



# STATE 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

## MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

### Thursday, July 17, 2014

Held in conjunction with the Michigan Livestock Expo



Pick up Judging Packets - 9:00 a.m.

Contest Begins - 10:00 a.m.

Contest will conclude at approximately 4:00 p.m.

#### Event Contacts:

Carla McLachlan  
Events Coordinator  
1287 Anthony Hall  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
Phone: 517/432-5402  
[mclachl2@msu.edu](mailto:mclachl2@msu.edu)

Julie Thelen  
MSU Extension Educator  
1287 Anthony Hall  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
Phone: 517/432-1626  
[thelenju@anr.msu.edu](mailto:thelenju@anr.msu.edu)

The rules and entry forms for this contest may be found at the following sites:

Michigan 4-H Livestock Program website: [http://4h.msue.msu.edu/programs/animal\\_science/livestock](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/programs/animal_science/livestock)

Michigan FFA website: <http://www.michiganffa.com/association/>

Michigan Livestock Expo website: <http://www.milivestock.com/milivestock>

MSU Animal Science Youth Program website: [http://www.ans.msu.edu/youth\\_extension\\_programs/youth\\_events](http://www.ans.msu.edu/youth_extension_programs/youth_events)

In the livestock judging contest, participants can enhance their livestock evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve their communication and decision making skills. This contest will include both individual and team competition.

#### KEY 2014 CONTEST CHANGES:

- Eight classes including beef cattle, boer goats, sheep and swine will be counted towards the total score.
- The state winning Senior 4-H Division team will compete at the American Royal Contest.
- The top 15 Senior 4-H Division contestants, who have not already competed at the NAILE, will have the opportunity to compete for 8 spots to represent Michigan 4-H at one of two national contests.

#### **REGULAR FEE ENTRY DEADLINE IS JULY 1, 2014.**

Entries must be postmarked by July 1, 2014. Entries postmarked after July 1 or submitted the day of the contest will be charged \$20.00 per person. **Entries sent in without entry fees will not be accepted.**

#### JUNIOR 4-H DIVISION:

The Junior 4-H Division is open to youth ages 8 to 13 as of **January 1** of the current year.

#### SENIOR 4-H DIVISION:

The Senior 4-H Division is open to youth ages 14 to 18 as of **January 1** of the current year.

(NOTE: The maximum age limit of 18 is to coincide with the age requirements of the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, KY.)

#### FFA DIVISIONS:

The FFA Contest will be divided into two divisions, Middle School (grades 7 & 8) and High School (grades 9, 10, 11, and 12). Awards will only be given to teams in the FFA division.

#### SENIOR MLE DIVISION:

Youth that are 19, 20 or 21 years of age on **January 1** of the current year may participate in the Senior MLE Division, but may not be a member of a 4-H or FFA team. This division is for individuals only and there will be no team awards.

## **GENERAL ELIGIBILITY:**

1. Any 4-H member who has completed a post-secondary course related to livestock and/or carcass evaluation is ineligible to compete in the Senior 4-H Division. In addition, any 4-H member that has participated in any post-secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive event of a similar nature and in the same subject matter is ineligible to compete in the Senior 4-H Division. However, they are eligible to compete in the Senior MLE Division.
2. Any FFA member who has previously competed at the National FFA Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE) may compete in this contest as an individual, but may not be a member of a FFA team.
3. Any 4-H member who has previously competed in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at the North American International Livestock Show may compete in this contest as an individual, but may not be a member of a 4-H team.
4. To be eligible to participate in national contests, a contestant must have competed in the Senior 4-H or High School FFA oral reasons division of this contest.
5. The top high school FFA team will have the opportunity to represent Michigan FFA at the National FFA Livestock Evaluation CDE in Louisville, KY.
6. The top senior division 4-H team will have the opportunity to represent Michigan 4-H at the American Royal 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Kansas City, MO. The top fifteen 4-H senior division individuals will have the opportunity to compete for eight spots to represent Michigan at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, KY or the Keystone International Livestock Exposition in Harrisburg, PA.

## **2014 Michigan 4-H Livestock Judging Program Changes:**

To support more Michigan youth at national livestock judging events along with instilling an additional competitive spirit, recent changes have been approved to allow cross-county state representative teams. The goal of the change is to allow talented individuals, who may not otherwise have the opportunity, the chance to compete on national teams. In the revised program, individuals from any county are combined with individuals from other counties to compete at two of three national contests.

The three national contests will include the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, KY; the American Royal in Kansas City, MO; and the Keystone International Livestock Exposition in Harrisburg, PA.

