counties and coaches from the different teams must approve combining of individuals for a team.**
5. Contestants in the **senior** division must be 14 to 18 years old as of Dec. 31, 2020. The **junior** division is for members 8 to 13 years of age as of Dec. 31, 2020.
6. While the contest is in progress (including reasons), **no** conferring shall occur among contestants or anyone else other than the contest superintendents, group leaders or their representative. **Fifty points** will be deducted from the total score for each talking infraction reported.
7. Individuals with disabilities are invited to request reasonable accommodations to participate in NDSU-sponsored programs and events. To request accommodations, please contact Holly Halvorson at 701-231-7251 or Holly.Halvorson@ndsu.edu by **Feb. 24** to make arrangements.
8. 4-H members are not eligible for this contest if:
 - a. They have judged at the national 4-H livestock judging contest in Louisville.
 - b. They have participated in official post-secondary (university, college, junior college or technical school) competitive events of a similar nature in the same subject matter area. Neither can they be members of a post-secondary team undergoing training in preparation for an event.

Contest Divisions

Each age division is considered a separate contest and youth may enter one of the following divisions:

- ✿ **Junior 4-H division:** Youth ages 8 to 13 and enrolled in North Dakota 4-H as full-time 4-H members (not a short-term member) as of Dec. 31, 2020
- ✿ **Senior 4-H division:** Youth ages 14 to 18 on Dec. 31, 2020, and enrolled in North Dakota 4-H as full-time 4-H members (not a short-term member)
- ✿ **Open division:** Participants ages 8 to 18 not eligible for 4-H divisions. 4-H/FFA dual members choosing to only judge in the state FFA livestock judging contest this year may enter this division. Individuals from another state are welcome to enter this division.

- ✓ The senior first-place team overall will represent North Dakota at the national 4-H livestock judging contest held in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky. The first-place team is awarded \$1,000 from the North Dakota 4-H Foundation to help with travel expenses. The second-place senior team overall has the option to represent North Dakota at the Western National Roundup 4-H livestock judging contest in Denver, Colo. The second-place team is not awarded funding for travel expenses at this time. Contestants must already have passed their 14th birthday and may not have reached their 19th birthday as of Jan. 1 of the year in which the national 4-H competitive event is held. However, the state 4-H leader may grant a special authorization to compete for youth with developmental disabilities who exceed the upper age limit.
- ✓ **To request funding for the national 4-H livestock judging contest:**
 - The Extension agent in the county of the representative team will need to write a formal letter to the North Dakota 4-H Foundation director, Penny Dale, (penny.dale@ndsu.edu) and copy the state 4-H animal science specialist at LeighAnn.Skurupey@ndsu.edu on the email as well. Request funds for \$1,000. **Include:** who the 4-H Foundation should write the check to, where to mail the check, the names of those competing on the team, and the name and date of the national event.

✿ County agents and coaches are responsible for determining the age and member eligibility of participants in the state 4-H livestock judging contest from their respective clubs.

Dress Code

Participants shall follow the 4-H dress code: 4-H members must be dressed neatly and wear a solid white, yellow, gray or green shirt with the 4-H emblem on the front. **County names or other affiliation should not be worn at the state contest to avoid bias.** The clover may be imprinted, screened or attached with an adhesive (if clovers are pinned to the shirt, use multiple pins and place pins discreetly underneath the chevron). **Failure to comply will result in the deduction of 50 points from the individual or team score.** 4-H members are asked to stay in official dress until completion of awards.

Contest Guidelines

Rules of the national 4-H contest in Louisville will apply. Local managers may modify rules and procedures as needed to conduct the event in the allowed time.

1. No electronic devices (phones, tablets, computers, etc.) will be allowed during the contest.
2. **Twelve minutes** will be provided to judge each class.
3. Scantrons will be used for the entire contest, judging and questions. An example for practice has been provided on our website:
www.ndsu.edu/4h/member_information/programs_events/state_4_h_contests/livestock_events
4. Contestants must bring their own No. 2 pencils, clipboards or judging books.
5. Participants are responsible for ensuring their scantron is filled out properly. This includes:
 - a. Erased bubbles on the scantron are erased well so the scanner does not pick up a double-marked answer.
 - b. Scantron bubbles are filled in neatly and dark enough for the scanner to read the bubble correctly.
 - c. Scantrons will **not** be evaluated or checked for inaccuracy do to the error of the contestant.
 - d. Please make sure to double-check scantrons before they are handed in. Once they are handed in, they will **not** be returned for any reason.
6. Oral reasons will have a two-minute time limit. Contestants should not have paper, cards or notes to assist while giving reasons.

