



Michigan 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest

MSU Pavilion, East Lansing

Thursday, July 14, 2016



Held in conjunction with the Michigan Livestock Expo

Pick up Judging Packets - 9 a.m.

Contest Begins - 10 a.m.

Contest will conclude at approximately 5 p.m.

Event Contact: Julie Thelen, MSU Extension Educator

Phone: 517/432-1626

Email: thelenju@anr.msu.edu

474 South Shaw Lane, 1287 Anthony Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824

Rules revised 4-29-2016

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

Michigan 4-H Animal Evaluation Program website: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/resources/4_h_animal_evaluation

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

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 CONTEST REMINDERS:

- 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 20 Senior 4-H Division contestants 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, 2016.

Entries must be postmarked by July 1, 2016 with \$15 entry fee per contestant. Late entries postmarked after July 1 or submitted the day of the contest will be charged \$25 per contestant. The contest will feature six divisions.

4-H CLOVERBUD DIVISION:

This 4-H Division is open to youth ages **7 to 8** as of **January 1** of the current year. Youth will judge 8 classes and answer four sets of questions. This is considered a non-competitive individual division and all contestants will be recognized.

4-H JUNIOR DIVISION:

4-H members ages **9 to 13** as of **January 1** of the current year compete in reasons or questions in the 4-H Junior Division.

4-H SENIOR DIVISION:

4-H members ages **14 to 18** as of **January 1** of the current year compete in reasons in the 4-H Senior Division. (Note: The maximum age limit of 18 is to coincide with the age requirements of the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.)

FFA Junior High DIVISION:

FFA members who recently completed 7th or 8th grade compete in reasons or questions in the FFA Junior High Division.

FFA High School DIVISION:

FFA member who recently completed 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade compete in reasons in the FFA High School 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. Youth not enrolled in 4-H or FFA may also compete in this division. This division is for individuals only and there will be no teams. All individuals in must compete in the reasons division.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Julie Thelen at 517-432-1626 by July 1 to make arrangements.

Requests received after this date will be fulfilled when possible.

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 4-H Senior 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 4-H Senior 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 Exposition (NAILE) 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 4-H Senior or FFA High School oral reasons division of this contest. Contestants can move up to compete in an older division, but may not move down.
5. All members of a 4-H senior and junior team must be registered 4-H members enrolled in the same county.
6. All members of a FFA team must be from the same FFA chapter.
7. The top high school FFA team will have the opportunity to represent Michigan FFA at the National FFA Livestock Evaluation CDE in Louisville, KY.
8. 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 twenty 4-H senior division individuals will have the opportunity to compete for eight spots to represent Michigan at the NAILE in Louisville, KY or the Keystone International Livestock Exposition in Harrisburg, PA.
9. MLE Exhibitors, who are not 4-H or FFA members, may also compete in the Senior MLE Division. All contestants in the division will give reasons.

Michigan 4-H Livestock Judging Program Changes that remain in effect:

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 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 20 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 20 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.

The state winning county 4-H senior 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 4-H senior team also placed in the top 20 individually, he/she is still eligible to compete for a slot to judge on one of the cross-county state representative teams.

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. 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. Contestants in the 4-H senior division, senior MLE division, and FFA high school division will give oral reasons.
3. Contestants in the 4-H junior division and the FFA junior high 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 the 4-H junior and FFA junior high divisions.
4. Contestants in the 4-H cloverbud division will judge all eight classes and answer four sets of questions.
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.
7. The **entry fee will be \$15.00 per contestant** and must be paid when the entry is made. Late entries postmarked after July 1 or made the day of the contest will be charged \$25.00 per person. **Lunch will be provided** to all contestants. The fee allows contestants to compete in both the 4-H and FFA division if eligible.
8. After July 1, 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 volunteer, 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, 2016 and designated on the entry form.
11. Preferred dress is business casual.
12. By participating in the contest, contestants are authorizing Michigan State University Extension/4-H to record their image and/or voice for use by Michigan State University Extension or its assignees in research, education, and promotional programs. By participating in the contest, contestants understand and agree that these audio, video, film, and/or print images may be edited, duplicated, distributed, reproduced, broadcasted, and/or reformatted in any form and manner without payment of fees in perpetuity.

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 will 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. Contestants will be given 12 minutes to place each class.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. **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.
11. Violation of any of the rules will result in the disqualification of the contestant(s).
12. The official placings will be presented by the contest officials at the conclusion of the contest followed by results.

