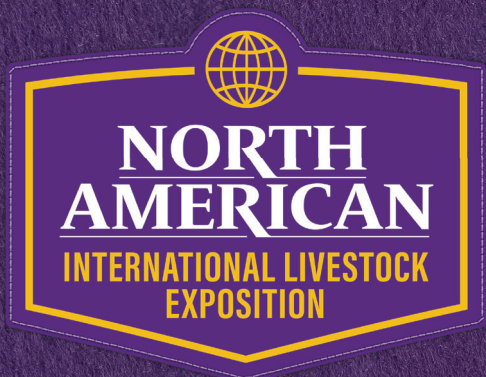


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EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS PREMIUM BOOK

NOVEMBER 5-19, 2026

LivestockExpo.org

EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS

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EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

- Date – Monday, November 16, 2026, 8:00 a.m.
- Superintendent – Scott Greiner, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
- Associate Superintendents – Steve Spivey, Joel Cowley, , Todd See, F.D. McCarthy, Aaron Jennings

Rules and Regulations

The 2026 National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest will be held Monday, November 16, beginning promptly at 8:00 a.m. in Freedom Hall of the Kentucky Exposition Center. A dinner and meeting of the coaches will be held Sunday evening, November 15 at which time final entries will be made and contest procedures will be shared. All teams are expected to have a representative attend the coach's meeting.

The Awards Breakfast on Tuesday, November 17, 2026 will be held at the Kentucky Exposition Center at 8:00 a.m. and is sponsored by the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE).

Team and Entries

A team shall consist of five members representing the agricultural college in which they are regularly enrolled. All entries must be made with the North American International Livestock Exposition, to arrive no later than October 13. A fee of \$250.00 per team must accompany entry forms. The money received from this source is to be used to help defray expenses of the contest. Team roster forms (listing potential team members and alternates) are due to the Superintendent on October 13, 2026.

An entry fee of \$250.00 can be paid online at the NAILE website: www.livestock-expo.org/

Eligibility of Contestants

1. A livestock judging contestant is defined as a person who is documented on the institution's eligibility form and is a contestant/alternate in any recognized senior college contest as outlined in the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches Association minutes. A livestock judging contestant must be a bona fide undergraduate student enrolled in a recognized institution offering a well-rounded curriculum in the Animal Sciences with a full degree in Agriculture, the exception being that a student may complete their eligibility in the fall as a first-term graduate/professional student.
2. Each contestant must be regularly enrolled or must have previously completed a livestock judging course at the institution he/she represents.
3. Each contestant must have been enrolled in enough college credit hours to represent 75% of an average semester, quarter, or term credit load necessary to graduate in eight semesters or its equivalent. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester credits or 13.5 quarter or term credits. First semester graduate students must be enrolled in nine credit hours.
4. Each contestant must have a cumulative grade point average of C (2.0 on 4.0 scale) or better at the university he/she represents and does not include transfer hours. This C average or better must have been maintained in a minimum of college credit hours equal to 75% of the normal two (2) semester, quarter, or term loads required for normal progress in a four-year graduation program. e.g., 24 semester hours where 32 semester hours is a normal two-semester load, 27 quarter or term hours where 36 quarter or term hours is a normal

- two-quarter or term load, etc. An eligibility form with the official institution seal from the registrar's office must be remitted to the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches Association Eligibility Committee chairperson by February 1 for the spring semester and by September 1 for the fall semester.
5. Each contestant must establish his/her institutional residence by being enrolled in the institution he/she represents for at least one semester or one quarter or term before competing in a Senior Contest.
 6. Transfer and Two-Year Students: Junior college transfer students may be declared eligible for participation in livestock contests providing they have fulfilled all the requirements in rules 1-5. Two-year students in a certificate program or those enrolled as special students may be declared eligible for participation in livestock judging contests, provided they have fulfilled all the requirements in rules 1-5.
 7. Participation of a contestant in a Junior contest shall not make him/her ineligible for later contests provided he/she meets all other undergraduate requirements for later contests.
 8. Contestants in the fall Senior contests shall not be eligible for further contest participation in an Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest after the NAILE.
 9. No contestant is eligible to compete in a contest if he/she has been ruled ineligible by his/her coach and/or institution. This rule applies to both social and scholastic probation from his/her institution.
 10. No contestant is eligible to compete in a contest if he/she has any time served as an official instructor in an Animal Science Department at any agricultural college, nor is he/she eligible if he/she has served as a regular agricultural extension agent or regular vocational agriculture instructor. A contestant who is an active member of the current team may serve as a judge or official in a local, regional, or state livestock show or national showmanship contest and receive expense money only for services. No contestant is eligible to judge a national livestock show prior to or while competing on the team.
 11. Eligibility is for one calendar year. Interruptions in an undergraduate course of study for military service, hardship, or other reasons shall not make a student ineligible for contest participation if all other contest requirements have been fulfilled. Contest eligibility will be granted for spring or fall contests only and not by individual contest.
 12. A contestant caught cheating at a Senior College judging contest will be disqualified and removed from the contest with no further consequences. If a student is caught cheating a second time, they will be removed from the contest will be deemed ineligible to compete in any future Senior College livestock judging contest.
 13. No scholarships will be given to incoming students strictly for livestock judging. Students must compete for scholarships within a university, college, or departmental academic pool.
 14. No current team member or coach (unless granted a judging contract, parent of a livestock exhibitor, or university employee managing the college's show string) are allowed on the exhibition grounds of the NAILE event at any time prior to the contest. Exceptions as outlined in parenthesis must be confirmed with the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches Association Eligibility Committee.
 15. Each collegiate livestock judging coach and his/her institution will be held responsible for seeing that all of their respective contestants qualify under the contest eligibility rules of the association. If a coach and/or team member is found in violation, the administration of the university they represent will be notified of the violation and any consequences of said violation by the President of the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches Association.
 16. All eligibility cases not covered by the regular association rules shall be

submitted to the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches Association Eligibility Committee for disposition at least 15 days before the contest in question.

17. No organized participation (no contest affiliation, being on the floor marking cards, or participating in reasons) of “junior” team members will be allowed at any of the identified contests (outlined in rule 1).
18. No senior college coaches, assistant coaches, or coordinators will be allowed to serve as official reasons takers in senior college contests.

Superintendent

The Superintendent shall have complete charge of the contest. He/She shall see that all rules and regulations governing the contest are duly carried out and that the contest is conducted with fairness and justice to all concerned. The Superintendent shall also decide all questions that may arise in connection with the interpretation of the rules.

Judging System

A Committee of Judges shall place all classes and evaluate all oral reasons. A selection committee shall select all classes for the contest and decide which classes require oral reasons. If the number of teams entered indicates that additional judges are necessary to expedite and make more efficient the evaluation of oral reasons, the Superintendent shall have the authority to appoint such judges.

Time: All contestants will report to the Superintendent at the Kentucky Exposition Center the morning of the contest where they will receive full instructions and routine in regard to the contest. Each will be assigned a number and will be given an opportunity to ask questions.

No contestant shall wear any uniform or college colors or shall in any way signify to the judges the identity of the college which he or she represents.

Method of Conduct

While the contest is in progress, the use of cell phones, pagers, and any other and all electronic devices is prohibited from all contestants. There shall be no conferring between contestants or anyone else, except as directed by the Superintendent or his/her representative. Any violation of this rule will be punished by expulsion of the offender.

Procedures to be followed during the contest will be explained and covered at the Coaches’ Meeting.

Classes: The contest will consist of five classes of beef cattle, four classes of swine, two classes of sheep, and one class of meat goats. There will be a minimum of one market beef, market hog, and market lamb class. Performance classes with scenarios will be provided to the contestants on at least three classes, preferably one in each species. This information, along with visual appraisal, will be used to arrive at the final placing and will be included as a portion of the oral reason discussion. Contestants will be briefed on any assumptions to be used in placings prior to the start of the contest.

Time Allowed: Contestants will be allowed 12 minutes to place each class. There will be a three-minute time warning.

Class Presentation details will be covered at the Coach’s Meeting

Reasons: Contestants shall give oral reasons no longer than two minutes in length on each of eight classes, which will include three classes of cattle, three classes of sheep and goats, and two classes of swine. Contestants will be informed which classes require reasons prior to judging.

Materials: The Superintendent shall supply to contestants all forms (placing cards, scantrons, etc.) necessary for conducting the contest. Contestants will be permitted to take notes on reason classes, but will not be allowed to use these notes while giving reasons to the judges.

Determination of Ratings

Ratings shall be based upon a possible score of 50 points for placing each ring and 50 points for each set of reasons. Since there are 12 classes to be placed and eight sets of reasons to be given, there will be a possible total score of 1,000 points per contestant.

1. Teams and individuals shall be ranked in order of total score (placings and reasons) for the classes comprising each species or award category. Species categories will include cattle, swine, and a combined sheep and goat category. The team or individual having the highest score shall be declared the winner in each category of the contest.
2. In the case of a tie in team or individual scores overall, ties will be broken in the following manner:
 - a. Higher total reasons score
 - b. Lower total placing score in reasons classes
3. In the case of a tie in team or individual scores within species or category, ties will be broken in the following manner:
 - a. Higher total reasons score within species/category
 - b. Higher total reasons score overall
 - c. Higher total score overall
4. In the case of a tie in team or individual reasons scores, ties will be broken in the following manner:
 - a. Lower placing score in reasons classes
 - b. Higher total overall score

JUNIOR COLLEGE LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

- Date – Monday, November 16, 2026, 8:00 a.m.- Broadbent Arena
- Superintendent - Larry W. Wilson, Ph.D., Chicago, IL
(847) 814-7301 lwwilson@illinois.edu
- Assistant Superintendent - Kenin Smith, Rensselaer, IN, Dr. Dan Shike, Urbana, IL

Rules and Regulations

The 2026 Junior College Livestock Judging Contest will be held Monday, November 16, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in Broadbent Arena at the Kentucky Exposition Center. All contestants and alternates are requested to be at the KEC by 7:15 a.m. The Coaches' and Superintendent Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 15 at 5:00 p.m. (West Wing), at which time final entries will be made.

The Awards Banquet will be held on Monday, November 16, 7:00 p.m. in the Freedom Hall Conference Center at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Teams and Entries

All entries must be mailed to the North American International Livestock Exposition to arrive no later than October 13. A fee of \$300.00 per team (FIVE Contestants and 2 Coaches) must accompany entry forms. (partial teams are \$200.00 for up to three contestants. Additional Alternates are welcome to join our banquet at \$30.00 each.) The money derived from this source is to be used to help defray expenses of the contest.

Entry fees and banquet tickets can be paid online at the NAILE website: www.livestockexpo.org/

Eligibility of Contestants

1. All team members must be majoring or minoring in agriculture.
2. All team members must be enrolled as full-time students carrying 12 quarters or semester hours.
3. Team members must not have competed in a previous Junior College North American International Livestock Judging Contest.
4. Team members must not have completed more than 66 semester hours or its equivalent in quarter hours or five semesters.
5. Open to all junior, community, or vocational technical colleges teaching agriculture.
6. Each livestock judging coach and his/her institution will be held responsible for seeing that all of their respective contestants qualify under contest eligibility rules.
7. The specific eligibility of a contestant will be determined by the Junior College Coaches' Association Constitution, stated as follows: A student will have a 12-month continuous eligibility from the date of his/her first official contest as a team member.
8. A contestant must be deemed eligible by any and all National Junior College Coaches' Association rules.

Superintendent

The Superintendent shall have complete charge of the contest. He/She shall see that all rules and regulations governing the contest are duly carried out and that the contest is conducted with fairness and justice to all concerned. The Superintendent shall also decide all questions that may arise in connection with the interpretation of the rules.

Judging System

A Committee of Officials shall select and place all classes and score all reasons. The officials shall decide which classes require reasons. If the number of teams entered indicates that additional officials are necessary to expedite and make more efficient the scoring of reasons, the Superintendent shall have the authority to appoint such officials.

Time: All contestants will report to the Superintendent at the Kentucky Exposition Center, West Hall Lobby at 7:15 a.m., November 16, 2026 where they will receive full instructions and routine in regard to the contest. Each will be assigned a number and will be given an opportunity to ask questions.

No contestant shall wear any uniform or college colors or shall in any way signify to the judges the identity of the college he/she represents.

Method of Conduct

While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between contestants or anyone else, except as directed by the Superintendent or his/her representative. Any violation of this rule will be punished by expulsion of the offender. Cell phones, pagers, and electronic communication devices are prohibited.

Contestants shall be divided by the Superintendent into five groups: A, B, C, D, E and shall be so designated throughout the contest.

Classes: The contest will consist of five classes of beef cattle, four classes of swine, and three classes of sheep with each animal designated by numbers 1 - 2 - 3 - 4. Each species will include a minimum of one market class. Individual performance information will be provided for one beef breeding and one swine breeding class. This information, along with subjective appraisal, will be used to arrive at the final placing and may be included as a portion of the oral reasons discussion. Contestants will be provided with a scenario as to how the cattle and swine are to be utilized in a production system (mating system, environment, feed supply, etc.).

Time Allowed: Contestants will be allowed 12 minutes to place each class. There will be a two-minute time warning.

Each group shall observe the rings of stock at a distance of 25 feet until close inspection is called. Three minutes at the start and finish of each class will be given for observation from a 25-foot distance. Contestants will be lined up numerically and will be given 10 seconds to handle each lamb.

Reasons: Contestants shall give oral reasons for eight classes, which will include four classes of cattle, two classes of sheep, and two classes of swine. Contestants will be informed which classes require reasons at the time they are working the classes.

Materials: The Superintendent shall supply placing cards and any other necessary forms for conducting the contest. Contestants will be permitted to take notes on reasons classes, but will not be allowed to use these notes while giving reasons to the officials.

Determination of Ratings

Ratings shall be based upon a possible score of 50 points for placing each ring and 50 points for each set of reasons. Since there are 12 classes to be placed and eight sets of reasons to be given, there will be a possible total score of 1,000 points per contestant.

The final rank of each contestant in each species of livestock shall be determined by the total of his/her scores on placings and reasons. The individual rank for all classes of livestock shall be determined by adding his/her total scores for each species of livestock.

The team ranking shall be determined by total placings and reason scores of each of the five team members.

In case of a tie in team or individual scores within species (cattle, swine, or sheep) or overall score, ties will be broken in the following manner:

1. Species reasons (first tie-breaker)
2. Overall reasons (second tie-breaker)
3. Lower total placing score within species or overall (third tie-breaker)
4. "Flip of the coin" (fourth tie-breaker)
5. Awards will not be duplicated.

In case of a tie in team or individual oral reasons, scores within species (cattle, swine, or sheep) or overall oral reasons score, ties will be broken in the following manner:

1. Lower total placing score within species or overall (first tie-breaker)
2. "Flip of the coin" (second tie-breaker)
3. Awards will not be duplicated.

Awards

The North American International Livestock Exposition offers a trophy to the high team overall. Plaques will be offered to the high team and high individuals in Beef, Sheep, Swine, and Reasons.

The National Junior College Coaches' Association will offer a traveling trophy in honor of Tom Reedy to the High Team Overall; and a \$200 cash award to the high individual.

The Chris Mullenix Family will present a traveling trophy to the Coach of the High Team Overall.

The International Livestock Exposition offers a large silver traveling cup to the team making the highest score in judging all classes of livestock. The NAILE show also offers a lapel pin to each contestant participating in the contest, appropriately inscribed. They further offer ribbons as follows: (1) to each of the ten high individuals judging all classes of livestock; (2) to each of the ten high individuals judging beef cattle; (3) to each of the ten high individuals judging sheep; (4) to each of the ten high individuals judging swine; (5) to each of the five members and coach of the five high teams judging all classes; (6) to each of the ten high individuals on oral reasons; (7) to each of the five members and the coach of the five high teams judging cattle, sheep, and swine; (8) ribbons to the five high teams and the coach on oral reasons.

The ShowTimes Magazine, Inc. - one year free subscription to each of the Top Ten Individuals Overall

Stan Tarr Memorial Award - awarded to the Top Individual in Reasons Score. The Stan Tarr Family will award a Belt Buckle and Cash Scholarship, in Memory of Stan Tarr, a 20 year Assistant Contest Superintendent.

The American Hereford Association will offer trophies to high team members in cattle judging.

The Senior College Coaches' Association offers a traveling trophy for high team

overall.

The Junior College Coaches' Association will offer traveling trophies for high team in cattle, swine, sheep, and reasons.

The ShowTimes Magazine, Inc. will present banners to each of the Top Five Teams Overall.

Charles G. & Thomas Charles Memorial Award - Presented to High Individual overall (Charles Stoutenborough, of Maroa, Illinois, was an Assistant Superintendent of this contest from 1975 to 1981. Tom Stoutenborough was Assistant Superintendent from 1975 to 2016.)

The ShowTimes Magazine, Inc. will present an award buckle to the Top Individual Overall.

Plaques for second to fifth high teams in cattle are sponsored by the American Angus Association and Accelerated Genetics.