General Rules

1. **Juniors** – will judge **six classes** of livestock and give **three sets of reasons**.
2. **Seniors** – will judge **nine to 10 classes** of livestock with **three sets of reasons** and a **question class**.
 - a. The question class will be given when all contestants are seated in the reasons holding room. Absolutely no notes are allowed to be utilized. If caught, 50 points will be deducted from your score.
 - b. Performance data may be provided on some classes.
 - c. One class of **10 questions** will be given.
3. **Judging Phase** – 50 points per class
The contest will consist of any or all of the following placing classes: breeding cattle, market cattle, breeding sheep, market lambs, breeding hogs, market hogs, meat goats or breeding does. A minimum of **12 minutes** will be allowed for contestants to judge each class.
4. **Reasons Phase** – 50 points per set
Two minutes are allowed for oral reasons. Contestants should not have paper, cards or notes to assist while giving reasons. Reading notes to a reasons taker will result in a score no higher than **25 points**. Reasons are evaluated on content, accuracy, emphasis, completeness, terminology and presentation.
5. **Questions Phase** – 50 points total
For seniors only. Ten questions will be asked. No notes are to be utilized to answer the questions. Participants will have **five minutes** to look over their notes before they are asked to put them away. Questions will be asked twice and repeated if necessary. Incorrect answers will have 3 points deducted from the possible 50 points.

Tie BREAKING

All ties overall, individual and team, will be broken using the following sequence:

1. Team Score (for team ties only)
2. Reasons scores overall
3. Judging scores overall
4. For Seniors – Questions scores overall
5. Species classes will be ranked prior to the start of the contest to serve as the final tiebreaker.

Ties within any phase are to be broken using the overall score first and then the same sequence as above.

AWARDS

1. Senior and junior 4-H division participants are eligible for the following awards:
 - a. Individual ribbon awards for the top ten individuals and top five teams overall.
 - b. Awards for the five high individuals in each species and reasons
 - c. Awards for the high individual overall in each division and first place senior team (top three scores and first alternate).
 - d. Ribbons will be awarded to approximately the top 50% of the participants.

Sponsors:

North Dakota Stockmen's Association
North Dakota Farm Bureau
Independent Beef Association of North Dakota
North Dakota 4-H Foundation

2. Open division participants are eligible for the following awards:
 - a. Ribbons for top five individuals and members of the first place team.
3. Senior 4-H division first place team (top three scores plus first alternate) will be eligible to represent North Dakota 4-H at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky. The North Dakota 4-H Foundation will provide \$1000 towards the expenses of this trip. **In order to represent North Dakota 4-H and judge in a national contest, participants must judge in this state contest.**

RESULTS

Results will be posted on www.judgingcard.com under the contest name.

SUPPLIES

1. Individuals competing in the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest should come prepared with a #2 pencil for all phases of the contest.
 - a. Scantron forms will be utilized for the contest. An example of the scantron is available on the NDSU 4-H Livestock Events page.
2. Individuals should have a notebook for the judging portion of the contest to take notes for reasons and question classes.
3. A clipboard or notebook to keep the scantron in good condition with no creases or folds is a good idea. If the scantron cannot be read due to its condition, that participant will receive a no score.

OFFICIALS:

In order to provide a rewarding experience for our youth, volunteers are key to the successful operation and efficiency of each contest. If you would like to serve as an official during the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, please send an email to LeighAnn.Skurupey@ndsu.edu.