RANKINGS:

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:

Additional awards may be added based on sponsorships; however, the contest will guarantee the following awards for the six different contest divisions:

1. 4-H Divisions:

- a. Cloverbud: Participation awards will be presented to all contestants.
- b. Junior:
 - i. Awards will be presented to the top two high scoring individuals overall.
 - ii. Award will be presented to the high scoring individual who scores highest in the combined divisions of questions and oral reasons.
 - iii. The high scoring team will receive awards.
- c. Senior:
 - i. Top ten overall individual will receive awards.
 - ii. Award will be presented to the high scoring individual in oral reasons.
 - iii. The high scoring team will receive awards.
 - iv. Top twenty individuals overall will be honored and be able to continue to compete for participation on cross-county state representative team.

2. FFA Divisions:

- a. Junior High:
 - i. Award will be presented to the high scoring individual overall.
 - ii. The high scoring team will receive awards.
- b. High School:
 - i. Award will be presented to the high scoring individual overall.
 - ii. The high scoring team will receive awards.

3. Senior MLE Division:

- a. Recognition will be provided to the high scoring individual overall.

4. Other Recognition:

a. Dr. David Hawkins Award

- i. The team with the most accumulated points (counting three team members) will receive the honorary Dr. David Hawkins High Overall Team Award.
- ii. The traveling trophy will be displayed at the MSU Pavilion and is sponsored by the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, Michigan Pork Producers Association and the Michigan Sheep Breeders Association.

b. Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund Awards

- i. **Premier Stockman Award**: All point totals will be provided to the Michigan Livestock Expo to be used towards determining the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund Premier Stockman Awards. Participants must compete in showmanship at MLE and compete in the judging contest to be eligible for the awards.
- ii. **Team Building Award**: An educational award of \$125 will be granted to the following Youth Livestock Judging Contestants:
 1. Each member of the Senior 4-H Division Winning Team.
 2. Each member of the High School FFA Division Winning Team.

Livestock Judging Contest and Program Supporters:

Thank you to the following associations, companies and individuals for their support of the 2015 contest and national teams to allow youth to have such an educational and enriching learning experience:

2015 Contest Sponsors:

Family Farm and Home
Michigan Angus Association
Michigan State University College of
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Michigan State University Extension
Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund
Steve and Nancy Thelen
W. A. Herford & Sons Farm

2015 Michigan 4-H Livestock Judging National Teams Sponsors:

Alvin J. Thelen Memorial Donations
Gary & Beth Chapman
Fifth Third Michigan State Fair
JBS USA
Lapeer County 4-H Livestock Committee
Daryl Meyer
Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund
Kate Miller
Reaume Hog Farms

Rogers Corners Herdsmen 4-H Club
Robin and Joann Schmidt
Dan Schneider
L.C. & Jackie Scramlin
Specialty Machine Service Inc
Donations in honor of Nancy Thelen's Retirement
Steve & Nancy Thelen
Richard & Robyn Wixom

2016 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, 2016 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 (mark all that apply): 4-H Cloverbud Contest _____ FFA Junior High Contest _____
4-H Junior Contest _____ FFA High School Contest _____
4-H Senior Contest _____ MLE Senior Division _____

Participating as a: Individual _____ or Team member _____
Oral Reasons _____ or Questions* _____

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

Contestant Name:		Birthdate:	Age: (as of Jan. 1, 2016)
Address:	City:	State:	Zip code:
E-mail:	County/Chapter:		
National Judging Contest Previously Participated in:		Phone:	
Please list any special needs (including food allergies):			

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: If entering a team, the **Team summary sheet** must also be completed and returned to avoid late fees.

Entry Fee: \$15 per person (includes lunch). Please make check payable to **Michigan State University**.

Entries postmarked after July 1 or made the day of the contest will be charged \$25.00 per person (includes lunch).

Send entry form and fees to: **4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest, 474 S. Shaw Lane, Anthony Hall Room 1287, East Lansing, MI 48824**

2016 Team Summary Sheet
MICHIGAN 4-H / FFA Livestock Judging Contest
Please complete one form for each 4-H county and/or FFA 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** 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, 2016 to:

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest
474 South Shaw Lane
Anthony Hall, Rm 1287
East Lansing, MI 48824

Volunteers are needed to help run this state contest. Any volunteers that would be willing to help are greatly appreciated. Please list names of volunteers below:

Name: _____ Contact information: _____

Name: _____ Contact information: _____

Name: _____ Contact information: _____