Plaques for second to tenth high individuals in cattle are sponsored by the American Chianina Association, Accelerated Genetics, Robjoy Shorthorns, American Livestock Insurance, Kent Nutrition, and Lee & Stacy Stremstefer.

The Beef Improvement Federation will sponsor a silver platter to the top team in beef performance.

A trophy to the high individual beef will be presented by American Hereford Association.

Plaques for second to fifth high teams in swine will be presented by Pork Checkoff and National Swine Registry.

The American Yorkshire Club will sponsor a silver platter to the high team in swine performance.

Plaques for the second to tenth high individuals in swine are sponsored by the National Swine Registry, Pork Checkoff, Norman Brothers, and HiPoint Genetics. High Team plaques for team members of high sheep team are sponsored by the Continental Dorset Club.

Second to fifth high sheep teams will receive plaques from United Producers, Inc., and American Hampshire Club.

Plaques for the second to tenth high sheep individuals are sponsored by the American Southdown Association, Heinold Feed, the Montadale Sheep Breeders Association, Ellerbrock Club Lambs, Titus Club Lambs, and PrintCo. Printing.

Plaques for the second to fifth high teams in reasons are sponsored by the American International Charolais Association, American Simmental Association, The Steve Austin Family, and Dover Genetics.

An award for High Individual in Swine Reasons will be presented

Swine Genetics International will sponsor an award for High Individual in Swine Reasons.

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Plaques for the second to tenth high individuals in reasons are sponsored by American Maine-Anjou Association, American Chianina Association, Kent Feeds, Midwest Meats, and American Shorthorn Association.

Plaques for the second to fifth high teams overall are sponsored by American Simmental Association, National Swine Registry, and Trans Ova Genetics.

Plaques for the second to tenth high individuals overall are sponsored by American International Charolais Association, American Simmental Association and Stan & Jennifer Tarr.

Mint Julep Cups for the High Overall Team are provided by the North American International Livestock Exposition.

Other award sponsorships are Award Banquet and Contest History Programs, sponsored by Select Sires, Inc., and Purina Mills, LLC.

GENERAL RULES FOR 4-H NATIONAL LIVESTOCK JUDGING, SKILLATHON AND QUIZ BOWL

**Board of Directors, Chair- Dr. John Rayfield and Vice Chair- Bonnie
Boyden**

**Contest Chairs, Judging - Dr. Brian Bolt; Skillathon - Dr. Rosie Nold, Quiz
Bowl - Steve Pritchard**

RESPONSIBILITY

The National Youth Livestock Contests endorses and supports the International Association of Fairs and Expositions National Code of Show Ring Ethics ("Code of Ethics"). All contestants and their families agree to abide by this Code of Ethics and all rules and regulations. Each state representative, State 4-H Program Leader and any other designated representative, coach, contestant and their family are responsible for becoming familiar with those sections and abide by those rules and regulations at all times. The purpose of the contest shall encourage all coaches, contestants and their families to maintain a high standard of ethics while competing. Violation of rules and regulations shall lead to penalties for contestants and possibly their coach and/or team which may include disqualification, barring from future contests, removal of awards and reporting the infraction to the North American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers' Association (NALSARMA).

Liability

It is understood that all persons participating in the National Youth Livestock Contests, whether participating as a contestant, parent/guardian of a contestant, coach, or in any other capacity, acting on behalf of themselves, their principals, their agents or employees, agree to make no claim against the National Youth Livestock Contests, any official or anyone acting by, for or through them or any of them, for loss, damage or injury to any property, animal or person resulting from any cause.

Administration of rules and regulations

The National Youth Livestock Contests reserves to its Executive Committee, Management Committee and Contest Superintendent the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of or connected with or incident to a Contest, and the right to amend or add to these rules as its judgment may determine.

Entries

The national youth livestock contests reserves the absolute right to reject entirely or accept conditionally any entry or application for entry or to withdraw classification and prizes in any contest upon the closing of entries whenever it, in its sole judgment, determines that such action would be in the best interest of national youth livestock contests (specific information is printed in the following section).

Rejection of entry/disqualification

OVERRIDING RULE

- Contestants, by submission of an entry or application, expressly acknowledge that there is no right, whether constitutional, statutory, or otherwise, to participate or compete in the National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon & Quiz Bowl).
- Contestants, by submission of an entry or application, expressly acknowledge that all procedures and remedies set forth in the rules applicable to decisions to reject entries or disqualify contestants are the sole and exclusive procedures and remedies

available to the contestant. Further, contestants, parents/guardians of contestants, coaches, and all other persons participating in the National Youth Livestock Contests in any capacity whatsoever, waive any and every right to challenge, question, or contest any and all actions or inactions, rules, regulations, deadlines and schedule for the National Youth Livestock Contests, and, to the fullest extent permitted by law, contestants, parents/guardians of contestants, coaches, and all other persons participating in the National Youth Livestock Contests in any capacity whatsoever, will not now or at any time in the future pursue any legal action of any kind, nature, and character whatsoever against the National Youth Livestock Contests or its Executive Committee, Management Committee, Contest Superintendent, or any other parties affiliated with the National Youth Livestock Contests, or cause or knowingly permit any such legal action to be pursued in any federal, state, or municipal court, administrative agency, arbitral forum, or other tribunal, arising out of any of the matters covered by the rules.

- Contestants, by submission of an entry or application, expressly acknowledge that submission of an entry to the National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon & Quiz Bowl) be treated as consent to the following:

- National Youth Livestock Contests reserves the absolute right and discretion to submit the name of a disqualified contestant to whomever it chooses, including, but not limited to, the North American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers' Rule Infraction Database (the "database"), any appropriate governmental agencies or authorities, and representatives from any State 4-H Office, other livestock contest, exposition or fair.
- National Youth Livestock Contests reserves the absolute right and discretion to use any means deemed necessary to obtain information from the database and/or any other State 4-H Office, college, university, livestock contest, exposition or fair regarding any contestant submitting an entry to the National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon & Quiz Bowl). Information requested may include, but is not limited to, decisions to disqualify or withhold an entry acceptance from the contestant in a prior contest.
- National Youth Livestock Contests reserves the absolute right and discretion to reject an entry submitted by or disqualify a contestant from competition if he or she has been disqualified from competition in any other livestock contest, show, exposition or fair, or has had a premium withheld or withdrawn by any other livestock contest, show, exposition or fair, for any reason, including, but not limited to, rules infraction, misrepresentation or fraud.

Rejected Entries

- The responsibility for making proper entry rests upon the contestant, coach, state representative and/or their respective State 4-H Office. **All entries must be submitted at the State 4-H Office prior to deadline for the state representative's and State 4-H Program Leader's signatures.**
- Any rejected entries will be returned to the contestant with a written explanation regarding reasons for rejection.
- If the coach believes additional information may warrant reconsideration of the decision to reject an entry, the coach must submit a written request for reconsideration, to include a detailed explanation of why the entry should be reconsidered, and, where appropriate, documentation supporting the explanation. The request for reconsideration must be received by the respective Contest (Judging, Skillathon, Quiz Bowl), within 48 hours of the received date of emailing of the rejection of entry notification

from the Superintendent. **DECISIONS REGARDING RECONSIDERATION WILL BE MADE IN THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH LIVESTOCK CONTESTS AND SHALL BE FINAL.** The coach will be promptly notified in writing of the final determination.

Disqualification

- Contestants, parents/guardians, and coaches who fail to comply with any and all rules, regulations, deadlines and schedules are subject to premium cancellation, disqualification from current and future participation in the National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon & Quiz Bowl), and/or other third parties, including governmental authorities where appropriate.
- Following a determination that a contestant has been disqualified for a rule infraction, that state's coach shall receive written notification of the determination to include an explanation of the reasons for the determination and any resulting disciplinary action.
- If the coach believes additional information may warrant re-examination of the decision, he or she may submit a request for reconsideration. The request for reconsideration shall be in writing, and must include a detailed explanation of why the decision should be reviewed, and, where appropriate, documentation supporting the explanation. All reconsideration requests must be received within 48 hours if seven (7) days prior to the event; 24 hours if within seven (7) days of the event; and within 60 minutes of notification on the day of the contest. **DECISIONS REGARDING RECONSIDERATION WILL BE MADE IN THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH LIVESTOCK CONTESTS AND SHALL BE FINAL.** The coach will be promptly notified in writing of the final determination.
- Direct criticism or interference with the committee member, volunteer, official, judge, fair or livestock contest management, other contestants, breed representatives, or event officials from the contestant, contestant's parents/guardians, contestants extended family or coach before, during, or after the contest is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock contest management, or other contest officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.

Making entry

The responsibility for making proper entry rests upon the coach. **All entries must be submitted at the State 4-H Office prior to deadline for the state representative's and State 4-H Program Leader's signatures. Any and all entries submitted following the applicable deadline will be automatically and immediately rejected, and such entries will not receive a refund in any amount for any fees paid in connection therewith. All official entry forms that are physically submitted to the State 4-H Office must be completed using blue ink pens, not pencils. All official entry forms that are submitted to the State 4-H Office via email, or any other electronic medium, must be submitted as full-color copies to confirm the use of a blue ink color in completing the forms. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, any signature present on an official entry form will be treated in all respects as having the same force and effect as an original manual signature, and all persons shall be entitled to conclusively rely upon the validity and authenticity of such signature, so long as such signature is in one of the following forms: (a) an original manual signature; (b) a scanned or photocopied manual signature in full-color; or (c) any other electronic signature permitted by applicable law that is a true representation of the signatory's actual signature**

(including, without limitation, an electronic signature affixed to an official entry form through an electronic signature system such as DocuSign).

Fraud

The National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee reserves the right to withhold the awards and premiums in any case in which it shall appear that the regulations have not been complied with, or that fraud or deception has been practiced or attempted. Ribbons, medals and prizes awarded shall be forfeited.

Severability

If any portion, provision, or part of the rules are held, determined or adjudicated by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, unenforceable, void or voidable for any reason whatsoever, each such portion, provision or part shall be severed from the remaining portions, provisions or parts of these rules, and such determination or adjudication shall not affect the validity or enforceability of such remaining portions, provisions, or parts.

Governing law and jurisdiction

In the event that any legal action of any kind, nature, and character whatsoever is pursued pursuant to a dispute arising under, or relating in any manner to, the rules, the rules shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska, without regard to its conflict of law principles, and the parties to such legal action shall submit to the jurisdiction and venue of the federal courts located in the State of Nebraska and the state courts located in Sarpy County, Nebraska.

Force majeure and governmental regulation

In view of the fact that the National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee d.b.a. National 4- H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon, Quiz Bowl) ("The Contest") is a non-profit corporation depending to a great degree upon the contributions and services of a substantial number of donors and volunteers, the National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee deems it appropriate and prudent to be excused from liability, as set forth below in this paragraph, in the event of early cancellation of its events, operations and activities by reason of force majeure and/or governmental regulation. Accordingly, the following shall apply to the operations and activities conducted by the National Youth Livestock Contests.

Force Majeure

The National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee shall not be liable for any delay or failure to perform its operations, activities, contests and events to the extent such delay or failure results from a force majeure occurrence. A force majeure occurrence is defined as any occurrence arising from causes beyond the reasonable control of the National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee and National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon, Quiz Bowl) which delays or prevents performance by the otherwise required by this Agreement, including but not limited to any (i) breakage or accident to equipment, machinery or facilities; (ii) any strikes, lock-outs or other labor difficulties; (iii) statutes, ordinances, regulations, orders or rules issued by governmental authorities; (iv) judicial decrees or orders;

(v) acts of God; (vi) animal diseases and/or quarantines; (vii) wars, riots or insurrections; (viii) civil disobediences, public demonstrations or sabotage; (ix) fires, floods, explosions or inclement weather; (x) inability to obtain necessary labor, materials, supplies, utilities or transportation; (xi) depressions, recessions or other economic downturns; (xii) embargoes or energy shortages; or (xiii) other causes beyond the National Youth Livestock Contests reasonable control.

Governmental Regulation

The National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee and National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon, Quiz Bowl) shall not be liable for any delay or failure to perform its operations, activities, contests and events to the extent such delay or failure results from the National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon, Quiz Bowl) good faith compliance with applicable governmental statutes, ordinances, regulations, orders, rules or other directives, including but not limited to compliance with governmental directives concerning public health and safety, animal disease prevention, detection and response (including animal quarantine and/or destruction) and protection of the environment.

EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS

NATIONAL 4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

- Tuesday, November 17, 2026
- Superintendent - Dr. Brian Bolt
- Associate Superintendent – Dr. John Rayfield
- Board of Directors, Chair – Dr. John Rayfield and Vice-Chair – Bonnie Boyden

Livestock Judging Contest 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 4-H Program Leader. The contestants must be certified by the State 4-H Program Leader or their written appointed designee on entry form and filed with the National Youth Livestock Contest Vice - Chair by October 14 with all required entry materials and entry fee of \$600.00. Late registration of \$1000/team will be accepted up to one week (October 21) till 11:59 pm. After that date no late or incomplete entries will be accepted.

An entry fee of \$600.00 must be paid to *National Youth Livestock Contests*. If paying by check, forms and check must be mailed to Bonnie Boyden, if paying online, forms must be mailed or emailed to bboyden@umd.edu online payment can be made to the following link: youthlivestockcontests.org. Entries will be accepted until 11:59 pm on October 14. Late registration at \$1,000/team will be accepted up to one week (October 21, 11:59 pm)

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.

Violation of any of following rules shall disqualify all members of the entered team as contestants in this or future National 4-H Livestock Judging Contests. Further, the coach shall be barred from participation in the current, as well as, future contest.

Contestants And Eligibility

1. Contestants must be bona fide 4-H Club members approved by the 4-H Program Leaders of their respective states. State 4-H Leaders are responsible for determining the eligibility of participants in the National 4H Livestock Judging Contest from 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 1st 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 or been a member of any post-secondary team (university, college, junior college or technical school) competed at a collegiate livestock judging/evaluation contest/event at any level. 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) shall not participate in the North American International Livestock Exposition Junior College Judging Contest in the same year he/she is a

C) contestant in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.

D) Because the same classes of livestock may be used in one or more divisions (senior college, junior college, and 4-H) of the NAILE Livestock Judging Contests, collegiate (senior or junior) coaches are ineligible to serve as a coach or assistant coach for a 4-H team.

4. Contestants who have served as an official team member in the National 4-H Livestock Judging contest are ineligible to compete a second time.
5. Anyone who participates in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest shall not be allowed to exhibit or show a beef and/or sheep animal at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) during the period of Nov 13 - 17, 2026. The cattle and sheep youth must choose between exhibiting livestock at the NAILE or judging in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest during this period, they are not allowed to do both. You as an individual cannot exhibit or show a beef and/or sheep; however, they can have a beef and/or sheep shown with a substitute exhibitor if the request is made by November 1 to NAILE Management, please send an email to naile@kyvenues.com
6. Communication regarding the contest and any request shall only be received from the state team coach and/or state program leader only.
7. If the coach and/or state program leader believes, additional information may warrant reconsideration of the decision the coach/program leader must submit a written request with a \$250.00 fee to the contest superintendent, chair and vice chair. There will be no refund of said fee unless ruled in favor of the protest. At that time, the fee will be fully refunded. Cash and digital transfers only.

Violation of any of these rules shall disqualify all members of the entered team as contestants in this or future National 4-H Livestock Judging Contests. Further, the coach shall be barred from participation in the current, as well as, future contest.

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, 2026, will be in effect for the 2026 contest.)

1. Contestants and coaches are permitted to visit the North American International Livestock Exposition starting on Saturday, November 14. However, they are required to stay out of area where the contest will be held and the hallways and tie-out areas where the beef cattle are located. Any violation could result in disqualification of the team. Contestants and coaches may visit the trade show and are allowed in the stands to watch the beef cattle show in Freedom Hall, (no individual listed on the entry form shall be allowed on the floor, show ring or ringside of the Arena or in beef tie-outs). Contestants and coaches must stay out of all beef and sheep stalling areas.
2. A coaches meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 16 in the Crowne Plaza, Louisville Airport Hotel, Meeting Room. 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.
3. All contestants and coaches will report to the contest area at the Exposition Center on Tuesday, November 17 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, belt buckles, 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 communication devices of any kind are prohibited. Please advise your contestants to remove these devices prior to the start of the contest. If

EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS

- 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 or market wethers. In the event that a high quality goat class cannot be located, the committee has the right to add a fourth sheep class. Sheep Breeds for class consideration shall also include hair type sheep. 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 three classes. One swine (breeding or market); one sheep or meat goat (breeding or market); one beef (breeding or market) that will comprise the 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.
 12. Contestants must stay in assigned groups. Once time has been called and judging on a class has been completed, contestants must immediately turn back to class. Groups will rotate to the next class. Contest reserves the right to modify this rule as needed.
 13. At the conclusion of the first round, contestants will go back to the holding room to fill out their scantron cards for the first round and prepare for questions. At the conclusion of 2nd round contestants will return to holding room to fill out their scantron cards and turn into group leaders.
 14. 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.
 15. 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 will not be rehandled at any time.
 16. All official 4-H coaches and assistants as listed on the state entry form must be available and shall be required to assist 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.
- 5. All decisions by the Superintendent, Chair and/or Board of Directors shall be deemed final and shall not be further challenged.
- 6. Once the results have been publicly announced they are final

Contest Help

Any handlers, clerks, assistants and attendants, etc. shall be under the direction of the Superintendent. They shall carry out all assignments in an orderly manner; and no contest help shall confer with a contestant, contest committee, contest's official Judges, or anyone from the public or other coaches while serving in their official contest capacity 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. Highest total score overall wins.
 - a. If there is a tie then the highest total reasons score breaks the tie.
 - b. If still tied then the lower placings in reasons classes wins.
 - c. If still tied then the highest total questions score wins.
- 3. Highest reasons score wins.
 - a. If there is a tie then the lower placings classes wins.
 - b. If there is still a tie the highest total overall score wins
- 4. Highest score within the species wins.
 - a. If there is a tie then the highest total reasons score within the specie wins.
 - b. If still tied then the highest total reason score overall wins.
 - c. If still tied then the highest total score overall wins.
- 5. The records tabulated and submitted by the Superintendent to the Manager of the North American International Livestock Exposition shall be final.
- 6. 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, indicate the cuts to be made and file that placing with the referee judge.
- 3. Contestants will **NOT** be offered their placing 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 AND TEAMS WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE CONTEST FOR INFRACTIONS OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

ENTRY MATERIALS due by October 14, 2026:

- 1) State Entry Form – with all the required signatures (Program Leaders and

Coaches), youth and coaches' information

2) Signed National 4-H Livestock Contest Code of Ethics for coaches.

