

# NATIONAL 4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Superintendent - Matt Gunderson  
Assistant Superintendent - Clint Rusk  
Associate Superintendent For Awards - Bob Ebert  
Additional Assistant Superintendents  
Mike Neary, Doyle Wolverton, Delbert O'Meara, John Parker  
Management Committee Chairman - Bob Ebert

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### ENTRY

Each state is invited to enter one 4-H Livestock judging team of three members. A team may also enter an alternate. When the alternate judges, the three members with the highest total scores will make up the state total. The contestant with the lowest score is eligible for individual awards. The team members will be selected in a manner determined by the state Extension Service. The contestants must be certified by the State 4-H Club Leader on entry blanks filed with the North American International Livestock Exposition by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

An entry fee of \$75.00 will be charged to each team. This fee must be forwarded with the team entry form. The money received from this fee is used to defray the expenses of the contest.

Each state that enters a 4-H livestock judging team is responsible for medical/accident insurance for all members of their team while traveling to and from the NAILE and during the National 4-H Judging Contest and other events associated with the NAILE.

### CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Contestants must be bona fide 4-H Club members approved by the Extension Service of their respective states.
2. Each contestant must have passed his or her 14th birthday and cannot have passed his or her 19th birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
3. To be eligible to participate as a contestant in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at the North American Livestock Exposition, an individual:
  - A) shall not have participated in **any** post-secondary (university, college, junior college or technical school) competitive event of a similar nature and in the same subject matter area. A competitive event is defined here as an event open to more than one educational institution (or it's students) in which scores are kept and awards are offered to any or all participants;
  - B) neither shall a contestant have completed or be currently enrolled in a post-secondary course primarily related to visual livestock and/or carcass evaluation; or,
  - C) shall not participate in the North American International Livestock Exposition Junior College Judging Contest in the same year he/she is a contestant in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.

Violation of any of these eligibility rules shall disqualify all members of the entered team as contestants in this or future National 4-H Livestock Judging Contests held at the North American. Further, the coach will be barred from participation in the current, as well as, the following year's contest.

State 4-H Leaders are responsible for determining the eligibility of participants in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest from their respective states, particularly those who have completed high school prior to the contest.

4. Contestants who have served as an official team member or as an alternate in the National 4-H Livestock Judging contest are ineligible to compete a second time.

## METHOD OF CONDUCT

**(Any amendment to the "Method of Conduct" section sent to State 4-H Leaders and/or their delegated contacts by July 1, 2011, will be in effect for the 2011 contest.)**

1. Contestants and coaches are permitted to visit the North American International Livestock Exposition starting on Saturday, November 12. However, they are required to stay out of the East Hall where the contest will be held and the West Wing and Hall where the beef cattle are located. All participants and coaches shall avoid the East Hall including hallways on Monday during the Senior Collegiate contest. Any violation could result in disqualification of the team. Contestants and coaches are allowed in the stands to watch the beef cattle show in the Coliseum, visit the trade show, or in the stands to watch the sheep show. Contestants and coaches must stay out of all beef and sheep stalling areas. Contestants or coaches who plan to exhibit at the show, and are planning to visit those areas that are "off limits" to judging contestants, must receive permission from the Superintendent of the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest by November 1.
2. A coaches meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 14 in the Holiday Inn Meeting Room at Fern Valley Road. At that time, the program will be explained and contest instructions will be given. Coaches should be prepared to check names, addresses, and ages of their contestants. Be sure contestants have their social security numbers with them at Louisville.
3. All contestants and coaches will report to the East Hall of the Exposition Center on Tuesday, November 15 at 7:30 a.m., where they will receive final instructions regarding the remainder of the contest.
4. No contestant shall wear any clothing, pins, or badges that will in any way reveal his/her identity or the state that he/she represents. The contest will be held inside so dress accordingly. No hats are to be worn during the contest.
5. All electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, PDA's, calculators, etc.) are prohibited. Please advise your contestants to remove these devices prior to the start of the contest. If a contestant's phone should ring, or if they are discovered using such electronic devices during the contest, the contestant and their team may be disqualified.
6. Contestants will be divided into groups for the contest and will remain with their assigned group throughout the contest and the delivery of oral reasons. While the contest is in progress, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by the Superintendent or his/her representative. Offending contestants may be disqualified.
7. The contest will be comprised of eleven (11) classes of livestock. Of these eleven classes, four will be beef, three will be swine, three will be sheep, and one will be a class of meat goat does. All classes will be comprised of four animals, and the animals will be designated with numbers 1-2-3-4. At least one breeding class from each species will have performance data and a scenario included. However, contest administrators and officials will strive to include performance information and scenarios for all breeding

classes, if possible. See the Guidelines: National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest for a description of scenarios and performance definitions. Of the four species being evaluated, a minimum of one class may be made up of intact males.

