



WESTERN NATIONAL 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Entry

Each state is invited to enter one 4-H and one FFA livestock judging team consisting of no more than **four members**. The three members with the three high scores will be counted for the team points however, all individuals are eligible for individual awards. The team members will be selected in a manner determined by the State 4-H/FFA Leader or Advisor. The contestants must be approved by the State 4-H or FFA Office. 4-H/FFA members who have previously participated in the 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest at the Western National Livestock Contest or have participated in the National 4-H/FFA Livestock contest are not eligible in their respective divisions. All entries must be submitted in accordance with the registration for the Western National Roundup.

Contestants and Eligibility

A State/territory/District of Columbia is allowed only one entry in only one division of a contest in a national 4-H competitive event each year. An entry is an individual, in the events where individuals compete against individuals only, or a team in events where total team scores are computed and recognition given to the team.

- Each state may enter only one (1) team of four (4) contestants in each division (4-H/FFA). Teams may be selected by any means appropriate to the state they represent and must be certified as eligible by the State 4-H Leader/State FFA Advisor.

Entries not officially entered will not be permitted to participate for any reason.

Please review the Western National Roundup Eligibility Requirements at www.westernnationalroundup.org/eligibility/ for further details on eligibility.

Method of Conduct

- 1) Contestants and coaches will be permitted to watch shows in the Stadium Arena and the Sheep and Swine Arena. Coaches and contestants are to stay out of stalling areas for cattle, including the hill and the yards. No contestants or coaches will be allowed in the yards prior to the contest.
- 2) A coach's meeting will be held at the contest headquarters on Thursday evening please see schedule for times and location. Instructions for the contest will be given at the coaches meeting. Coaches should be prepared to check the names, addresses and ages of contestants for the contest. All coaches must have picked up their contest registration packets or the team is not eligible to compete. If there are travel issues, the coach must call the contest superintendent prior to that time.
- 3) Coaches will be responsible for transporting their team to the Western Stock Show and Rodeo complex prior to the competition. A bus will transport all contestants to the contest headquarters for the oral reasons session. No coaches are allowed on the busses at any reason. Lunch will be provided prior to the reasons session.
- 4) No contestant shall wear any clothing, pins or badges that will in any way reveal his or her identity or state he or she represents. The contest will be held inside so dress accordingly. No hats are to be worn during the contest.
- 5) The contestants will be divided into groups for the contest and will remain with the assigned group throughout the contest. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except by the Superintendent or his assistants.
- 6) The contest will be comprised of 12 classes of livestock. Of these 12 classes, five will be beef, four will be sheep/goat, and three will be swine. These classes are subject to change based on availability of livestock at the NWSS and reserved to be changed by the contest superintendent. Coaches will be notified of any changes at the coaches meeting prior to the contest. All of these classes will be comprised of four animals and the animals will be designated by numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4. If possible, performance data and a situation statement of the class will be provided on breeding classes.
- 7) Reasons will be taken on six classes, one market and one breeding of each species. Contestants may use a clipboard and/or notepaper of their choice - notebooks should be clean and free of notes. Only a page to record placings on is permissible. Contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving oral reasons or answering questions. Reasons classes may be market, breeding, and/or performance classes.
- 8) Performance data will be limited to no more than 10 pieces of information. Performance data used will reflect current industry trends for that specific breed or type of animal. Performance data may be actual animal performance (such as growth) or genetic predictors (such as EPDs) or a combination of the two.
- 9) Two minutes will be allowed to give oral reasons to the official judges.
- 10) Contestants will be allowed 12 minutes per class to make their observations, make notes if necessary

and fill out their placing card.

- 11) Breeding cattle will not be handled. Steers will not be handled. All judging will be done from a distance to insure proper viewing (10 to 15 feet).
- 12) Breeding sheep will not be handled when they are judged loose in a pen. If sheep are in racks (market or fleeced breeding sheep), contestants will stand in line and will be allowed 15 seconds to handle each sheep individually.
- 13) Contestants will have a minimum of 20 minutes to prepare each of the six sets of oral reasons. Contestants will not be permitted to refer to any data or notes when delivering oral reasons.
- 14) 4-H and FFA contestants will judge the same classes. However, they will give reasons to separate officials. The contests will also be scored separately, and the awards given for high individuals and teams in beef, sheep, swine, reasons, and overall.
- 15) All contestants and coaches are expected to be present for the Awards Breakfast on Saturday after the contest.
- 16) Contestants will not be allowed to carry electronic devices on the floor while judging. This includes mobile phones, pagers, PDA's, and other device capable of transmitting information. If a contestant is found with a device, the contestant's cards will be pulled and the contestant removed from the contest.
- 17) All coaches will be allowed to watch the contest from the north side stands. Coaches/parents need to stay off the floor and outside the railing while the contest is going on. Coaches/parents will be allowed on the floor for a closer inspection when given permission between rotation of sets of classes and at the end of the contest when the contestants have left the floor. No exceptions to this rule.

Superintendents

- 1) It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to see that all rules and regulations of the contest are carried out. They shall decide all questions which may arise in connection with the interpretation of the rules governing the contest.
- 2) They shall have helpers to assist them.
- 3) The Superintendents will not take part in rating the contest.
- 4) They shall have charge of all records and shall have ratings tabulated and totaled.

Clerks and Assistants

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

Judges

- 1) A committee of judges will place all classes and hear and score all reasons.
- 2) The judges shall place the classes while the contestants are working in the area. The judges shall enter their placings on the placing card, indicate the cuts to be made, and file that card with the Superintendent.
- 3) During the reasons session, the judge will score the contestant when he or she has finished.
- 4) The official placings and cuts will be given by the judges immediately following the reasons session.

ENTRY INFORMATION, HOTEL INFORMATION, GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration dates and instructions for completing your Online Registration/entry forms are found on the Western National Roundup website at www.westernnationalroundup.org -- note that as a result of your online registration, you will be presented with an Official Authorization Form which must be printed and then signed by the respective State 4-H Director/Leader and mailed with full payment to the address specified on the form.

The headquarters hotel for this event will again be the Renaissance Denver Hotel, 3801 Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80207; (303) 399-7500. Please check the Western National Roundup web site for information on special rates and any room reservation procedures that may be in place this year.

Coaches meetings are typically held on Thursday evening; check the web site for full schedule, which will be updated regularly.

Contact information is also on the website and always up to date.