3) An entry fee of \$600.00 maybe paid by check to the National Youth Livestock Contest or paid with credit card on the official website – <https://youthlivestockcontests.org/>

4) All forms, required materials and check must be sent to Vice-Chair Bonnie Boyden. If paying online, forms must be mailed or emailed to bboyden@umd.edu online payment can be made to the following link: youthlivestockcontests.org

You may email the forms to bboyden@umd.edu and mail the check to 9501 Crain Highway, Box 1, Bel Alton, MD 20611. All documents and payments must be received by October 14. Late registration of \$1000/team will be accepted up to one week (October 21) till 11:59 pm. After that date no late or incomplete entries will be accepted.

Failure to submit all entry materials by the deadline shall deem the state's entry in-complete and thus ineligible to compete in that year's National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.

HOTEL ROOM BLOCK

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Louisville Airport and Expo Center. You must book your rooms by **October 14th**. The link will be posted on our website: youthlivestockcontests.org

WEBSITE FOR ALL INFORMATION FOR THE 2026 CONTEST:

<https://youthlivestockcontests.org/>

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

Dr. Brian Bolt, Livestock Specialist

Cooperative Extension, Clemson University

Office - (864) 934-2104

bolt@clemson.edu

NATIONAL 4-H LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON CONTEST

- Date – Monday, November 16, 2026
- Superintendent – Rosie Nold
- Board of Directors, Chair – Dr. John Rayfield and Vice-Chair – Bonnie Boyden
- Assistant Superintendent for Awards- Aaron Fisher

OUTCOMES

- A. Youth develop positive interests and attitudes about animal science and related careers.
- B. Youth gain a base of knowledge of animal science projects.
- C. Youth will utilize skills and abilities to solve everyday situations.
- D. Participants will process information, analyze complex problems, and make informed decisions regarding current agricultural, environmental, and livestock industry issues.
- E. An increased number of participants seek out higher education opportunities and careers related to animal science.

Youth participating in livestock skillathon have demonstrated decision making, problem solving, critical thinking, self-confidence, and teamwork skills in preparing and competition.

4-H LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS

ENTRY

Each state is invited to enter one team of up to four members. Teams consist of three or four members. In teams in which there are four members, all will compete, but the member receiving the lowest overall score will be automatically declared the alternate. The scores of the alternate will not be included in any of the team totals but will be considered in making all individual awards. Teams consisting of three members will have no alternate and all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards. The team members will be selected in a manner determined by the State 4-H Program Leader. The contestants must be certified by the State 4-H Program Leader or their written appointed designee on entry blanks filed with the contest superintendent by October 14th with all required entry materials and entry fee of \$600.00. Late registration of \$1000/team will be accepted up to one week (October 21) until 11:59 pm. After that date no late or incomplete entries will be accepted.

An entry fee of \$600.00 must be paid to *National Youth Livestock Contests*. If paying by check, forms and check must be mailed to Rosie Nold; if paying online, forms must be mailed or emailed to rosemarie.nold@sdstate.edu; online payment can be made at the following link: youthlivestockcontests.org.

Each state that enters a 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 Contest and other events associated with the NAILE.

Violation of any of the following rules shall disqualify all members of the entered team as contestants in this or future National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contests. Further, the coach may be barred from participation in the current, as well as future contests.

CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Contestants must be bona fide 4-H Club members approved by the 4-H Program Leaders of their respective states. State 4-H Program Leaders are responsible for determining the eligibility of participants in the National Contest from 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 1st of the current year.
3. Contestants shall not have competed previously in any official post-secondary (collegiate) livestock quiz bowl or livestock quadrathlon contest.
4. Contestants who have served as an official team member in the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon contest are ineligible to compete a second time.

5. Participants are allowed to compete in more than one national 4-H livestock-related contest at NAILE, including livestock judging, livestock skillathon, and/or livestock quiz bowl; however, posted schedules for contests will not be modified to accommodate multiple contest competition.
6. Communication regarding the contest and any request shall be received from the state team coach and/or state program leader only.
7. If the coach and/or state program leader believes additional information may warrant reconsideration of a decision made by the contest superintendent or management committee, the coach/program leader must submit a written request with a \$250.00 fee to the contest superintendent, and Board of Directors chair and vice chair to initiate reconsideration. There will be no refund of said fee unless ruled in favor of the protest. At that time, the fee will be fully refunded. Cash and digital transfers only.

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, 2026, will be in effect for the 2026 contest.)

1. Contestants and coaches are permitted to visit the North American International Livestock Exposition starting on Saturday, November 14. There are no restrictions on where Skillathon-only contestants and coaches may visit. However, if any contestant or accompanying adult/coach is participating in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, there are restrictions on where those individuals may visit. Please see the National 4-H Livestock Judging Official rules for those restrictions.
2. A coaches meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 15 in the Crowne Plaza, Louisville Airport Hotel, Meeting Room. 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.
3. All contestants and coaches will report to the East Hall of the Exposition Center on Monday, November 16 by 1:00 p.m., where they will receive final instructions for 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. The contest may involve a minimal amount of animal handling. No hats are to be worn.
5. All electronic communication devices of any kind are prohibited. Contestants should 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 may use a blank steno pad or a clipboard and blank paper. The contestants may not bring books, notes, pamphlets, or other reference material into the contest area. Contest officials reserve the right to check all contestant’s notepads or clipboards to make sure they are blank prior to the contest. Simple calculators will be provided at stations where they have been deemed helpful/necessary by the officials. Violators are subject to contest dismissal and disqualification.
7. Contestants are not to pick up or touch any item that is being identified or evaluated in the individual competition classes, unless otherwise directed by contest officials.
8. The contest will be divided into two rounds. In the first round of the contest, one group will participate in the team-oriented classes while the other group will complete the individual competitor classes of the contest. In the second round, the two large groups will switch areas of competition. Rotations and/or group assignments may be changed due to

participant numbers and/or NAILE schedules.

9. During the individual competition round of the contest, contestants will be further divided into groups and will remain with that assigned group throughout that contest round of classes. While completing the individual competition classes, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by contest officials. Contestants will be allowed 15 minutes to complete each individual competition class.
10. Team members will complete one official answer sheet for each team exercise, representing the combined effort of all team members. Teams will be allowed 18 minutes to complete the group assignment for each class and turn in their answer sheet. During the team competition round of the contest, contestants will be allowed to confer only with team members during the time period allowed for each class.
11. Coaches are invited to review contest materials in the contest area at the conclusion of the contest at approximately 5:00 p.m.
12. The contest awards will be presented in conjunction during the joint awards breakfast of the National 4-H Livestock Judging, Quiz Bowl and Skillathon Contests. The awards breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, November 18 at the North American International Livestock Exposition. It is advised to arrive at least a half-hour to one-hour early to get team photos taken and get a table.

CONTEST CLASSES

The following is a list of common Skillathon classes. The committee will make all reasonable efforts to adhere to these descriptions but reserves the right to make adjustments and deviate from this list due to unforeseen circumstances.

Classes completed as an individual:

1. **Livestock Equipment Identification:** (60 possible points) Identify the proper name for pieces of equipment used in livestock production.
 2. **Livestock Breed Identification:** (60 possible points) Identify from photographs or pictures livestock (beef cattle, swine, sheep and goat (non-dairy)) breeds. Contestants must also match the breed with the most appropriate description supplied for each breed.
 3. **Retail meat cut identification:** (60 possible points) Identify beef, lamb, and pork retail cuts from the National 4-H Meat Judging Retail ID List. Contestants will identify the retail cut species, primal cut, and retail cut name.
 4. **Wool Judging Class:** Rank a class of four wool samples with analysis information (40 possible points). Answer up to 10 questions about the class (20 possible points).
 5. **Hay Judging Class:** Rank a class of four hay samples with analysis information (40 possible points). Answer up to 10 questions about the class (20 possible points).
 6. **Quality Assurance Exercise:** (60 possible points) Example tasks include: demonstrate how to read a medicine label, calculate withdrawal times, complete a treatment record, and make responsible management decisions regarding quality assurance.
 7. **Quiz:** (60 possible points) Complete a 30-question multiple choice quiz concerning the total livestock industry.
- Total possible individual points = 420**

Classes completed as a team:

1. **Quality Assurance Exercise:** (100 possible points) Demonstrate how to read an animal health product label, calculate dosage rates and withdrawal times, complete a treatment record, be familiar with administration routes, animal identification and restraint methods, and make responsible management decisions regarding quality assurance. (This may

- involve live animals depending on availability.)
2. **Meat & Carcass Evaluation & Marketing:** (100 possible points) May include ranking one (1) class of four similar retail cuts, evaluate photos of carcasses and also price carcasses using a grid.
 3. **Animal Breeding Scenario and Exercise:** (100 possible points) Team members will evaluate a breeding animal scenario and make animal selection/marketing decisions based upon performance/visual data to rank breeding animals or market them for use within the situation. May include questions on adjusted weaning weights or other common measures of breeding livestock performance. (This may involve live animals depending on availability.)
 4. **Management, Performance & Marketing Problem(s):** (100 possible points) Determine best options for management and marketing of livestock (e.g., should producers sell calves at weaning, retain ownership through feedlot, combination), when provided with information on markets and performance to evaluate. Verbally defend decisions.
 5. **Livestock Feeding:** (100 possible points) Identify the proper name for livestock feeds and identify each corresponding nutrient group. Feed samples and lists of feed names and nutrient groups will be provided. Utilizing feed ingredients given, formulate a ration for a group of livestock.
 6. **Reproduction:** (100 possible points) Identify reproductive tract organs and functions and/or reproductive management equipment for livestock species. Demonstrate common reproductive management techniques such as artificial insemination or use of CIDRs.
- Possible point total for team classes = 600**

AWARDS: Individual and team awards will be given in divisions of Evaluation, Identification, Quality Assurance and Overall. Point totals and awards are determined as follows:

1. Individual Identification: Sum of individual 1) Equipment ID, 2) Breeds ID, and 3) Retail meat ID. Tie-breakers: 1) Retail meat ID, 2) Breed ID, 3) Equipment ID
2. Individual Evaluation: Sum of individual 1) Wool judging, 2) Wool questions, 3) Hay judging, and 4) Hay questions. Tie-breakers: 1) Wool questions, 2) Hay questions, 3) Overall individual total.
3. Individual Quality Assurance: Sum of individual 1) Quality Assurance and 2) Quiz. Tie-breakers: 1) Quiz, 2) Quality Assurance, 3) Overall individual total
4. Individual Overall Total: Sum of individual 1) Identification, 2) Evaluation, and 3) Quality Assurance. Tie-breakers: 1) Individual quality assurance, 2) Quiz, and 3) Retail meat ID.
5. Team Identification: Sum of top three individual ID scores for team. Tie-breakers: 1) Team equipment ID, 2) Team Breed ID, 3) Team Retail meat ID.
6. Team Evaluation: Sum of top three individual Evaluation scores for team plus team exercise scores for Animal Breeding, Livestock Feeding, Reproduction, Management-Performance-Marketing, and Meats-Carcass Evaluation. Tiebreakers: 1) Livestock feeding team exercise score, 2) Meat and carcass evaluation team exercise score, 3) Management-performance-marketing team exercise score.
7. Team Quality Assurance: Sum of top three individual quality assurance scores plus team Quality Assurance score. Tie-breakers: 1) Quality Assurance team exercise score, 2) Individual quality assurance (not quiz) scores of top three team members, 3) Overall team score.
8. Overall Team: Sum of top three individual scores plus all team exercise scores. Tiebreakers: 1) Team ID score, 2) Team Quality Assurance score (top three individual Quality assurance section scores plus Quality Assurance team exercise score, 3) Team Evaluation score (top three individual evaluation section scores plus team evaluation activities).
9. 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.

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 contest committee members and helpers to assist with contest management.
3. The Superintendent shall take charge of all records and shall have all scores tabulated and totaled.
4. All decisions by the Superintendent, Chair and/or Board of Directors shall be deemed final and shall not be further challenged.

CONTEST HELP

Any helpers, clerks, assistants and attendants, etc. shall be under the direction of the Superintendent. They shall carry out all assignments in an orderly manner; and no contest helpers shall confer with a contestant, contest committee, contest's official Judges, or anyone from the public or other coaches while serving in their official contest capacity unless directed by the Superintendent.

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

ENTRY MATERIALS due by October 14th:

- 1) State Entry Form – with all the required signatures (State 4-H Program Leaders/Directors and Coaches), youth and coaches' information.
- 2) Signed National 4-H Livestock Contest Code of Ethics for coaches.
- 3) An entry fee of \$600.00 must be paid to the National Youth Livestock Contests. A check of \$600.00 may be made to "National Youth Livestock Contests – Skillathon", or the fee may be paid with credit card on the official website – <https://youthlivestockcontests.org>. Late entries with a registration fee of \$1,000 will be accepted until October 21. No entries will be accepted after October 21.

All forms and required materials must be sent to Contest Superintendent Rosie Nold. If online payment is used, include a copy of the receipt. You may email materials (other than a check) to rosemarie.nold@sdstate.edu. Please include a subject line of "National Livestock Skillathon Entry – Your State".

If checks are used for payment, the check must be sent to: Rosie Nold, Berg Agricultural Hall 147, P.O. Box 2207, SDSU, Brookings, SD 57007. Sending hard copies of other materials (that are sent by email) is appreciated but not required.

Failure to submit all entry materials by the deadline shall deem the state's entry incomplete and thus ineligible to compete in that year's National 4-H Skillathon Contest.

WEBSITE FOR CONTEST INFORMATION

Youthlivestockcontests.org

If you have questions or desire additional information, please contact the Superintendent, Dr. Rosie Nold at rosemarie.nold@sdstate.edu or 605-592-6194 (cell).

NATIONAL 4-H LIVESTOCK QUIZ BOWL CONTEST

Presented by American Foods Group

American Foods Group is a sponsor of the National 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl Contest and has provided funding, goods, or services in support of 4-H. Acceptance of this sponsorship/donation does not imply endorsement by 4-H of any firm, product, or service

- Tuesday, November 17, 2026
- Superintendent – Steve Pritchard 2624 Fairgrounds Road, Albion, NE 68620
- Assistant Superintendent for Awards – Aaron Fisher
- Board of Directors, Chair – Dr. John Rayfield & Vice-Chair – Bonnie Boyden

Outcomes

- A. Youth develop positive interests and attitudes about animal science and related careers.
- B. Youth gain a base of knowledge of animal science projects.
- C. Youth will utilize skills and abilities to solve everyday situations.
- D. Participants will process information, analyze complex problems, and make informed decisions regarding current agricultural, environmental, and livestock industry issues.
- E. An increased number of participants seek out higher education opportunities and careers related to animal science.

Youth participating in Livestock Quiz Bowl have demonstrated decision-making, problem-solving, critical thinking, self-confidence, and teamwork skills in preparing and competition.

