

Western National Roundup 2027



Livestock JUDGING Guidelines



Questions:

For general questions regarding Western National Roundup, please reach out to the management team at:
westernnationalroundup@gmail.com or (970) 491-8886.

For specific questions about the Livestock Judging Contest, contact one of the following superintendents:

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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 highest scores will be counted for the team points; however, all individuals are eligible for individual awards. All entries must be submitted in accordance with the registration for the Western National Roundup.

- For a complete list of all rules, please refer to the general rules at:
<https://co4h.colostate.edu/national-western-roundup/>
- Each state may enter only one (1) team of four (4) contestants in 4-H and one in 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.
- 4-H members who had previously participated in a 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at the Western Round-up.
- Members who are currently, or have been in the past, members of university, college, junior college, or technical school livestock judging teams are not eligible to compete in this contest.
- Youth who are enrolled or have completed a post-secondary course related to **collegiate** visual livestock evaluation or marked a card as a member of a collegiate judging program are not eligible to compete in this contest.
- The superintendent(s) of the contest and the management of the Western National Roundup reserve the right to rule on any question of eligibility not covered in the rules.





Method of Conduct

1. No contestants or coaches will be allowed on the National Western Stock Show grounds, except for parking and the CSU Spur Center.
2. A coach's meeting will be held the night before the contest, please see the 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.
3. Coaches will be responsible for transporting their team to and from the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo complex prior to, and after the competition. Reasons will take place on the NWSS grounds immediately following class evaluation. 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(s) or contest aides.
6. The contest will consist 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 the availability of livestock and changes maybe be made by contest management. Coaches will be notified of any changes at the coaches' meeting. All of the classes will be comprised of four animals and the animals will be designated by numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4. Performance data and a situation statement of the class may be provided on breeding classes.
7. Reasons will be taken on six classes, one market and one breeding of each species. Reason classes are subject to change, this is left up to the contest management. Contestants must use the notebooks that are provided for them. Contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving oral reasons.
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 or goats will not be handled when they are judged loose in a pen. If sheep/goats 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.

Continued



Method of Conduct, Cont.

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 ceremony and reception on Friday evening 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, smart watches, and other devices 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 rotations of classes and at the end of the contest when the contestants have left the floor. No exceptions to this rule.

Superintendents

- It shall be the duty of the Superintendent(s) or contest management 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.
- They shall have helpers to assist them.
- The Superintendent(s) will not take part in rating the contest.
- They shall have charge of all records and shall have ratings tabulated and totaled.

Judges

- A committee of judges will place all classes and hear and score all reasons.
- 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.
- During the reasons session, the judge will score the contestant when he or she has finished.
- The official placings and cuts will be given by the judges immediately following the reasons session.