1. **Superintendent(s):** Oversees all aspects of the contest, assists contestants and other officials. Arrange for qualified Judge(s). Publicize contest. Ensure rules are updated. Arrange for and select animals for classes. Secure other officials, supplies, and paperwork to efficiently run the contest. Establish contest on Judgincard.com and develop contest within the system. Introduces the contest and ensures the PA system is working. Works to ensure results, reasons, and classes are being conducted in a professional and timely manner. Assists in presenting awards and posting awards.
2. **Moderator(s):** The moderator should be knowledgeable in livestock judging procedures, guidelines, and regulations. The moderator assumes complete direction of the contest (may also be the superintendent), calls rotation of the animals and rotation of the participants during the judging phase. Gathers the official placings and cuts for tabulation.
3. **Judge(s):** A judge can be anyone with a strong background in livestock judging. The judge(s) will make informed decisions on the official placing for each class. Along with the moderator, they will come to an agreement on official cuts based on the difficulty or ease of placing each class. The judge(s) may or may not be used as reasons takers. Should give reasons for the class placings and official placings/cuts before the awards ceremony after the contest is complete.
4. **Time Keeper:** The timekeeper will monitor elapsed time for each timed rotation of stations allowing **12 minutes** for each class to be judged, giving adequate time for each rotation to settle in prior to starting the time clock after each rotation.
5. **Reasons taker(s):** An industry professional knowledgeable in livestock. Reasons taker listens to each participant to evaluate the content, accuracy, emphasis, completeness, terminology and presentation for each class. A reasons taker should make their best effort to score consistently throughout the contest. Reasons takers will listen to the first three sets together and collectively score them, to make every attempt to maintain uniformity. Reasons takers should be on the same page when participants read off their notes (highest score allowed being **25 points**).
6. **Livestock handlers:** Assist with moving animals around in a pen to help participant's ability to see all sides of each animal. Help transport animals from pen to pen during rotation. Help lead or hold animals if needed.
7. **Group leaders:** Volunteers, coaches, chaperones, agents that assist with leading each group of contestants during the rotation of classes. They are responsible for collecting cards when the class is complete from each participant. They are the only individual that participants are allowed to talk to during the judging portion of the contest. Group leaders help to ensure participants are not talking amongst themselves and report illegal behavior (cell phones, talking, cheating, etc.) to the superintendent or moderator.
8. **Tabulators:** Collecting reasons cards and scantrons. Helping to input reasons scores into the JudgingCard.com system. Double-checking the top ten individuals for each category.
9. **Reasons room advisors:** Help to ensure participants are not talking to each other and the volume of voices are held at an appropriate level for contestants to work and respect each other. Ensuring participants are not conversing with each other.
10. **Hallway advisors:** Beneficial in helping each participant find their way to their respective reasons rooms. Ensure participants are not conversing with each other.
11. **Extra volunteers:** Help with assembling and passing out lunch. May help with registration desk. May run scorecards and reasons cards to the tabulation room.

OTHER RESOURCES

NDSU Livestock Judging Terminology Manual:

The 3rd edition of the manual will be \$10 per book plus shipping. This manual serves as a fundraiser for the NDSU Judging Club so they are not available by ordering through Distribution. If interested in ordering the manuals you can go to the NDSU Marketplace or by clicking on this link:

https://epayment.ndus.nodak.edu/C22800_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=4&SINGLESTORE=true

Goat judging resources:

- <https://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/PNW/PNW678.pdf>
- <https://extension.tennessee.edu/henderson/Documents/%2713%20Livestock%20Judg%20Guide%20Module%209%20Mrkt%20Goats.pdf>
- <https://surechamp.com/mark-that-card-market-goats-2/>

OSU Extension Youth Livestock Judging Materials

- <https://u.osu.edu/livestockjudging/beef-cattle-resources/>

Iowa State University 4-H Youth Extension

- ISU offers some judging videos and sample questions on their page.
- <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/livestock-judging>

Livestock Judging.com

- Livestock judging.com is a subscription based website that you pay for different levels of access to but the good news is that there are also some free resources on the site as well. There are 10 free practice classes you can access.
- <http://www.livestockjudging.com/>

The Judging Connection

- The judging connection website is a free resource maintained by Ryan Harrell. It features a monthly newsletter as well as a monthly judging class where you can submit your placings via email. The following month, the official placings as well as the cuts and a set of reasons for the class are posted. It also has a virtual library with many links to judging resources and online practice classes.
- <https://thejudgingconnection.com/>

YouTube

- YouTube offers practice livestock judging videos varying in quality. Search for terms like “livestock Judging,” “Livestock judging classes,” and “livestock judging practice.”

ND 4-H County Numbers			
4001	Adams	4030	Morton
4002	Barnes	4031	Mountrail
4003	Benson	4032	Nelson
4004	Ft. Berthold	4033	Oliver
4005	Bottineau	4034	Pembina
4006	Bowman	4035	Pierce
4007	Burke	4036	Ramsey
4008	Burleigh	4037	Ransom
4009	Cass	4038	Renville
4010	Cavalier	4039	Richland
4011	Dickey	4040	Rolette
4012	Divide	4041	Sargent
4013	Dunn	4042	Sheridan
4014	Eddy	4043	Sioux
4015	Emmons	4044	Slope
4016	Foster	4045	Stark-Billings
4017	Golden Valley	4046	Steele
4018	Grand Forks	4047	Stutsman
4019	Grant	4048	Towner
4020	Griggs	4049	Trail
4021	Hettinger	4050	Walsh
4022	Kidder	4051	Ward
4023	LaMoure	4052	Wells
4024	Logan	4053	Williams
4025	McHenry	4054	Burleigh-Logan combined team
4026	McIntosh	4055	Dunn-Pembina combined team
4027	McKenzie	4056	Barnes-LaMoure combined team
4028	McLean	4057	Morton-McIntosh combined team
4029	Mercer		