Entry

- A. Each state is invited to enter one team of up to four contestants. States are required to provide all available information with entry by October 14th, including contestant names, the National 4-H Livestock Contests Code of Ethics, and current event questions. The contestants must be certified by the State 4-H Program Leader or their written appointed designee on the entry filed with the Livestock Quiz Bowl Superintendent by 11:59 pm on October 14th. Late entries with a fee of \$1,000/team will be accepted until 11:59 pm on October 21st. **NO LATE ENTRIES AFTER OCTOBER 21st OR INCOMPLETE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. (ACCEPTED ENTRIES ARE DEEMED SUBMITTED WHEN ALL REQUIRED ENTRY MATERIALS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE HAVING ALL COMPLETED INFORMATION)**

*Participating states **must submit 10 Current Event questions using the listed references cited. Current Event questions must include the correct answer and source of the question.** The 10 Current Event questions are due by October 14th and must be mailed/mailed to Steve Pritchard, Superintendent (2624 Fairgrounds Road, Albion, NE 68620 or spritchard1@unl.edu). A general list of resource materials that may help (not all encompassing) prepare for this contest is available on the website.*

- B. An entry fee of \$600 must be paid to National Youth Livestock Contests by 11:59 pm on October 14th. Late Registration at \$1,000/team will be accepted until 11:59 pm on October 21. Refer to the website – youthlivestockcontests.org for acceptable payment methods. Teams with an Assistant Coach will be assessed an additional fee for meals TBD and payable at the time of entries.
- C. Each state that enters a 4-H Quiz Bowl 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 Livestock Quiz Bowl Contest and other events associated with the NAILE.

Contestants and Eligibility

- A. Contestant must already have reached his or her 14th birthday and may not have reached his or her 19th birthday, before January 1 of the year in which the National 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl Contest is held. State 4-H Leaders are responsible for determining the eligibility of participants in the National 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl Contest from their respective state and may grant a special authorization to compete, for youth with developmental disabilities who exceed the upper age limit.
- B. An individual may enter the National 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl Contest only once. Participating members of a team entry are ineligible to enter this event again as a part of another team.
- C. Participants are allowed to compete in more than one national 4-H livestock-related contest at NAILE, including livestock judging, livestock skillathon, and/or livestock quiz bowl; however, posted schedules for contests will not be modified to accommodate multiple contest competition
- D. Contestants shall not have competed previously in any post-secondary (collegiate) livestock quiz bowl or livestock quadrathlon contest.
- E. All contestants must be members of 4-H in the state they are representing during the year in which the National 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl Contest is held.
- F. The contestant(s) or team(s) of contestants must be certified as the official state entry by the State 4-H Program Leader or by a person designated by the State 4-H Leader.
- G. If the coach and/or state program leader believes additional information may warrant reconsideration of a decision made by the contest superintendent or management committee, the coach/program leader must submit a written request with a \$250.00 fee to the contest superintendent, and Board of Directors chair and vice chair to initiate reconsideration. There will be no refund of said fee unless ruled in favor of the protest. At that time, the fee will be fully refunded. Cash and digital transfers only.
- H. A team will consist of three or four contestants. An alternate can be substituted at the conclusion of any phase in a round. No substitutions are allowed within a phase, unless the moderator deems that an individual cannot continue in competition. Recommended procedure for contestant substitution is as follows:
 1. Each team may name one alternate and the alternate is required to stay with their team at all times (holding room, contest room).
 2. If an alternate enters play, he/she must remain in the contest for the rest of that phase.

3. Substitution during the contest needs to be approved by the moderator. In the event that a four-member team enters the competition, and one member is unable to continue the competition and there is no designated alternate, the resulting three member team will be allowed to continue; however, they will forfeit Phase I questions directed toward the fourth team member.

I. A coaches' meeting will be held on *Monday, November 16th* at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Louisville Airport Hotel – Room and time TBA. Contest instructions will be given at this time. Coaches should also be prepared to verify the names, addresses, and ages of their contestants.

J. All contestants and coaches **MUST** report to the Kentucky Exposition Center on *Tuesday, November 17th* at 8:30 a.m. At this time, contestants and coaches will receive final instructions regarding the contest and will be directed to their holding room.

K. Communication regarding the contest and any request shall only be received from the state team coach and/or state program leader.

Officials

- A. **Moderator:** The moderator assumes complete direction of the contest, asks all questions, designates contestants to answer questions, accepts or rejects all answers as guided by the judge(s), and may seek interpretation of questions and answers from the judges.
- B. **Judge:** The judge(s) will accept or reject any question and/or answer and have the option of explaining the answer. The judge(s) may not ask for clarification from a contestant.
- C. **Timekeeper:** The timekeeper will monitor elapsed time for each timed event and will indicate to the moderator when time has expired. The timekeeper or the moderator will handle the controls of game equipment, depending on the set-up of the equipment.
- D. **Scorekeeper:** Two scorekeepers will keep a running score on each match. One scorekeeper will maintain scores visible to the moderator and contestants, and if possible, the viewing audience. The second scorekeeper will maintain a written record of all scoring transactions.

General Rules

- 1. **Teams:** Teams will be notified prior to the National 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl Contest as to when and where they should report. Teams that fail to check in within 10 minutes of their scheduled match will forfeit the match unless excused by the National Quiz Bowl Superintendent.
- 2. **Dress Code:** Professional or business casual attire recommended, and no hats are to be worn.
- 3. **Team Captain:** A team captain is designated and should be seated nearest the moderator, who is positioned between the two teams. Contestants will wear identification tags and/or have tent cards with their name. The captain will remain the captain throughout the contest and will always be seated closest to the moderator. Other team members may change their seating order between matches.
- 4. **Viewing:** Contestants cannot view matches until their team has been eliminated from competition. After their team has been eliminated, contestants may view matches, but must remain quiet throughout the event.
- 5. **Electronics:** All electronic communication devices of any kind are prohibited in both the contest and holding rooms. Contestants, coaches, and spectators should remove these devices prior to the start of the contest or entering the holding room. 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. Contest officials reserve the right to inspect all contestants, coaches, and spectators upon entry into the contest room for electronic devices. Violators are subject to contest dismissal. Spectators may not bring any writing, recording devices or other similar materials into a contest room. Other specific rules about public and participant viewing will be announced at orientation, prior to the Quiz Bowl competition.

6. **Holding Room:** Only registered contestants and two designated coaches (Head and Assistant) per team are allowed in the Holding Room. NO electronic devices are allowed or to be used in the Holding Room except by contest officials.
7. **Contest Equipment:** Each contestant will be given the opportunity to test the proper functioning of game equipment.
8. **Timeouts:** Team members, coaches, moderators, judges, scorekeepers, or National 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl Committee members may call for a timeout for clarification of rules, scoring, and questions and/or answers, or to allow for unexpected problems. Coaches are also allowed to call for one, thirty (30) second timeout, during the toss up round (Phase III) at their discretion. Timeouts may be called only after a question has been answered and before the start of the next question.
9. **Challenges:** A team will have two chances during the contest to challenge a question or answer. When there is a challenge called; the moderator will call timeout. The moderator and judge(s) will consider the challenge. In all cases, the decision of the moderator and judge(s) is final. Each team will receive two challenge cards to use for the contest day.
 - a. Only one member of a team or the head coach of a team may make a challenge of a question or an answer, and then only at the time a particular question is read, or the answer given. Once the moderator has begun the next question, the challenge is not valid.
 - b. If a challenge is sustained, the moderator will take one of the following actions as deemed appropriate:
 - (1) If a question is challenged before an answer is given and the challenge sustained – the moderator will discard the question. No loss or gain of points for either team.
 - (2) If an answer is challenged (either correct or incorrect) - at least one of the judges and the moderator or two judges will determine the validity of the challenge. Points will be added or subtracted as appropriate.
 - (3) If a question is challenged after an answer is given (correct or incorrect) - at least one judge and the moderator, or two judges will determine the validity of the challenge question. The question may be discarded at no loss of points, or the question may be allowed with the appropriate gain or loss of points as in the situation above.
 - c. Abuse of challenges may result in one or more of the following: Dismissal of the team coach from the contest area; dismissal or replacement of the team member; dismissal of the entire team with forfeiture of any points or ranking.
 - d. Spectators, parents, and visitors may not challenge any question, answer, or procedure during play. They may, however, submit in writing to the contest officials any suggestions, complaints, or constructive criticism at the conclusion of the contest.
 - e. No source of information is infallible. There may at times be answers given to questions, which agree with recommended sources, which are in fact erroneous. Every effort shall be made to eliminate these questions, but in the event of such occurrences, the judges and moderator may challenge the answer to the question, and if there is unanimous agreement, may elect to accept only the

- correct answer or to discard the question with no loss or gain of points to either team.
- f. Team coaches may bring resource materials into the contest room. In the event of a challenge, a team member or the head coach of the team will have two minutes to use their reference materials to clarify the challenge.
10. **Ties:** If both teams are tied at the end of a match, the moderator will read a series of three additional toss-up questions until the tie is broken. Questions will be scored as in Phase Three (see below). If still tied after this series of questions, the match becomes “Sudden Death” play. Thus, the first team to achieve a higher score will become the winner of the match. Questions for “Sudden Death” play will be selected by the judges.
11. **Aids and Materials:** Team members may not bring in or use any prepared aids or other resource materials during a match. Pencils and scratch paper will be provided for Phase 2 and Bonus questions in Phase 3.
12. **Final Score:** Once the moderator has declared a winner based on the total team point accumulation, there shall be no challenges.
13. **Coaches:** Each team may name up to two designated coaches (Head and Assistant) upon entry. All coaches are required to stay with the members of their team at all times (holding room, contest room, etc.). **Assistant coaches will be assessed an additional fee (TBD) for meals payable at the time of entries.**

Method of Quiz Bowl Competition:

1. Order of teams will be drawn at random. A bye system will be used if an odd number of teams enter. The number of teams participating and the time allowed for the contest will determine the exact procedure followed.
2. Whenever time and space permit, a double elimination procedure will be used.
3. Each match will consist of three phases as described below. In all phases, only the first answer given is accepted and will be ruled as correct or incorrect.
 - a. **Phase One:** Phase One will consist of eight (8) one-on-one questions. During the one-on-one competition, only one member of each team who the specific question is directed to will be eligible to respond. This eligibility will rotate with each question beginning with the captain of each team, and rotating to the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th contestants of each team, respectively, until all eight questions have been asked. This means each pair of individuals (one member from each team) will be asked two questions. Correct answers are worth 10 points with no deduction for incorrect answers. If neither contestant buzzes in, the question dies, and no points are awarded or lost. No teammate assistance may be offered or received in this phase. A contestant must buzz-in within 5 seconds after the question is read and answers must be started within 5 seconds of the contestant being recognized by the moderator (starting an answer after the 5 second buzzer goes off is not acceptable). Answers will consist of multiple choice; fill in the blank, and/or completion type questions. If a team is composed of three members, they will forfeit the Phase I questions directed toward a fourth team member.
 - (1) The moderator shall indicate prior to reading of each question which two contestants are eligible to respond. If the first recognized contestant fails to respond or answers incorrectly, the moderator will offer the question to the other contestant. The moderator will read the correct answer if both contestants answer the question incorrectly or no answers are given.
 - (2) Each question shall be addressed to only one member of each team, beginning with the team captain and progressing with subsequent questions to the number 2, 3, and 4 contestants, respectively. If neither contestant buzzes

in, the question dies, and no points are awarded or lost. The next pair of contestants gets a new question.

(3) A contestant must be recognized by the moderator prior to beginning his/her answer. Any member answering a question without being acknowledged will result in the deduction of 10 points from the team score. The opposing contestant has the option of answering the question within five seconds after receiving an offer from the moderator.

(4) If a contestant buzzes in and fails to respond to the question in the form of an answer, a five-point penalty will be assessed.

(5) There will be a five-point deduction if any contestant, other than the two designated contestants, responds.

(6) If the equipment allows a member of each team to buzz in at the same time or locks out both team members because they hit the button at the same time, and the moderator cannot determine which team member buzzed first, the question will be discarded and a new question will be selected by the judges.

b. Phase Two: Phase Two will consist of eight (8) questions. Each team will be asked four questions each on an alternating basis. Each team may write the question down on the paper provided to them when it is first read. Correct answers are worth 10 points, with no deductions for incorrect answers. The team shall discuss questions prior to answering, but only the team captain can report the answer. If anyone other than the team captain answers, no points will be awarded. Answers must be started within 20 seconds after the question is read (starting an answer after the 20-second buzzer goes off is not acceptable). Teams are not required to buzz in to provide their answer. Questions shall primarily be fill-in-the-blank, completion, or short answer, but may include some multiple choice. When a team fails to answer the question in the allotted time or answers the question incorrectly, the moderator shall offer the question to the opposing team, without re-reading it. The opposing team may discuss the question and shall have 20 seconds (from the time the moderator offers the question) to begin an answer to the question. Correct answers are worth 10 points, with no deductions for incorrect answers.

This team may discuss the question only, after being offered to them, by the moderator (not while the team originally asked the question is discussing it). Only the team captain may report the answer. Teams are not required to buzz in before answering the question.

c. Phase Three: Phase Three will consist of regular, toss-up, and bonus questions with a possible total of sixteen (16) questions worth 15 points each. During this phase, any team member from either team may buzz in to answer a regular or toss-up question. The first two questions will be regular questions. Every third question will be a toss-up question with a bonus attached.

The only difference between a regular and a toss-up question will be that toss-up questions will have a bonus question attached.

(1) Scoring and procedures of regular and toss-up questions with no Violation of Play: After the regular or toss-up question has been read, the first individual from either team to signal will answer the question within

five seconds after being acknowledged by the moderator, or will lose 10 points. Ten points will be deducted for incomplete or incorrect answers. In the event of an incorrect answer, the other team has the opportunity to answer after buzzing and being acknowledged by the moderator. The second team must buzz in within 10 seconds of being offered the question by the moderator. The question will not be re-read. If neither team offers an answer within 10 seconds, the moderator will give the correct answer and neither team will forfeit points.

(2) Scoring and procedures of regular and toss-up questions with Violation of Play: Any member answering regular or toss-up questions without being acknowledged will result in the deduction of 10 points from the team score. The opposing team has the option of answering the question within 10 seconds after receiving an offer from the moderator. The question will not be re-read. The second team must buzz in and be acknowledged by the moderator before answering.

(3) Bonus questions: If a bonus question is attached to a correctly answered toss-up question, the moderator reads the bonus question and the team that answered the toss-up question is allowed to discuss the question. The question will not be re-read. The team may write the question down on the paper provided to them when it is first read. Answers must be started within 20 seconds after the question is read. Only the team captain may answer the question. If anyone other than the team captain answers the question, no points will be awarded. Correctly answered bonus questions are worth 15 points. All parts of bonus questions must be answered correctly to earn points. No points are deducted, however, for incorrect or incomplete answers to bonus questions. The opposing team does not have the opportunity to answer bonus questions.

(4) If a bonus question was attached to an unanswered toss-up question or an incorrectly answered toss-up question, the bonus question dies with no points awarded and the moderator will read the next regular question.

(5) Premature buzzing: When the buzzer is pushed before the question is completely read, the moderator will stop reading and the person who buzzed in must answer the question after being acknowledged. If the answer is incorrect or incomplete, 10 points will be deducted from the team score. The judge(s) will not ask for clarification of answers in these instances. Answers must be complete and correct. In the event that a multiple choice question must be answered before all the possible answers have been read, the contestant's answer must match the moderator's correct answer exactly, either by letter choice, or by the corresponding wording of the correct letter. If the answer is not complete and correct, the question will then be re-read in its entirety, and the other team will have the opportunity to answer it after buzzing and being acknowledged.

(6) Both teams buzz at the same time: If the equipment allows a member of each team to buzz in at the same time or locks out all team members because they hit the button at the same time, and the moderator cannot determine which team member buzzed first, the question will be discarded and a new question will be selected by the judges.

4. Multiple Choice Questions: the only acceptable answer is the "letter" of the correct answer. Corresponding wording will not be accepted.
5. Questions will not be re-read, except as in (c-5) above.
6. The score of both teams will be announced periodically.
7. The judge(s) may not ask for clarification of answers from contestants.

AWARDS

Top Five Overall Phase 2 Teams – will be recognized during the Awards Ceremony

Top Ten Overall Individuals

- Ribbons

Top Five Teams

- 1st place team (4 team members and coach) – Silver Mint Julep Cup, Belt Buckle & Ribbon
- 2nd Place team (4 team members and coach) – Belt Buckle & Ribbon
- 3rd – 5th place teams (4 team members and coach) – Ribbons

ENTRY MATERIALS DUE BY OCTOBER 14th:

1. **State Entry Form** – include all the required signatures (Program Leaders and Coaches), youth and coach's information.
2. **Signed National 4-H Livestock Contest Code of Ethics for coaches.**
3. **An entry fee of \$600.00 must be paid to National Youth Livestock Contests by 11:59 pm on October 13th. Late Registration at \$1,000/team will be accepted until 11:59 pm on October 21. An additional fee (TBD) for meals will be assessed if a team has a named assistant coach.**
4. **10 Current Event questions using the listed references cited. Refer to the website.**

All forms, required materials and check must be sent to Quiz Bowl Superintendent, Steve Pritchard. If online payment is used, please include a copy of the receipt. You may email materials (other than check) to spritchard1@unl.edu. Please include a subject line of – “National Livestock Quiz Bowl Entry – Your State.”

If checks are used for payment, the check must be sent to: Steve Pritchard, 2624 Fairgrounds Road, Albion, NE 68620. Hard copies of other materials would be appreciated but not required.

Failure to submit all entry materials by the deadline shall deem the state's entry incomplete and thus ineligible to compete in that year's National 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl Contest.