The most notable difference is the addition of cross-county representative teams. The selection of the two national teams will be based on those 4-H senior division contestants that place in the top 15 at the Michigan 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest each year. These contestants will be invited to participate in state-wide practices post-contest to determine who will represent Michigan at the national level based on availability, age, practice participation and county coach input.

If a member of the top 15 has already competed at NAILE, they will not be eligible to compete at any of the national contests due to contest rules. However, they will be allowed to practice with the team if they choose. Each year, the decision will be made if additional contestants are needed beyond the top 15 due to contestant availability and previous participation at NAILE.

The state winning county senior 4-H team will stay intact as the team representing Michigan at the American Royal. This is also a change as the state winning team would traditionally compete at NAILE. If a member of the state winning senior 4-H team also placed in the top 15 individually, he/she is still eligible to compete for a slot to judge on one of the cross-county state representative teams. If a county senior 4-H team were to win two years in a row, adjustments would be necessary to allow the team the choice to compete at Keystone or NAILE depending on their preference.

Due to the fact that National FFA rules require teams to be members of the same chapter, no alterations will be made to the state winning FFA team.

Funding and other factors are also a concern in this new program. The decision if three teams compete at national contests will be based on experience and the determination if a cross-county representative team is ready to compete at NAILE. The idea is that this is a three year trial of the new judging program and would allow for small changes and adjustments as needed.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. All members of a senior 4-H team and a junior 4-H team must be registered 4-H members from the same county. Each team can be made up of three or four members. When four are entered, the three team members with the highest scores will make up the team total.
2. All members of a FFA team must be from the same FFA chapter. Each team can be made up of three or four members. When four are entered, the three team members with the highest scores will make up the team total.
3. Contestants in the senior 4-H division, senior MLE division, and the high school FFA division will give oral reasons.
4. Contestants in the junior 4-H division and the junior high FFA division may compete in either the oral reasons division or the questions division. All members of a team must compete in either the oral reasons division or the questions division to score points as a team. Scores announced will be a combination of the questions and reasons divisions for each respective division.
5. One class will be designated as a questions class for all contestants. For those contestants that compete in the questions division, four (4) sets of questions will be asked. For those contestants that compete in the oral reasons division, one (1) set of questions will be asked and three (3) sets of oral reasons will be given.
6. Any person, even though not competing on a team, is eligible to compete as an individual. All 4-H team members and those competing as 4-H individuals are eligible for individual awards.
7. The **entry fee will be \$12.00 per contestant** and must be paid when the entry is made. Entries postmarked after July 1 or made the day of the contest will be charged \$20.00 per person. **Lunch will be provided** to all contestants.
8. After June 1, 2014 contestants or coaches will not be permitted to utilize any Michigan State University owned livestock for practice judging sessions.
9. If a contestant is a member of a team, please indicate on the entry form the name of the coach, 4-H leader, FFA Advisor, and/or county Extension staff person that will be determining the individuals that will comprise the team. Please refer to the individual and team entry form that is part of this packet.
10. If contestants are eligible and wish to compete for awards in the 4-H **and** FFA divisions, the appropriate entries **must** be made in **both** divisions by the entry deadline on July 1, 2014 and designated on the entry form.

## **PROCEDURES:**

1. Each contestant will be assigned a number and given judging cards. Contestants may use a clipboard and/or notebook of their choice, but cannot take bulletins, booklets or other notes or material into the contest.
2. If contestants are competing in both the 4-H and FFA divisions, they may be responsible for completing two sets of cards.
3. Contestants may not leave once the contest has started unless permission is given by the contest chairperson.
4. **Eight classes** of four livestock each will make up the contest. Four species will be represented; beef cattle, boer goats, sheep and swine. Both market and breeding animals may be judged.
5. The contest will also include oral reasons or questions on one class each of beef, sheep and swine. One additional class will be designated as a questions class for all contestants. These classes will be designated at the start of the contest.
6. Two minutes per set of reasons will be allowed to give oral reasons to the official judge. Contestants in the questions division will be asked ten questions on the designated classes. Oral reasons will be given and the questions will be asked after all classes have been judged. Contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving oral reasons or answering questions.
7. At least one breeding animal class with performance records will be an oral reasons or questions class.
8. Contestants will be divided into several equal-sized groups prior to the start of the contest and must remain with the assigned group throughout the contest.
9. Contestants will be given 12 minutes to place each class.
10. Breeding and market cattle will not be handled. Breeding sheep will not be handled since they will be judged loose in a pen. If the market lambs are handled, contestants will be allowed 15 seconds to handle each lamb individually. The announcement of any animal that will be able to be handled will be made prior to the start of the contest.