8. Reasons will be given on four classes (two beef, one swine, and one sheep). Questions will be asked on two classes. One swine (breeding or market) and one sheep (breeding or market) class will comprise the two question classes. A beef breeding class with performance records will automatically be an oral reasons class. Contestants will be provided a blank notebook/pad on the morning of the contest. Contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving oral reasons.
9. Two minutes will be allowed to give oral reasons on each class.
10. Contestants will be allowed twelve (12) minutes to place each non-reasons class.
11. Contestants will be allowed fifteen (15) minutes on each reasons class, to make their observations, take notes, and fill-out their placing card.
12. Breeding cattle and steers will NOT be handled. All judging of non-reasons cattle classes will be done from a distance of 10-15 feet. Close inspection may be allowed. This will be determined after selection of the classes.
13. Breeding sheep and goats will not be handled since they will be judged loose in a pen. When handling market lambs and meat goat wethers, contestants will stand in line and will be allowed 15 seconds to handle each lamb or goat individually. Lambs and goats maybe may not be rehandled at any time.
14. All coaches and assistants (spouses if they want to) should be available during the morning of the contest to assist with the running of the contest. Job responsibilities will be assigned at the coaches' meeting on Monday evening prior to the contest.

### SUPERINTENDENT

1. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to see that all rules and regulations of the contest are followed. He/she shall determine the answers to all questions which may arise in connection with the interpretation of the rules governing the contest.
2. The superintendent shall have assistant superintendents and helpers to assist with contest management.
3. The Superintendent will not serve as an official judge nor listen to oral reasons.
4. The Superintendent shall take charge of all records and shall have all scores tabulated and totaled.

### CLERKS AND ASSISTANTS

The clerks, assistants and attendants shall be under the direction of the Superintendent. They shall carry out all assignments in an orderly manner; and none of them shall confer with a contestant unless directed by the Superintendent.

### DETERMINATION OF RATINGS

1. Fifty (50) points shall constitute a perfect mark for placing classes and 50 points a perfect mark on oral reasons.
2.
  - a. If tied for species awards, a contestant or team having the highest total reasons score on the species shall be listed first.
  - b. If tied for overall individual or team awards, the contestant or team having the highest total reasons score shall be listed first.

- c. If still tied after “a” and “b” listed above, the contestant or team having the highest total questions score shall be listed first.
  - d. If contestants or teams are still tied for a species award after “a,” “b” and “c” above, the contestant or team having the highest overall score shall be listed first.
  - e. If tied for total reasons score, the contestant or team having the lowest total placing score on reasons classes shall be listed first.
3. The records tabulated and submitted by the Superintendent to the Secretary-Manager of the North American International Livestock Exposition shall be final, once they have been publicly announced.
  4. Team alternates are eligible for individual awards.

### JUDGES

1. A committee of judges shall place all classes and listen to oral reasons. If the number of teams entered indicates that additional judges are necessary to expedite the process of listening to oral reasons, the Superintendent shall have the authority to appoint such judges.
2. The judges shall place the classes while the contestants are working in the area. The judges shall mark their placings on placing cards, indicate the cuts to be made and file that card with the referee judge.
3. Contestants will **NOT** be offered their placing card as they appear before an official judge to give their oral reasons. When a contestant has finished giving oral reasons on a class, the judge will place the official reasons score on a master sheet that will be used for tabulation.

CONTESTANTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISQUALIFICATION  
FROM THE CONTEST FOR INFRACTIONS  
OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

**If you have questions or desire additional information, please contact the Superintendent:**

**Matt Gunderson**  
Executive Vice President  
Knights of AK-SAR-BEN Foundation  
8707 West Center Rd., Suite 101  
Omaha, NE 68124  
Office: (402) 554-9600 x105  
Fax: (402) 554-9609  
Cell: (605) 695-3213  
E-mail: [gundersonm@aksarben.org](mailto:gundersonm@aksarben.org)