WEBSITE FOR CONTEST INFORMATION

<https://youthlivestockcontests.org/>

If you have questions or desire additional information, please contact the Superintendent: Steve Pritchard, Nebraska Extension Educator, 2624 Fairgrounds Road, Albion, NE 68620. Office - (402) 395-2158 or spritchard1@unl.edu

NATIONAL 4-H POULTRY & EGG CONFERENCE

- Thursday, November 19, 2026
- Superintendent - Dr. Ken Koelkebeck
University of Illinois
282 Animal Sciences Lab
1207 W. Gregory Dr.
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 244-0195
<http://national4hpoultry.ca.uky.edu/>

The National 4-H Poultry Judging Contest will be held in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition, Louisville, on Thursday, November 19, 2026 in the West Hall.

Currently, the Conference is made up of five separate contests – Poultry Judging Contest, Chicken Barbecue Contest, Turkey Barbecue Contest, Egg Preparation Demonstration Contest, and Avian Bowl Contest.

Rules and Regulations – Rules Applying to All Sections of the Conference

1. The conference will be held at the Kentucky Exposition Center.
2. The Conference is comprised of five competitive events:
 - Poultry Judging Contest – Team and Independent Individual
 - Egg Chef Challenge
 - Chicken Barbecue Contest
 - Turkey Barbecue Contest
 - Avian Bowl Academic Competition
3. State Leaders are responsible for ensuring that all participants meet the age requirements of the contest in which they are registered.
 - i. All contestants must be 14-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year.
 - ii. All members must be current members of 4-H.
 - iii. Contestants must not have competed in postsecondary (college, university, etc.) competitive events in the same subject area.
 - iv. Contestants cannot compete in a contest in which he or she had participated previously.
4. **If a contestant from your state has a disability and desires any assistance, devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in this conference, please contact Dr. Ken Koelkebeck by October 20 at (217) 244-0195 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Central time zone) to discuss accommodations.**
5. As of May 25, 2000, the National 4-H Leadership Council has established the following policy for national 4-H events:

“Each state should provide proof of medical/accident coverage for all participating and non-participating contestants/members during travel to, while at Louisville, and travel from the contest.”

In order to conform to the above policy, please make sure you have made provisions for this coverage from your state 4-H office. It is not necessary to send in a copy of this insurance coverage.

6. The address for the official web page of this conference is national4hpoultry.ca.uky.edu. This site includes general conference information, such as the rules and information for each contest area, competition history, schedule of events, maps to the contest, career workshop, and registration link.
7. It is important that your registration is reviewed by the appropriate person in each state. Please provide the name and address of one person in each state to whom correspondence should be directed. This should be a Specialist (Poultry, Nutrition, or 4-H), and not a contestant.
8. All contest decisions are final. Judge and class committee decisions in all contests are final.
9. The proper conduct of participants in the respective contests is important. Disorderly conduct prior to, during, or after each contest will result in a warning to the contestant, coach, or specialist involved. If abusive behavior continues, the contestant (or contestants) will be disqualified from the contest.

Poultry Judging Contest

(Special Awards provided by U.S. Poultry & Egg Association)

Purpose of Contest

1. To develop youth and help them learn the techniques of logical, accurate decision-making; to learn to recognize the reasons for their decisions, and to develop the ability to express their reasons orally.
2. To help youth learn and understand standards used in poultry and egg production and marketing, and to apply the standards in a realistic decision-making situation.
3. To serve as an award activity and trip for youth who have achieved superior levels of performance in state competitions and thus stimulate the learning process, interest, and enthusiasm.
4. To help youth with career guidance.
5. To promote the poultry industry.

Rules and Information Specific to the Poultry Judging Contest

National 4-H Poultry Judging Manual available online only at:
national4hpoultry.ca.uky.edu/poultry-judging-manual

1. Each state is eligible to enter a team of three (3) or four (4) bona fide 4-H members and/or one (1) independent individual in the national contest. The individual cannot compete on a state team once registered for the contest and is ineligible to compete in the national poultry judging contest again. **If a state has no team, they may enter up to two (2) individuals.**
2. Contestants need not be enrolled in poultry projects and are not required to have conducted a poultry project in the current year.
3. Scoring for the contest will be done electronically. Each participant will be given a score sheet to use while judging and then will enter their choices into the electronic system. A practice page (with a **downloadable score sheet**) has been developed for the contest and is available at <https://secure.georgia4h.org/poultrynational/practice/practiceinstructions.cfm>.
4. **Important Note:** When evaluating live animals, the welfare of animals is

important and should be considered. Being well-trained in handling hens is important to prevent discomfort or harm to them. In order to maintain the welfare of the hens, the procedure described in the manual should be adhered to.

5. The contest will consist of the following three divisions: Production, Market Poultry, and Market Eggs. A perfect individual score in Production will be 500 points; in Market Poultry, 500 points; and in Market Eggs, 500 points; for a total of 1,500 points. A perfect team score will be 4,500 points.
6. Judging smocks will **not** be supplied to contestants.
7. Each contestant will receive an electronic scoring sheet to fill out during the contest. They will then enter their placings in laptops provided to allow for electronic scoring.
8. Teams will be divided so that no two contestants from a state will be in the same group. Each group will remain together throughout the contest. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.
9. Ten (10) minutes will be allowed for placing each class. Also, a maximum of two (2) minutes will be allowed for each contestant for giving oral reasons on Classes 2 and 4. Contestants will shift to the next class only upon notification by the contest monitor. The broken-out egg class will be judged at the end of the contest in groups assigned by the contest chairman.
10. Competent judges will be responsible for the official placing of all classes.
11. Qualified judges will listen to and score oral reasons on two production classes. **Using notes while giving reasons will not be permitted. No state or name identification** will be worn by the contestant in the oral reasons room.
12. A competent committee will be in charge of grading the cards, announcing the results, and presenting the awards.
13. Each class of production hens, market poultry, and market eggs will be graded on the basis of 100 points for a perfect score. Similarly, oral reasons for the production classes will be graded on the basis of 100 points for a perfect score.
14. In the production division, there will be three classes of four past production hens. Oral reasons will be given for two of the classes. The hens are placed in accordance with the contest rules as stated in the manual. If more than one order is marked, the lowest score will be used. If no rank is marked, zero will be given for the class. The scoring of the placings will depend on the "cuts" between the hens and is based on the difficulty in separating each pair of hens.
15. For the market poultry division, there will be two classes of ten (10) RTC carcass grading (broiler and heavy broiler), one class of ten (10) RTC parts grading, one class of ten (10) further-processed poultry evaluations, and one class of ten (10) RTC parts identification.
16. For the RTC carcass and parts grading, the possible grades are A, B, C, or No Grade. Each carcass or part is worth ten (10) points. In scoring the class, three (3) points will be deducted for each grade separation line crossed between A-B and B-C. Four (4) points will be deducted for crossing the C-No grade line. For example, if the correct answer was "No Grade," and the contestant selected Grade B, three points would be deducted for crossing the B-C line and four points for crossing the C-No Grade line, leaving the contestant with a score of three points. If the correct answer was Grade C and Grade A was selected, three points would be deducted for crossing the A-B line and three points for crossing the B-C, leaving the contestant with a score of four points. Ten (10) points will be deducted if a contestant fails to enter a grade for a carcass or more than one grade is entered.
17. For the further-processed poultry evaluation class, each product is worth ten (10) points. There are five possible factors, and each factor is worth two (2) points. For each factor, the contestants are to indicate if it is present or not.
18. For the RTC poultry parts identification, ten (10) points will be subtracted for each incorrect identification. If a contestant identifies fewer than ten (10) parts,

- a total of ten (10) points will be deducted for each unidentified part.
19. For the market eggs division, there will be two classes of twenty (20) eggs for exterior quality, two classes of twenty (20) eggs for interior quality by candling, and one class of ten (10) broken out eggs.
 20. For the exterior egg grading, each egg is worth five (5) points. There are four possible grades - A, B, Dirty, and Loss. In scoring the exterior egg quality class, two (2) points will be deducted when the A and B grade separation line is crossed. Two (2) points will be deducted when the line between "B" and "Dirty" is crossed. One (1) point will be deducted when the line between "Dirty" and "Loss" is crossed. Five (5) points will be deducted if a contestant fails to enter a grade for an egg or more than one grade is entered for the same egg.
 21. For the egg candling class, each egg is worth five (5) points. The possible grades are AA, A, B, or Loss. In scoring the candled market egg classes, one (1) point will be deducted for each grade separation line crossed except when the line between "B" grade and "Loss" is crossed; then, three (3) points will be deducted. Five (5) points will be deducted if a contestant fails to enter a grade for an egg or if more than one grade is entered for the same egg.
 22. For the broken-out egg class, each egg is worth 10 points. The possible grades are AA, A, B, or Loss. In scoring the broken-out eggs, a three (3) point deduction will be made for each grade separation line crossed except when the line between "B" grade and "Inedible" is crossed; then, four (4) points will be deducted. Ten (10) points will be deducted if a contestant fails to enter a grade for an egg or if more than one grade is entered for the same egg.
 23. In each division, the three highest contestants' scores from each state team will be added to determine a team's divisional scores. Then the team's overall score will be determined by adding its three divisional scores.
 24. In case tie scores occur, the ties will be broken by the following methods in the order listed.
 - a. Ties in "production hen" and "overall categories" will be handled as follows: 1st) break the tie on the highest reasons scores; 2nd) break ties on the most perfect scores; 3rd) if ties can't be broken by the first two procedures, do not break the tie, and pay identical premiums, as advertised.
 - b. For other categories, the contestant or team with the highest number of 100 scores will win; if even, the contestant or team with the largest number of the next highest score below 100 will win. If necessary, this method will be continued in the order of descent of scores. Or, a method will be decided upon by the contest committee.
 25. Appropriate awards will be made to the high individuals and teams in each division and overall judging.
 26. Team and individual placings will be announced, and awards presented at an awards banquet Thursday evening.
 27. As soon after the contest as possible, a copy of the detailed scoring will be provided to each participating state for distribution to each team member, the coach, 4-H office, and extension poultry personnel.
 28. Classes To Be Judged In The Poultry Judging Contest

Classes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 – Egg production and reasons - 500 points

Classes 3 and 5 represent the Reasons portion of the contest, which is given for Classes 2 and 4, respectively. Three classes of four (4) Leghorns or Leghorn type hybrids are to be judged on past production qualities. Hens may be handled. **When evaluating live animals, the welfare of animals is important and should be considered. Being well-trained in handling hens**

is important to prevent discomfort or harm to them. In order to maintain the welfare of the hens, the procedure described in the manual should be adhered to. Anyone mishandling the hens will be given a single warning. If it continues, they will be eliminated from the contest. Contestants are not allowed to move or bend the hen's pubic bones. The contestant may touch and place fingers on each side of the pubic bones to determine thickness. But, contestants are not to try to move the pubic bones. The flexibility of the pubic bone is no longer to be considered a factor in placing the class. Contestants may not compare hens with others in their group. The hens should be placed in accordance with the contest rules as stated in the manual. Contestants will give oral reasons for Classes 2 and 4. Using notes while giving reasons will not be permitted. A maximum of two minutes will be allowed for giving reasons for each class.

Classes 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 – Grading ready-to-cook chicken carcasses and poultry parts, evaluation of further-processed poultry products, and identification of ready-to-cook poultry parts identification – 500 points

Classes 6 and 7 involve grading 10 RTC broiler and 10 RTC heavy broiler carcasses, respectively. Class 8 involves grading 10 RTC poultry parts and may be from a chicken or turkey carcass. Each individual carcass will be classified as A, B, C, or No Grade. Carcasses will be displayed in such a way that the entire carcass may be observed. Parts will be placed in plastic baggies. **Carcasses and parts may not be touched or handled.** Pinfeathers, diminutive feathers, hairs, and discoloration are to be disregarded.

Class 9 involves the evaluation of 10 further-processed poultry products for five possible factors. For each factor, contestants must indicate whether or not it is present. The further-processed products will be displayed on plates covered in plastic. **The further-processed products may not be touched or handled.**

Class 10 is a class of ten (10) poultry parts. The parts may be from a chicken or turkey carcass. Each part is to be identified and the number of the part written in the appropriate square in the front of the part name. The 10 parts will be selected from the 24 parts listed in the National 4-H Poultry Judging Manual. Each part will be prominently displayed on a baggie. **The poultry parts may not be touched or handled.**

Classes 11 and 12 – Market Eggs – Canded – 200 points

There will be two classes of 20 white-shelled chicken eggs to be candled for interior quality evaluation. Each egg is to be individually candled and classified as AA, A, B, or Loss. The Speed-King Candler will be used for candling eggs. **Eggs must be handled.** It is important to handle the eggs carefully. No shaking of the eggs is permitted.

Classes 13 and 14 – Exterior Egg Quality – 200 points

There will be two classes of 20 chicken eggs of any shell color to be individually classified AA/A, B, Dirty, or Loss. Eggs for exterior egg quality **cannot be handled.**

Class 15 – Broken-Out Market Eggs – 100 points

One class of 10 eggs will be broken out on a flat surface. Each egg is to be classified as AA, A, B, or Inedible.

Eggs and containers cannot be touched or handled.

TOTAL PERFECT SCORE - 1,500 points

29. Scorecard for oral reasons on the egg production classes in the poultry judging contest.

1. Appearance (general neatness) and delivery 24 points
 - Did the contestant stand still, on both feet, and face the judges?
 - Did he/she speak clearly, distinctly, and loud enough to be heard without shouting?
 - Did he/she have an appropriate opening and closing sentence?
 - Did he/she speak smoothly and without long pauses?
 - Did he/she have confidence; was he/she convincing?
2. Proper use of terms 20 points
 - Did the contestant mention such factors as pigment loss or bleaching, abdominal capacity, abdominal fat condition, and molt, or did he/she use terms that do not apply to judging egg production?
 - Did he/she use the terms properly?
 - Did he/she understand the terms used?
 - Was he/she able to define the terms? (The contestant may be asked to define some terms).
3. Accuracy of statement 20 points
 - Did the contestant really see the hens?
 - Were his/her statements true, partly true, or false?
4. Completeness of coverage 36 points
 - Did he/she actually tell why he/she placed one hen over another or did he/she just vaguely describe the hens? (10)
 - Did he/she stress the crucial differences between hens, or did he/she make stereotype comparisons of numerous factors? (16)
 - Did he/she tell all there was to tell of importance or were there several other good reasons that should have been given for his/her placing? (10)

NOTE: The judges may ask the contestant to define one or two comparative terms.

Egg Chef Challenge

Contest sponsored by the Kentucky Poultry Federation

Purpose Of Contest:

1. To develop and demonstrate leadership and communication skills.

2. To acquire knowledge of quality standards, size classification, nutritional value, preparation and storage
3. To understand the functional properties, versatility, and economic value of eggs.
4. To develop creativity in the preparation and serving of egg dishes.
5. To promote enjoyment of eggs as a nutritious food.
6. To apply sound nutritional knowledge in meal planning.

The 2026 Contest Category

- The Egg Chef Challenge is a national 4-H youth cooking competition where teams from various states compete to showcase their culinary skills, knowledge of egg science, and public speaking abilities.
- Each year, a functional property of eggs is selected by the committee and announced after the previous year's contest.
- The contest consists of two phases: Cooking Phase and Presentation Phase, each judged separately.
- Teams compete to highlight egg nutrition, quality, and techniques essential to making their assigned dish successfully.

The functional property selected for the 2026 contest is **FOAMING**.

Foaming (Beaten eggs trap air to create light, airy textures): examples of dishes that highlight the foaming functional property of eggs include, but are not limited to, meringue, meringue cookies (macaroons), angel food cake, mousse, marshmallows, Baked Alaska, Swiss roll, lemon chiffon pie, Dacquoise, souffle omelet, cloud eggs, etc.

AEB training videos on functionality of eggs

RULES AND INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO THE EGG CHEF CHALLENGE:

1. Each state may enter one team of bona fide 4-H Club members. Teams must consist of two or three members, ages 14-18 (as of January 1 of the contest year), representing the same state.
2. An official entry form must be submitted by the designated deadline. Incomplete entries may result in scheduling issues. Each submission must include:
 1. A copy of the team's recipe
 2. A list of appliances and equipment needed for cooking.
 3. The estimated total preparation time prior to the demonstration.
 4. Incomplete entries may result in scheduling issues.
3. The contest will consist of two phases, each worth 100 points.
 1. A cooking phase (50%) - Skills, execution, food safety, teamwork, and dish quality.