11. **While the contest is in progress, there shall be no talking or any other type of communication between contestants or coaches. Use of electric devices is strictly prohibited.** If a contestant has a question once the contest begins, please direct that question to the assigned group leader or the contest chairperson.
12. Violation of any of the rules will result in the disqualification of the contestant/s.
13. The official placings and cuts will be presented by the contest officials at the conclusion of the contest.
14. The results of the contest will be available at a time announced the day of the contest.

#### **RATINGS:**

1. Scores will be based on a possible 50 points for each placing class and 50 points for each oral reasons or questions class. With eight classes to be placed and three sets of reasons and/or questions, plus one additional questions class, there would be a possible score of 600 points per contestant and 1800 points per team.
2. In case of ties, the highest award shall go to the individuals or teams as follows:
  - a. If tied for individual or team award, contestant or team having the highest oral reasons or questions score shall be listed first.
  - b. If contestants or teams are still tied from (a) above, the contestant or team with the most perfect scores per class shall be listed first.

#### **AWARDS:**

1. 4-H Division:
  - a. Awards will be presented to the high scoring senior individual overall and in oral reasons.
  - b. Awards will be presented to the high scoring junior individual overall and the individual that scores highest in combined divisions of questions and oral reasons.
  - c. The high scoring junior and senior teams will also receive awards.
2. FFA Division:
  - a. Awards for the FFA division will only be presented to the high scoring teams.
  - b. Awards will be presented in both the middle school and high school divisions.
3. MLE Senior Division:
  - a. Recognition will be provided to the high scoring individual overall and in oral reasons.
4. All point totals will be provided to the Michigan Livestock Expo to be used towards determining the educational awards from the Livestock Scholarship Fund.

## 2014 MICHIGAN 4-H / FFA Livestock Judging Contest Entry Form

**Contestants and coaches are responsible for reading and adhering to the rules.** Entry forms with incorrect, incomplete or illegible information will not be accepted. Entries sent in without entry fees will not be accepted. **Entries must be postmarked by July 1, 2014** to avoid a late fee. **Every individual** that will be judging must complete this form.

Please feel free to reproduce this form if additional copies are needed. **PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:**

**Please mark the appropriate lines:**

Participating in: 4-H Contest \_\_\_\_\_ FFA Contest \_\_\_\_\_ Both Contests \_\_\_\_\_ MLE Senior Division \_\_\_\_\_

Participating as a: Individual \_\_\_\_\_ or Team member \_\_\_\_\_  
Junior \_\_\_\_\_ or Senior \_\_\_\_\_  
Oral Reasons \_\_\_\_\_ or Questions\* \_\_\_\_\_

(\*All participants in **4-H Senior division, FFA Senior division, and Senior MLE division** (19-21) must give oral reasons)

<b>Contestant Name:</b>		<b>Birthdate</b>	<b>Age as of Jan. 1, 2014</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip code</b>
<b>E-mail</b>	<b>County/Chapter</b>		
<b>National Judging Contest Previously Participated in:</b>		<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Please list any special needs (including food allergies):</b>			

**If you are participating as a team member, please complete the section below.**

Coach Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Additional team members: (Each team member must complete an individual contest entry form)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: **Team summary sheet** must also be completed and returned by July 1, 2014 to avoid late fees.

**Entry Fee:** \$12.00 per person (includes lunch). Please make check payable to **Michigan State University**. New this year: Entries postmarked after July 1 or made the day of the contest will be charged \$20.00 per person (includes lunch).

Send entry form and fees to: **Livestock Judging Contest, Dept. of Animal Science, 474 S. Shaw Lane, Room 1287, East Lansing, MI 48824**

**2014 Team Summary Sheet**  
**MICHIGAN 4-H / FFA Livestock Judging Contest**  
Please complete one form for each county / chapter team

County/Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Division \_\_\_\_\_ FFA Division \_\_\_\_\_ Both Divisions \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Team \_\_\_\_\_ Senior Team \_\_\_\_\_

Oral Reasons \_\_\_\_\_ Questions\* \_\_\_\_\_

(\*All participants in **4-H Senior division, FFA Senior division, and Senior MLE division** (19-21) must give oral reasons)

**Coach/Coordinating County Staff person:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list all team members:**

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name \_\_\_\_\_

***It is the responsibility of coach and/or coordinating county staff person to insure that each member has completed and submitted an individual 4-H / FFA Livestock Judging Contest entry form.***

**Please send this completed team summary sheet by July 1, 2014 to:**

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Livestock Judging Contest**  
**Dept. of Animal Science**  
**474 S. Shaw Lane, Rm 1287**  
**East Lansing, MI 48824**

Volunteers to help with the contest are greatly appreciated. Please list names of volunteers below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_