2. Presentation phase (50%) - Explanation of egg science, public speaking, creativity, and visual appeal.
4. The contestants will be scored according to the points listed and described in the sample judges' scorecard.
5. No identification (name, state, etc.) may appear on posters, slides, reels, recipes, or clothing
6. Teams must submit five (5) copies of the recipe to the superintendent at the Egg Chef Challenge orientation held the evening prior to the contest. This recipe must NOT contain the name of the contestant or the state represented.
7. Each year the committee will announce the functional property of eggs being highlighted in the contest.
8. Teams must work together as a unit; individual members will not be scored separately.
9. Once a team has completed their demonstration, they may not discuss judges' questions or feedback with others until the contest concludes.
10. Tie-breaking procedures - In the event of a tie, winners be determined as follows:
 1. Highest score in Presentation and Communication Skills
 2. Highest score in Knowledge of Egg Science and Nutrition
 3. Highest score in Taste and Texture of the dish
 4. If a tie remains, the contest committee will determine an additional method.
11. Cooking phase:
 1. All teams must cook within a designated timeframe and have their final plated dish ready for judging by the end of that period.
 2. Judges evaluate cooking technique, ingredient handling, food safety, sensory component, teamwork, and overall execution.
 3. Judges may ask teams questions to assess their knowledge of egg and food science and culinary methods.
 4. Teams must plate a final product for tasting within the contest timeframe. Teams are not allowed to change the dish once submitted
 5. The egg dish must contain a minimum of (Note: Large size eggs):
 1. ½ egg per serving if the dish is classified as an appetizer or snack.
 2. ½ egg per serving if the dish is classified as a dessert.
 3. ½ egg per serving if the dish is classified as a beverage.
 4. One (1) egg per serving if the dish is classified as a salad or main dish.
 5. The numbers above represent eggs to be broken; however, the use of

the entire egg is not required. For example, a dessert serving six people may be made with three egg whites.

6. **Food safety is critical** - Judges may refuse to taste a dish if undercooked eggs, contamination, or other hazards are observed.
7. There will be no separate preparation room.
8. Each team will have two 8-foot tables in the cooking area.
9. No portion of the dish may be prepared outside the contest facilities. However, the dish may use prepared packages of food ingredients (e.g., grated cheese) or canned items (e.g., tomato paste).
10. Each team is responsible for cleaning their area at the end of the contest.
11. **Provided by the contest committee:** cooking equipment (hot plates, oven, stove top, burner, tabletop toaster ovens, refrigerator, microwaves, as needed), cleaning equipment (hand washing station, dishwashing station, water), and eggs. A list of provided equipment will be published with the contest information.
12. **Provided by the teams:** All other ingredients, seasonings, pans, dishes, and utensils.

12. Presentation phase

1. Teams showcase their understanding of egg nutrition, properties, and food safety while developing public speaking and media communication skills.
2. Each team delivers a **live presentation** (via digital presentation or posters).
3. Each demonstration must be no more than 12 minutes. Teams will be permitted to finish the demonstration. If the presentation is two (2) minutes or less longer than the specified length, two (2) points will be deducted from the total score. If the presentation is from two (2) to five (5) minutes longer than the specified length, five (5) points will be deducted from the total score. If the presentation exceeds five (5) minutes longer than the specified length, ten (10) points will be deducted from the total score.
4. A short educational Reel focused on the steps to prepare the team's dish must be included as part of the presentation. The Reel shall not exceed 3 minutes of the total presentation. See additional guidance.
5. Digital presentations must be submitted online prior to the event; a submission link will be sent to registered teams.
6. Presentations must be the original work of the team. Notes or outlines are allowed but excessive reading may lower scores.
7. Judges will assess clarity, confidence, and scientific accuracy.
8. **Provided by the contest committee:** Windows-based computer and digital projector, two easels, link for submitting digital presentations.
9. **Provided by teams:** Presentation in PowerPoint, Google Slides, or PDF

format uploaded to a predetermined digital site that will be announced prior to the contest.

Egg Chef Challenge Reels

Each team will produce a short educational Reel highlighting their egg dish and its nutritional, scientific, or cultural significance.

Reel requirements

1. The Reel must demonstrate how to prepare the dish and explain why it is a healthy or good food choice.
2. Proper food safety techniques must be shown and clearly communicated.
3. Any non-original media (music, images, video) must be properly cited, regardless of copyright status.
4. Copyrighted materials (including music or images) may only be used with written permission from the copyright holder. Any Reel that appears to contain copyrighted material without documentation may be viewed during the contest but will not be publicly displayed.
5. Music used in Reels must be free from profanity, sexually explicit content, violent themes, or discriminatory language (including slurs).
6. The Reel should be compliant with WCAG 2.2 accessibility standards (e.g., captions, clear visuals, readable text).
7. Reels will be judged on clarity and effectiveness of communication, including audio quality, background noise, and the integration of visuals and sound.
8. The Reel should highlight key techniques, teamwork, and important aspects of preparing the dish.
9. Creativity is encouraged - teams can incorporate voiceovers, captions, or engaging visuals to explain the process.
10. Separate guidance regarding use of copyrighted materials is provided.

Chicken Barbecue Contest

(Special awards provided by U.S. Poultry & Egg Association)

Purpose of the Contest

1. To develop leadership talents and to work toward achieving the broad objectives of developing sound character and effective citizenship.
2. To acquire scientific knowledge and improved understanding of the economy, versatility, and nutritional value of chicken meat and its relationship to human nutrition and health.
3. To help youth develop skills in the preparation and use of chicken and to acquire the ability to express their ideas proficiently and efficiently through participation in projects, talks, discussions, demonstrations, and exhibits.

Rules and Information Specific to the Chicken Barbecue Contest

1. Each state is eligible to enter one bona fide 4-H member in the contest; however, an individual may only enter one of the barbecuing events in a particular

year due to an overlap in the cooking and presentation times between the chicken and turkey events. Note: This contest also overlaps with the poultry judging and egg preparation demonstration contests.

2. The contest sequence for cooking and presentation will be announced at the contest briefing prior to the contest. The contestants will be scored for barbecue skills, sensory evaluation, and presentation by a set of three judges according to the barbecue score sheets.
3. Following arrival and delivery of their supplies to the grilling or presentation location, contestants will work alone, except in case of an emergency, as determined by contest monitors.
4. Contestants are responsible for keeping their cooking and presentation areas tidy, and they are responsible for clean-up and removal of their equipment and supplies.

Product Cooking and Sensory Evaluation

1. Each contestant will prepare four (4) bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs (1.5-2.0 lb. total), provided them by the contest monitors. They will be evaluated during the preparation of their chicken by judges utilizing the chicken barbecue skills score sheet.
2. There will be a two-hour time limit for the preparation and cooking of the chicken thighs. The chicken will not be available to the contestant prior to the contest starting time. The fire may not be lit until the contest starting time.
3. Chicken shall not be marinated prior to the start of the contest. Parboiling and/or deep-frying competition meat is not allowed. Contestants may not enhance chicken meat by piercing, injecting, or inserting any fluid, sauce, or additive into the chicken product other than immediately beneath the skin layer.
4. If the contestant desires, the thighs may be deboned. In addition, if deboned, seasoning or sauce may be applied to the area vacated by bone removal. Sauce or similar products may be placed in a small metal pan on the grill for heating, but the meat product may not be placed in the metal pan while on the grill.
5. Barbecue grills will be provided for all contestants, which will be required to use. Each contestant will be assigned a cooking space and grill along with a work area of one half of an approximately 30-inch by eight-foot folding table adjacent to their grill.
6. Charcoal and lighter fuel will also be available if needed. Contestants may bring their own charcoal and lighter fuel, but self-starting charcoal or automatic fire starter blocks will not be permitted.
7. Chimney-starters may be used, but such devices must be placed inside the grill before and during ignition and removed from the grill prior to the addition of the chicken for cooking. Fire is restricted to inside the provided grill. Burning materials outside the grills will be considered as a fire hazard.
8. The use of non-charcoal combustible fuel is to be limited. Accessories such as spits, augers, or forced draft are not permitted. Electricity will not be provided and cannot be used. Material may not be added to the grill area such as rocks, sand, or other dense materials to aid in cooking.
9. All other equipment and supplies, including sauce, must be furnished by the contestant. Sauce, if used, may be a commercial product or private recipe (description must be provided to judges on the recipe card to assist during flavor and appearance evaluation).
10. Contestants are expected to use a meat thermometer. Devices used for supporting, containing, or covering of meat during cooking will not be permitted; only aluminum foil wrap may be used.
11. Contestants must provide recipe or preparation outline cards describing any sauce, rubs, or other treatments associated with the cooking of the chicken to include ingredients and special instructions if necessary, for food safety, relating to these ingredients such as keeping sauce ingredients either cool or heated.

Note: Three (3) copies on note card stock, 3" x 5" size preferred, containing these cooking instructions or recipe must be provided to judges; two copies to barbecue skills judges before starting the fire; and one copy to turn in to sensory evaluation judges with the cooked product.

12. Recipe cards need to include the following information:
 - a. Name of the recipe and contestant number
 - b. Ingredients and general cooking instructions
 - c. Any special cooking techniques used to achieve unique flavoring
13. Each contestant will present three (3) barbecued chicken thighs to the panel of judges at the conclusion of their cooking time on plates or containers provided.
14. Prior to the submission of the three (3) cooked chicken thighs for evaluation, contestants must demonstrate to the barbecue skills judges the criteria and methods they used to determine the proper doneness of their product at the time of turn-in. Judges may also independently evaluate the product at this time. Thighs may be presented either intact or boneless; however, all submitted thighs must be presented the same, whether intact or boneless. The contestant is to have turned in the product by the end of the stated cooking time. Contestants will be notified 15 minutes prior to the end of the cooking time. Cooking skills will be evaluated using the chicken cooking skills score sheets.
15. Each contestant will present three (3) barbecued chicken thighs to the panel of judges at the conclusion of their cooking time on plates or containers provided.
16. No garnishes, dips, or additional items shall be presented on the plates or submitted to the judges. Note that one recipe card or cooking outline card for the sensory judges must accompany the product. The product will be evaluated using the chicken sensory score sheets.

The Aussie Walk-A-Bout Portable Charcoal Grill is used and features folding legs and a locking bowl and hood. There are 332 square inches of cooking area/cooking space, a chrome-plated cooking grid, and hood and on the grill bowl and lid.

Oral Presentation

1. An illustrated presentation, including factual information about meat chickens, will be made by each contestant (see score sheet). The participant is to demonstrate his/her knowledge in the following areas:
 - a. The chicken meat industry in the United States and its economic importance
 - b. General food safety, including safe storage and handling of chicken (uncooked and cooked), with particular emphasis on preparation for grilling
 - c. Nutritional value of chicken meat and its role in a balanced diet
2. Contestants will be allotted a maximum of 10 minutes for their presentation. Judges will have up to three minutes for questions directed to contestants. Questions may be related to statements made by the contestant during their presentation that the judges feel might need further explanation or more related to important information that may be missing from the presentation. No contestant will be allowed to have any form of identification as to name or state represented, including the PowerPoint presentation content, posters, or from the tabletop graphics utilized during the oral presentation.
3. Easels will be provided for those using posters. PowerPoint presentations using a computer and computer projector may be used. A Windows-based laptop computer and computer projector will be available. PowerPoint will be installed on the computer, and contestants should have their presentation on a USB flash drive device. Information on which version of PowerPoint will be used in the current year will be posted on the contest website. If a PowerPoint

presentation is planned, the presentation is due in the final form for submission at the time of the contestant briefing held the evening before the contest. PowerPoint presentations cannot include audio. The order of presentation and contestant number will be determined at the contest briefing. NOTE: In case of a tie following tabulation of contestant scores, the tie scores of the top five contestants will be broken in descending order by:

- Highest score in Sensory Evaluation
- Highest score in Barbecue Skills portion
- A method determined by the contest committee

Turkey Barbecue Contest

(Special awards provided by U.S. Poultry & Egg Association)

Purpose of the Contest

1. To develop leadership talents and to work toward achieving the broad objectives of developing sound character and effective citizenship.
2. To acquire scientific knowledge and improved understanding of the economy, versatility, and nutritional value of turkey meat and its relationship to human nutrition and health.
3. To help youth develop skills in the preparation and use of turkey.
4. To acquire the ability to express their ideas proficiently and efficiently through participation in projects, talks, discussions, demonstrations, and exhibits.

Rules and Information Specific to the Turkey Barbecue Contest

1. Each state is eligible to enter one bona fide 4-H member in the contest; however, an individual may only enter one of the barbecuing events in a particular year due to an overlap in the cooking and presentation times between the chicken and turkey events. Note: There are also overlaps with the Poultry judging and Egg preparation demonstration contests.
2. The contest sequence for cooking and presentation will be announced at the contest briefing prior to the contest.
3. The contestants will be scored for barbecue skills, sensory evaluation, and oral presentation by a set of three judges according to the barbecue score sheets.
4. Following arrival and delivery of their supplies to the grilling or presentation location, contestants will work alone, except in case of an emergency, as determined by contest monitors.
5. Contestants are responsible for keeping their cooking and presentation areas tidy, and they are responsible for clean-up and removal of their equipment and supplies.

Product Cooking and Sensory Evaluation:

1. The contestant will prepare and cook turkey patties using ground turkey (as is 85-90% lean) provided by the contest monitors. At least 75% by weight of the burger ingredients must consist of the ground turkey provided by the contest monitors. Only the patties are submitted, and no other toppings may be included.
2. There will be a two-hour time limit on the preparation of the turkey patties. Each contestant will be provided two pounds of ground turkey. The contestant will use this turkey product to prepare turkey patties of a minimum of 1/4 pound (uncooked weight), with two (2) patties to be submitted for sensory evaluation. The ground turkey will not be available to the contestant prior to the contest starting time.
3. The fire may not be lit until the contest starting time.

EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS

4. Parboiling and/or deep-frying competition meat is not allowed. The turkey patties may be cooked in aluminum foil wrap or a basket formed of foil wrap. Separate ingredients such as sauce or similar products may be placed in a small metal pan on the grill for heating, but the meat product may not be placed in the metal pan while on the grill.
5. Barbecue grills will be provided for all contestants, which they will be required to use. Each contestant will be assigned a cooking space and grill, along with a work area of one half of an approximately 30-inch by eight-foot table adjacent to their grill.
6. Charcoal and lighter fuel will also be provided, but contestants may bring their own charcoal and lighter fuel. Self-starting charcoal or automatic fire starter blocks will not be permitted.
7. Chimney-starters may be used, but such devices must be placed inside the grill before and during ignition and removed from the grill prior to the addition of the turkey for cooking. Fire is restricted to inside the provided grill. Burning materials outside the grills will be considered as a fire hazard. The use of non-charcoal combustible fuel is to be limited.
8. Accessories such as spits, augers, or forced draft are not permitted. Electricity will not be provided or used.
9. Material may not be added to the grill area such as rocks, sand, or other dense materials to aid in cooking. Appropriate charcoal use will be considered by the evaluators.
10. All other equipment, supplies, and ingredients, including sauce, must be furnished by the contestant. Sauce, if used, may be a commercial product or private recipe (description must be provided to judges on the recipe card to assist during flavor and appearance evaluation).
11. Contestants are expected to use a meat thermometer.
12. Devices used for supporting, containing, or covering meat during cooking will not be permitted; only aluminum foil wrap may be used.
13. The contestant must provide recipe or preparation outline cards describing any sauce, rubs, or other treatments associated with the cooking of the turkey. They must list ingredient quantities and special instructions, if necessary, for food safety relating to the ingredients, such as keeping sauce ingredients either cool or heated. Note: Three (3) copies on note card stock, 3" x 5" size preferred, containing these cooking instructions or recipe must be provided to the judges – two copies to skills judges before starting the fire, and one copy to sensory evaluation judges with the cooked product.
14. Recipe cards need to include the following information:
 - a. Name of the recipe and contestant number
 - b. Ingredients and general cooking instructions for the sauce, if any
 - c. Ingredients added to the turkey meat
 - d. Any special cooking techniques used to achieve unique flavoring
15. Prior to the submission of the cooked turkey patties for evaluation, the contestant must demonstrate to the barbecue skills judges the criteria and methods they use to determine the proper doneness of their product at the time of turn-in. Judges may also independently evaluate the product at this time.
16. Contestants must turn in the product by the end of the stated cooking time. Contestants will be notified 15 minutes prior to the end of the cooking time. Cooking skills will be evaluated using the turkey cooking skills score sheets.
17. Each contestant will present two (2) cooked turkey patties on containers provided to the panel of judges at the conclusion of their cooking. No toppings, garnishes, dips, or additional items shall be presented on the plates or containers or submitted to the judges. Only the turkey patties are to be placed in the containers submitted. Note: the one recipe card or cooking outline card for the

sensory judges must accompany the product when turned in. The product will be evaluated using the turkey sensory score sheets.

The Aussie Walk-A-Bout Portable Charcoal Grill is used and features folding legs and a locking bowl and hood. There are 332 square inches of cooking area/ cooking space, a chrome-plated cooking grid, and hood and vents on this grill.

Oral Presentation

1. An illustrated presentation, including factual information about the commercial turkeys, will be made by each contestant (see score sheet). The participant is to demonstrate their knowledge in the following areas:
 - a. The turkey industry in the United States and its economic importance
 - b. General food safety, including safe storage and handling of turkey (uncooked and cooked), with particular emphasis on preparation for grilling.
 - c. Nutritional value of turkey and its role in a balanced diet
2. Contestants will be allotted a maximum of 10 minutes for their presentation. Judges will have up to three minutes for questions directed to contestants. Questions may be related to statements made by the contestant during their presentation that the judges feel might need further explanation or important information not mentioned in the presentation.
3. No contestant will be allowed to have any form of identification as to name or state represented, including in the PowerPoint presentation content, posters, or the tabletop graphics utilized during the oral presentation.
4. Easels will be provided for those requiring them. PowerPoint presentations using a computer and computer projector may be used. A Windows-based laptop computer and computer projector will be available. PowerPoint will be installed on the computer, and contestants should have their presentation on a USB flash drive device. If a PowerPoint presentation is planned, the presentation is due in the final form for submission at the time of the contestant briefing the evening before the contest. PowerPoint presentations cannot include audio. The order of presentation and contestant number will be determined at the contest briefing.
5. Presentations will be evaluated using the presentation score sheet.
6. In case of a tie following tabulation of contestant scores, the tie scores of the top five contestants will be broken in descending order by:
 - a. Highest score in Sensory Evaluation
 - b. Highest score in Barbecue Skills portion
 - c. A method determined by the contest committee

Avian Bowl Contest

(Special Awards provided by U.S. Poultry and Egg Association and various companies)

Purpose of the Contest

1. To encourage youth to expand their knowledge of avian facts and become proficient in poultry management and related subjects.
2. To serve as an award activity and trip for youth who have achieved superior levels of performance in a state competition and thus stimulate their learning processes, interests, and enthusiasm.
3. To help youth with career guidance, and to promote the poultry industry by stimulating their interest in poultry and other avian species.
4. To make learning fun.

The 2026 Study Packet

All questions and answers will come from the following material in the 2016 version of the Avian Bowl Manual:

- Prologue ... Available online only
- Avian systems (Circulatory, nervous, excretory, muscle only) – page 39-40
- Breeds, Varieties, and Strains (through New Hampshires) – pages 67-71
- Eggyclopedia – pages 102-124
- Small turkey flock (All) – Pages 45-54
- A revised version of Changing World of Poultry and Eggs Market – Available online only
- Embryology (Daily development through entire glossary) – Pages 191-195

Note: The above study material came from the National 4-H Avian Bowl Manual revised in 2016.

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They no longer accept checks

Rules and Information Specific to the Avian Bowl Contest

1. Each state may enter a team of not less than two (2), and not more than four (4) members.
2. There will be a 25-question written quiz given the evening preceding the Avian Bowl Contest. The scores for the top three individuals will be added and averaged to give a team score.
3. Questions will be prepared from the National Avian Bowl Study Packet by the Avian Bowl Committee. Sale price and ordering information are available from Clemson University Bulletin Room -- Room 82, Poole Agricultural Bldg., Clemson, SC 29634 -- \$15.00 per copy.
4. Questions will be fill-in-the-blank (short answer), multiple-choice, and spelling.
5. State representatives will be determined by the state 4-H office or designated representative.
6. Team members may be participants in other contests.
7. As in other contests, team members may only compete for one year.
8. The audience is required at all times to refrain from providing answers to any team member. Disciplinary action for violations will be at the discretion of the Avian Bowl Contest judges.
9. In the event an odd number of teams register, a "bye" will be awarded, as necessary, in order to allow all teams to participate.
10. Taking of pictures will not be allowed during the contest. No recording of any kind will be allowed (cell phone audio or video, tape recorders, videos, or written transcription).

Officials

Moderator - Assumes complete direction of the contest, asks all questions, designates contestants to answer questions, acts as the referee judge and is in charge at all times.

Referee Judge - May rule on the acceptability of an answer.

Time Keeper - Records total elapsed time for each contest and indicates to the moderator the expiration of total time or the expiration of the time allowed in which to answer questions.

Score Keepers - Two individuals shall keep scores on each contest. One score should be kept so that all points awarded or taken away in penalties may be checked. The second score is kept to maintain scores visible to the moderator, the contestants and, in so far as possible, the viewing audience.

Questions

The degree of difficulty and choice of questions will depend upon the contestants' level of knowledge.

Questions may be in the form of written words.

Number of Questions. Each set of teams within a single round will have the same number of questions. Bonus questions will have the same point value in each game within a single round.

Types of Questions. There are three types of questions:

1. Regular Questions.
2. Bonus Questions - A bonus question is usually a question requiring a several-part answer or a difficult answer. See point system summary for point values. Bonus questions will not be passed on to the other team in the event of an incorrect answer. When a team member answers a regular question correctly, a colored card in front of that team member will be turned over by the moderator. Regardless of the number of members on a team, four (4) questions must be answered correctly by the team before a Bonus Question is earned. There will only be one bonus question per team per game.
3. Tie-breaker Questions - A tie-breaker question is used to replace a question thrown out by the judges. It is also used for the extra questions needed to break a tie between teams.

Point System:

Correct Answer	plus 5 points
Incorrect Answer	minus 5 points
Acknowledgment Penalty	minus 5 points
Bonus Question	plus 10 points

There are five points per correct answer on multi-answer questions or bonus value on regular answers. There is no loss of points for an incorrect answer on bonus questions. The value of the bonus questions will be announced by the moderator before the question is read.

Tied Games. In the event that two teams have a tied score in games involving placings, the tie will be broken by asking an additional five (5) questions. The running score will be maintained through the tiebreaker. Questions answered correctly during the tiebreaker may go toward the awarding of a bonus question if the team has not already received a bonus question during that game.

Reference Material:

Competing teams should know well in advance the specific sources from which questions are taken. Questions will be taken from the National 4-H Avian Bowl Manual, 4-H Manual 161, Clemson University. Study sections will be listed in the conference cover letter that accompanies the conference rules.

Mechanics of Play:

1. Format
 - a. A double-elimination tournament-style format will be followed. Any team that loses two games will be eliminated from the contest. The contest will continue until only one team remains with fewer than two losses.
2. Pairings, Byes, Order of Play, and Placings
 - a. The average team score for the written test will be used to determine the seedings for the contest. (The lowest score will still be dropped.)
 - b. In the case of two average team written test scores being identical, the seeding will be determined by a coin toss.
 - c. The contest will be a classic double-elimination contest and will run as such by an individual versed in contest organization.
3. The written scores will not be added at the end of the oral competition.
4. The moderator will ask a question. The first person whose light flashes must start to answer the question within five (5) seconds after being acknowledged or lose five (5) points.
 - a. Any member answering a question without being acknowledged will lose five (5) points.
 - b. It will be the responsibility of the judges to determine that an answer was started within the five (5) seconds allowed. It should be noted that repeating the question does not constitute the initiation of an answer.
 - c. If an incorrect answer is given, the team will lose five (5) points.
 - d. If the question has been completely read, the moderator will not repeat the question, but the other team will have the opportunity to ring in within five (5) seconds.
 - e. Timing will begin when the question is complete and when a signal is activated.
 - f. Once a contestant starts spelling a word, the contestant may stop and begin again but may only retrace the spelling previously given. The same holds true for a contestant with a fill-in-the-blank question. The contestant may restart, but may not change what has already been said.
5. When a signal is activated before the question is read completely, the moderator shall stop reading the question, then the contestant has five (5) seconds to start the answer based on that portion of the question.
 - a. If the answer is correct, the team will receive five (5) points.
 - b. If the answer is incorrect or incomplete, the team will lose five (5) points.
 - c. If the question was interrupted, the judge may not ask the contestant to be more specific, expand, or explain in any way their answer.
 - d. If an interrupted question is answered incorrectly, the question shall then be reread completely, and the other team will have the opportunity to answer it.
6. If neither team offers an answer to the question within 10 seconds, the moderator will give the answer and the question will be dropped. Neither team will

forfeit points.

7. The only discussion allowed between team members will be on bonus questions. The answers must come from the team captain.
 - a. Only the number of answers required by the bonus question will be accepted. Example: If the bonus has a four-part answer, the first four answers given by the team captain will be accepted.
 - b. On a bonus question, the team may have ten (10) seconds to consult. Time will be called at the end of ten (10) seconds, at which time the Captain must start the answer within five (5) seconds.
 - c. Once the Captain starts the answers, he/she will have thirty (30) seconds to complete the answers required.

Decisions and Interpretations:

Answers and interpretations of questions will be the sole responsibility and final recall of the judge. All decisions of the judge, scorekeepers, and referee-timers are final.

1. A team member will have the privilege to ask the judge to verify an answer that he/she feels is correct.
2. If a coach challenges the judge's decision, the coach must call "time out" immediately (before the next question is read). A decision made by the judge after the answer is verified will be final.
3. Only answers contained in the Avian Bowl Manual will be acceptable to the Judge

NORTH AMERICAN INVITATIONAL 4-H DAIRY QUIZ BOWL

Coordinators

- Dr. Jill Davidson, Ruminant Postbiotic Technical Lead, Micronutrition & Health Solutions Cargill, 9490 Thompson Schiff Rd., Sidney, OH 45365, jill_davidson@diamondv.com
- Dr. Jackie Boerman, Associate Professor in Animal Sciences, Purdue University, 3020 Creighton Hall, 270 S. Russell St., West Lafayette, IN 47907, jboerma@purdue.edu
- Dr. Tamilee Adolph, Dairy Nutritionist for ADM Animal Nutrition, 8484 135th St., Kimball, MN 55353, Tamilee.adolph@adm.com
- Dr. Barbara Jones, Assistant Professor, Eastern Kentucky University, 521 Lancaster Ave, A.B. Carter Building, Richmond, KY 40475, Barbara.jones@eku.edu
- Larissa Tucker, M.S., Extension Associate Senior, University of Kentucky, 403 W. P. Garrigus Building, Lexington, KY 40546-0215, larrisa.tucker@uky.edu

Sponsors

- North American International Livestock Exposition and multiple Dairy Industry Sponsors

SCHEDULE (EASTERN TIME ZONE, START TIMES AND LOCATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

- Friday, November 6, 2026
5:00 - 9:00 p.m.: Registration, written exam, and get-acquainted pizza party, East Hall, KEC.
- Saturday, November 7, 2026
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.: Quiz Bowl competition, West Hall, KEC.
7:00 p.m.: Dairy Quiz Bowl Banquet, South Wing Conference Center, KEC.

Goals of the Competition

The Dairy Bowl is a contest where teams of four members compete against each other. Competition points are awarded for correctly answering questions about the dairy industry and closely related areas.

Competition in the 4-H Dairy Bowl encourages a 4-H member to develop a more complete knowledge of dairy animals and related subjects. This contest provides an educational dairy program for all dairy project members, including those who may not own a dairy project animal, and provides a way to develop alertness and self-confidence.

Eligibility

1. A 4-H member who celebrates their 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, or 19th birthday during the year of the contest is age-eligible for this competition.
2. Contestants may be attending or have attended a college beyond high school. However, club members who enroll in or audit a Dairy Science or Animal Science course prior to the fall term are not eligible for the contest. Also, any club members who enroll in any Dairy Science or Animal Science short course, online course, or AP course eligible for credits toward a college degree prior to the fall term are not eligible for the contest.
3. Each state may enter one team. A team will have four members and a coach.

Teams of fewer than four members may compete but will do so at a disadvantage in the written portion of the contest. ***One or more alternates may be entered into a match of the contest at the start of either phase B (initial team questions) and/or phase C (toss-up and bonus). Alternates that are seated will remain for the entire phase in which they entered for that match. For phase A, alternates may take the written exam, however, scores will only be utilized from the four designated team members. A link to the entry forms and more information is available at <http://afs.ca.uky.edu/dairy/north-american-dairy-quiz-bowl>. All information found on the website supersedes any information found in the printed catalog for this contest.***

4. **Eligibility:** Team members and alternates must be registered for the Dairy Bowl Contest by date and time specified on the invitation letter found on the website. Registration materials are sent electronically to state 4-H leaders or State Dairy Extension Specialists during the month of July.
5. All entries must be authorized and signed by a State 4-H Program Leader and State Dairy Extension Specialist. Signed copies must be emailed from the signee's email account or their designee.
6. All teams should name a team captain.

Dairy Bowl Rules - Conduct

1. Teams will compete in a series of one-on-one elimination contests until the top team is chosen. The teams will be assigned to the first round of competition based on their total scores during the written portion of the contest. Some teams may be awarded a "bye" during the elimination as part of the assignment process.
2. Competition between teams will be in three phases:

Phase A – Four contestants per team will take a 50-question quiz on Friday evening. From this test, five questions will be designated as "Phase A" for each round of competition. The same five questions will be designated for both teams but each group of five questions will be used for only one round (example 1-5 Round 1, 46-50 Round 10). Each correct answer will be worth five points. A total possible score for a team in any round will be 100 points (4 team members x 5 questions each x 5 points/correct answer). No points will be lost for incorrect answers or blanks. Points earned by each team will be announced at the end of the match and combined with scores from Phases B, C & D to determine the winners of a match. ***The test is closed book and taken individually, no additional materials or resources may be used. Participants may record their answers for their own use and keep their copy of the written exam.***

Phase A – Individual Awards: Total correct answers on the written portion (Phase A) will be ranked for the top ten individual awards. Ties will be broken based on the correct answers from one or more groups of 5 questions beginning with the final group in reverse sequence until the tie or ties are broken.

No additional materials or resources (pencils, pens, phones, and paper) will be permitted during matches phase B and C.

Phase B – Team questions. Each team will be asked five questions. Answers are to be given by the team captain, but assistance may come from any team member. Correct responses are worth ten points. A question may be repeated only once. Answers must be started and completed within 60 seconds from the completion of reading the question initially. Partial credit may be given

at the discretion of the judges. After one team has been questioned, the other team will enter the contest room and be asked the same five questions. Correct answers will be shared after the second team has answered their questions of Phase B. Phase B scores for both teams will be shared after the end of Phase B.

Phase C – Toss-up Round, a total of 20 individual questions will be asked.

a. The first contestant to signal will answer the question within five seconds after being acknowledged by the moderator. Failure to do so will cost that team 10 points. Any contestant answering a question without having a light lit or being acknowledged by the moderator will lose ten points. If an answer is given incorrectly, members of the other team have the opportunity to answer the question immediately without having the question reread. If the moderator, by mistake, gives the correct answer after the first team member buzzes in and answers incorrectly but before the opposing team has the opportunity to answer the question, a new question will be asked only to the second team to correct the mistake. If a member of the second team answers correctly, those points are to be added to the individual's scores as per normal for the contest. No points are deducted for giving an incorrect answer. Team members are not allowed to discuss the answers in this phase. No partial credit is available in Phase C, except for bonus questions.

b. If neither team offers an answer to the question within ten seconds, the moderator will give the answer, the question will be dropped, and neither team will forfeit points.

c. When a signal is pushed before the question is read completely, the moderator shall stop reading the question when the light goes on. After being acknowledged, that contestant may answer the question. If correct, the team will receive credit. The judge may not ask the contestant to explain his/her answer. If the answer is incorrect, the question shall then be completely reread and members of the other team will have the opportunity to answer it.

d. Bonus questions may be earned in the toss-up round. In order to receive a bonus question, three different team members must correctly answer a toss-up question. Bonus questions are not passed to the other team, nor are points deducted for an incomplete or incorrect answer to a bonus. Bonus questions will be asked whenever three team members have answered toss-up questions correctly with the count kept individually for both teams within a match. Eligibility for bonus questions does not carry over to another match. The only discussion allowed between team members will be on bonus questions and in Phase B. The answers must come from the team captain. Only the number of answers required by the bonus question will be accepted. Example: If the bonus has a four-part answer, the first four answers given by the team captain will be accepted. The bonus answers must be started within 20 seconds and completed within an additional 60 seconds.

e. All questions correctly answered will be worth 15 points in Phase C, except for bonus questions, which are worth 20 points each.

3. Questions will cover feeds and feeding, milk quality, herd health, udder health, breeding and genetics, marketing, dairy foods, calf raising, and other areas. Suggested references are the Hoard's Dairyman reference guides, the most current issues of each topic, and DAIReXNET (<https://dairy-cattle.extension.org/>). Each year, certain subject areas within DAIReXNET will be selected for additional emphasis and will be forwarded to the state contacts in the

electronic invitational letters. The dairy product information published by the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council will be used as the primary references on dairy foods and products. Others may be used, including, but not limited to, updated research information present in the current year's issue of Hoard's Dairyman.

4. The winning team will be determined by the highest total score from Phases A, B, and C. In the event of a tie, the two teams will be asked five additional Phase C questions. No bonus questions will be awarded during the tiebreaking procedure.
5. Answers and interpretations of questions will be the sole responsibility and final recall of the judges. A protest of the judge's decision may be brought forward prior to the initiation of the next question. Once the moderator has begun reading the next question, the protest is not valid. A team member will have the privilege to ask the judge's panel to verify an answer that he/she feels is correct. If a coach challenges the judge's decision, the coach must call "time out" immediately (before the next question is read). A decision made by the judges after the answer is verified will be final.
6. Questions cannot be recorded within the contest room by audio, video, cell phone, handwritten, electronic, or other means.
7. During all phases of the contest, contestants are not allowed to use cell phones and other electronic devices.
8. Any questions or areas not covered by these rules will be decided by the 4-H Dairy Bowl Committee. All decisions are final.
9. Final team placings in the contest will be determined by a double elimination process. Each team will have an opportunity to compete in at least two rounds. The first round will be against another team that has not previously played. The second round will be against either a winning team or a consolation team depending on the first contest. A second loss eliminates a team from continuing competition. In case of a team receiving a bye in the first round, the team will play a winning team from the first round and advance either to the next winners or consolation round.

**DR. GEORGE HEERSCHE, JR. INVITATIONAL YOUTH (4-H & FFA) DAIRY
JUDGING CONTEST**

- James Umphrey - Co-Superintendent
ABS Global Inc., Eastern US Udder Care Product Manager
Marianna, FL
- Dr. Doug Waterman - Co-Superintendent
Eastern Technical Sales Director, Virtus Nutrition LLC
Madison, New York
- Larissa Tucker - Co-Superintendent
Sr. Extension Associate Dairy Youth Programs
406 W. P. Garrigus Bldg, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546
(859) 257-5986

Schedule

Friday, November 6, 2026

6:00 p.m.: Coaches' Social, VIP Suite, Kentucky Exposition Center
6:30 p.m.: Coaches' Banquet, VIP Suite, Kentucky Exposition Center

Saturday, November 7, 2026

7:30 a.m.: Contestants and Coaches report to Freedom Hall, Kentucky Exposition Center

Sunday, November 8, 2026

7:00-7:45 a.m.: Breakfast Buffet, South Wing Conference Center
8:00 a.m.: Presentation of Results and Awards, South Wing Conference Center

Teams and Entries

1. Each state is invited to enter one 4-H dairy judging team and one FFA dairy judging team consisting of four members. The lowest scoring individual will be declared the alternate. Alternates will be eligible for individual awards.
2. A fee of \$250.00 per team must accompany the entry form. The fee is to be used to help defray the expenses of the contest. This will include 6 admission and breakfast tickets. Additional tickets will need to be purchased.
3. Payment must be mailed or sent electronically to Expositions Director, North American International Livestock Exposition, P. O. Box 37130, Louisville, KY 40233, by October 13. The names of contestants, State Leader Form and Code of conduct forms, however, must be sent to Larissa Tucker by October 13. Changes and substitutions may be made at the coaches meeting on Friday, November 6.

Eligibility of Contestants

1. A contestant who celebrates their 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th or 19th birthday during the year of the contest is age eligible for this contest.
2. 4-H contestants must be bona fide 4-H members. They must not have participated previously in the youth division of this contest. **4-H contestants may participate in the NAILE contest after they have participated in the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest or National FFA Dairy Cattle Career Development Event, but not during the same calendar year.**

3. FFA contestants must be enrolled in Vo-Ag and be members of FFA from the same chapter. **They must not have participated previously in the youth division of this contest FFA contestants may participate in the NAILE Contest after they have participated in the National FFA Dairy Cattle Career Development Event or National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, but not during the same calendar year.**
4. If the eligibility of any member is protested, such protest may be made in writing at the arena side the day of the contest, before the contest begins. The protest must be accompanied by a check for \$25.00, which will be returned if the protest is sustained. In case the protest is not sustained, the \$25.00 shall be forfeited.

Contest Superintendents

1. The superintendents of the contest, in cooperation with the Exposition management and the contest committee, will be in charge of the contest and conduct it in compliance with these rules and regulations. They shall have the authority for the interpretation of the rules.
2. The superintendents shall have a sufficient number of assistants to conduct the contest and tabulate the results.

Judging System

1. Contest officials shall place all classes while contestants are placing the classes. They shall hear and score all reasons. Judges will file their official placings and cuts with the Superintendents.

Method of Conduct

1. No member of any team, nor their coach, shall be allowed in the cattle barns nor have the privilege of inspecting any cattle at the North American International Livestock Exposition previous to the contest, unless they have written permission from the superintendents.
2. All contestants and coaches will report to the superintendent in Freedom Hall at 7:30 AM on Saturday, November 7, 2026. Final instructions will be given and questions answered at this time.
3. The superintendents shall supply contestants with scantron sheets cards and any other necessary forms. No contestant shall be allowed to take any books, notes or writing paper into the ring or reasons preparation area except materials furnished by the superintendents. This includes all electronic communication devices.
4. Fifteen minutes will be allowed for placing all classes.
5. Oral reasons, to be given on the afternoon of the day of the contest, should not exceed two minutes in length. Contestants will not be allowed to use notes during oral reasons.
6. Reasons classes will be designated prior to the contest.
7. Youth contestants shall give oral reasons on four cow classes.
8. While the classes are being placed and reasons are being studied and given, there shall be no communication among the contestants and anyone else except as directed by the superintendents or their assistants.
9. Designated cards/scantron with the contestants desired placing marked clearly will be collected or marked at the end of each class by the designated group leader and filed with the Superintendent of tabulation at the end of the placing classes.

Classes

1. Classes will be selected, by a competent committee, from animals entered in the North American International Livestock Exposition.

2. Ten classes of four individuals each shall be judged. A cow class and a heifer class (yearling or calves) will be selected from the following breeds: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, and Jersey.
3. Animals will be designated by numbers on the showmen of the animals and lines up consecutively 1, 2, 3, and 4 from right to left as viewed from the rear. It will be the responsibility of each contestant to see that their placing conforms to the animal's correct number.
4. Animals will be shown in a careful manner so that all contestants will have a fair chance to observe them. Animals will be paraded, held head to tail and stood side by side. Contestants shall not, at any time, place their hands on any animal.

Ring Activity	Minutes
Circle the ring clockwise	2
Head to tail	3
Circle the ring counterclockwise	2
Side by side	3
Circle the ring clockwise	1
Head to tail	4
Total time	15

Determination of Ratings

1. Ratings shall be based upon a possible score of 50 points for each class placed and 50 points for each set of reasons.
2. The final rank for each contestant in each breed shall be determined by totaling scores on placings and reasons (if any) for that breed. The overall individual ranking shall be determined by adding scores for each of the five breeds.
3. The overall team ranking shall be determined by totaling all scores of the three highest scoring team members. The team ranking for each breed shall be determined by totaling the scores and reasons (if any) for each of the three highest scoring members.
4. The procedures used to break tied scores are listed below.

Breed Ties

- A. Higher total reasons in breed.
- B. Higher total reasons.
- C. Higher total overall.

Reason Ties

- A. Lower total placings in reasons classes.
- B. Higher total overall.

Overall Ties

- A. Higher total reasons.
- B. Lower total placings in reasons classes.

5. The Superintendent's announcement of all individual and team placings will be final.

Awards

The George Heersche, Jr. Award will be awarded to the High Individual Overall in the youth division. Those winners will have their name engraved on a perpetual plaque.

The High Individual in Oral Reasons will receive the Jim Davenport Family sponsored award.

We want to thank the following breed associations and organizations for their support and contribution to the contest.

- North American International Livestock Expo
- U.S. Ayrshire Breeders' Association
- The Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Association of the USA
- The American Guernsey Association
- Holstein Association USA, Inc.
- American Jersey Cattle Association
- Farm Credit Mid America

**INVITATIONAL SENIOR COLLEGE DAIRY JUDGING & TWO-YEAR JUNIOR COLLEGE
DAIRY JUDGING CONTEST**

- James Umphrey - Co-Superintendent
ABS Global Inc., Eastern US Udder Care Product Manager
Marianna, FL
- Dr. Douglas Waterman - Co-Superintendent
Eastern Technical Sales Director, Virtus Nutrition LLC
- Larissa Tucker - Co-Superintendent
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Sunday, November 8, 2026

7:00-7:45 a.m.: Breakfast Buffet, South Wing Conference Center
8:00 a.m.: Presentation of Results and Awards, South Wing Conference Center

Teams and Entries

1. Each agricultural college (two year and four year) is invited to enter one collegiate dairy cattle judging team. The team shall consist of four members representing the agricultural college in which they are regularly enrolled. The lowest scoring member will be declared the alternate. Alternates will be eligible for individual awards.
2. A fee of \$250.00 per team must accompany the entry form. The fee is to be used to help defray the expenses of the contest.
3. Payment may be completed online or mailed to: Expositions Director, North American International Livestock Exposition, P. O. Box 36367, Louisville, KY 40233, by October 13. The names of contestants must be submitted to Larissa Tucker by October 13. Changes and substitutions may be made at the coaches meeting on Friday, November 6.

Eligibility of Contestants

1. Each contestant must be a student in good standing of a college or university in the United States or in the Dominion of Canada offering a full degree curriculum in Agriculture, whose application has been accepted by the management of the North American International Livestock Exposition.
2. The 4-year student must be enrolled in a four-year or longer course of study and have completed not less than 36 weeks of college work. Any student who has acted as an official judge of a dairy cattle at a fair or show; has at any time served as a teacher of dairy cattle judging in an agricultural college or any secondary school; has completed a four-year course of study in college; or has

3. competed in the intercollegiate division of this contest is not eligible for entry.
3. The 2-year student must be enrolled in a 2-year certificate or associate degree program. Any student who has acted as an official judge of dairy cattle at a fair or show; has at any time served as a teacher of dairy cattle judging in an agricultural college or any secondary school; has completed a two-year course of study in college; or has competed in the post-secondary division of this contest is not eligible for entry.
4. If the eligibility of any student is protested, such protest may be made in writing at the arena side the day of the contest, before the contest begins. The protest must be accompanied by a check for \$25.00, which will be returned if the protest is sustained. In case the protest is not sustained, the \$25.00 shall be forfeited.

Contest Superintendents

1. The Superintendents of the contest, in cooperation with the Exposition management and the contest committee, will be in charge of the contest and conduct it in compliance with these rules and regulations. He/She shall have the authority for the interpretation of the rules.
2. The Superintendents shall have a sufficient number of assistants to conduct the contest and tabulate the results.

Judging System

1. Judging officials shall place all classes while contestants are placing the classes. They shall hear and score all reasons. Judges will file their official placings and cuts with the Superintendents.

Method of Conduct

1. No member of any team, nor their coach, shall be allowed in the cattle barns nor have the privilege of inspecting any cattle at the North American International Livestock Exposition previous to the contest, unless they have written permission from the superintendents.
2. All contestants and coaches will report to the superintendent in Freedom Hall at 7:30 AM on Saturday, November 7, 2026. Final instructions will be given and questions answered at this time.
3. The superintendents shall supply contestants with placing cards and any other necessary forms. No contestant shall be allowed to take any books, notes or writing paper into the ring or reasons preparation area except materials furnished by the superintendents. This includes all electronic communication devices.
4. Fifteen minutes will be allowed for placing all classes.
5. Oral reasons, to be given on the afternoon of the day of the contest, should not exceed two minutes in length. Contestants will not be allowed to use notes during oral reasons.
6. Reasons classes will be designated prior to the contest.
7. Senior College and Junior College contestants shall give oral reasons on five classes.
8. While the classes are being placed and reasons are being studied and given, there shall be no communication among the contestants and anyone else except as directed by the superintendents or their assistants.
9. Designated cards with the contestants desired placing marked clearly will be collected at the end of each class and filed with the Superintendent of tabulation.

Classes

1. Classes will be selected by a competent committee from animals entered in the North American International Livestock Exposition.

2. Ten classes of four individuals each shall be judged. A cow class and a heifer class (yearling or calves) will be selected from the following breeds: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, and Jersey.
3. Animals will be designated by numbers on the showmen of the animals and lined up consecutively 1, 2, 3, and 4 from right to left as viewed from the rear. It will be the responsibility of each contestant to see that his/her placing conforms to the animals' correct number.
4. Animals will be shown in a careful manner so that all contestants will have a fair chance to observe them. Animals will be paraded, held head to tail, and stood side by side. Contestants shall not at any time place their hands on any animal.

Ring Activity	Minutes
Circle the ring clockwise	2
Head to tail	3
Circle the ring counterclockwise	2
Side by side	3
Circle the ring clockwise	1
Head to tail	4
Total time	15

Determination of Ratings

1. Ratings shall be based upon a possible score of 50 points for each class placed and 50 points for each set of reasons.
2. The final rank for each contestant in each breed shall be determined by totaling scores on placings and reasons (if any) for that breed. The overall individual ranking shall be determined by adding scores for each of the five breeds.
3. The overall team ranking shall be determined by totaling all scores of the three highest scoring team members. The team ranking for each breed shall be determined by totaling the scores and reasons (if any) for each of the three highest scoring members.
4. The procedures used to break tied scores are listed below.

Breed Ties

- A. Higher total reasons in breed.
- B. Higher total reasons.
- C. Higher total overall.

Reason Ties

- A. Lower total placings in reasons classes.
- B. Higher total overall.

Overall Ties

- A. Higher total reasons.
- B. Lower total placings in reasons classes.

5. The Superintendent's announcement of all individual and team placings will be final.

Awards

Appropriate awards will be presented by the various dairy breed associations and the North American International Livestock Exposition.

The George Heersche, Jr. Award will be awarded to the High Individual Overall in each division. Those winners will have their name engraved on a perpetual plaque.

We want to thank the following breed associations for their support and contribution to the contest.

- North American International Livestock Expo
- U.S. Ayrshire Breeders' Association
- The Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Association of the USA
- The American Guernsey Association
- Holstein Association USA, Inc.
- American Jersey Cattle Association

EASTERN NATIONAL 4-H HORSE ROUNDUP

- www.4hroundup.com
- Date – November 6 - 8, 2026
- Lori Stroud- Management Committee Chair
North Carolina State University
Extension Horse Husbandry
220E Polk Hall, Campus Box 7621
Raleigh, NC 27695
lstroud@ncsu.edu
(919) 515-5788
- Contest Entry Deadline: October 13, 2026
Entry instructions can be found at: www.4hroundup.com

Headquarters and Lodging

The nearest hotel is Crowne Plaza, on Phillips Lane at the Fairgrounds, Louisville, Kentucky 40213 (877/227- 6963). Please call the hotel for handicapped-accessible information.

Schedule of Events

Friday, November 6, 2026

- 6:00 p.m. Registration - South Wing B (101-102)
6:30 p.m. Coaches' Meeting - Designated Contest Rooms (B101-C112)

Saturday, November 7, 2026

Judging Contest

- 7:45 a.m. Check In – Horse Show Arena
8:30 a.m. Contest Begins – Horse Show Arena
1:00 p.m. Oral Reasons - South Wing (C106, 107, 110, 111)
5:00 p.m. (Approx.) - Review of Classes - South Wing C (109)

Hippology Contest

- 7:45 a.m. Check In - South Wing B (103)
8:15 a.m. Contest Begins - South Wing B 103, 106, 110

Horse Bowl

- 7:30 a.m. Check In - South Wing C (105, 108)
8:00 a.m. Contest Begins - South Wing C 101 & C 112

Communication Contests

- 8:00 a.m. Individual Presentations - South Wing B 105
8:00 a.m. Public Speaking South Wing B 104
1:00 p.m. Team Presentations - South Wing B 104
Lunch supplied for youth contestants only
12:00 noon South Wing B (corridor)

Sunday, November 8, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. Awards Program - South Wing B (101-104)

Contestant Eligibility

1. Each state is invited to enter one 4-H'er (4-H Team when applicable) for each of the six events offered during the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup.
2. Representatives are to be selected by any procedure a state deems appropriate.
3. Contestants must be at least 14 years of age; they must not have reached their 19th birthday on January 1 of the current year.
4. Contestants must be enrolled in 4-H in the state they represent and be certified by the State 4-H Leader or Extension Horse Specialist for participation.
5. Contestants (including team alternates) may participate in only one contest per year at the Roundup. After competing in this contest, they are ineligible to compete in the same specific contest again in future years.
6. Contestants must not have competed previously in a specific contest at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in Louisville, Kentucky, or the Western National 4-H Horse Classic in Denver, Colorado. Contestants cannot compete in both the Eastern (Nov. 2026) and Western (Jan. 2027) events during the same program year. **If a state decides to change whether it will attend the Eastern or Western National contest from its participation the previous year, the contest committee chairs of both events are to be notified by April 1 of the current year. All representative teams of that state must attend the same event.**
7. Contestants may not have participated in any official, postsecondary contest (university, college, junior college, or technical school) for their respective event (e.g., horse judging, horse bowl, public speaking, etc.). If a youth is enrolled in college courses, please contact appropriate contest contact below.

Contest Rules

A complete set of contest rules, schedule, and entry instructions may be found on the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup website at: www.4hroundup.com.

Contest Committee Chairs

Horse Judging Contest
Jennifer Reynolds
jenreyn@umd.edu

Horse Bowl Contest
Kara Colvin
Colvin.53@osu.edu

Hippology Contest
Leona Ransdell
leona@clemson.edu

Public Speaking Contest
Dean Jousan
Dean.Jousan@msstate.edu

Individual Presentation Contest
Lori L Stroud
llstroud@ncsu.edu

Team Presentation Contest
Hunter Liles
huntl97@vt.edu

***** Sources of Travel and Tour Information *****

Visit www.4hroundup.com for travel and tour information.