



# 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

### **2024 Registration Packet and Instructions**

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

Competition is open to enrolled members of Alabama 4-H. 4-H membership is available for youth ages 9 to 18. Age is calculated on December 31 of the current 4-H year. To be eligible for competition at events held between August 1, 2023, and July 31, 2024, the member must be 9 years old prior to January 1, 2024. 4-H members must be enrolled in Alabama by March 27, 2024, 90 days before the statewide competition with a culminating national competition.

The 2024 State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest will consist of two different age divisions:

- Junior Division: 4-H members who are between 9 and 13 years old before January 1, 2024.
- Senior Division: 4-H members who are between 14 and 18 years old before January 1, 2024.

## 4-H CLUB MEMBERSHIP AND COUNTY GUIDELINES

Regardless of where Alabama youth reside, they are welcome to establish their primary 4-H club membership in their county of residence or an adjoining county of Alabama. Membership is established annually when an enrollment form is completed and submitted to the leader of the primary 4-H club. Members enjoy the 4-H activities offered in their county of primary membership and represent this county when participating in county, regional/district, and state events.

If the special interest is not available within the county of primary membership, the member is welcome to join a special interest club in an adjoining county.

If exceptions to these guidelines are needed, youth may submit a request in writing to the associate director of 4-H and Youth Development Molly Gregg at greggmh@ aces.edu prior to the March 27, 2024 enrollment deadline. Examples of exceptions might include an out-of-state resident desiring membership in Alabama 4-H, a special circumstance needed to accommodate custodial and noncustodial parents, or a situation where a non-adjoining county is in close proximity.

#### **INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

4-H members with special needs, including language translation requests, should be requested in writing by June 11 to:

Kim Good, 4-H Youth Development Coordinator

130 N. Court Street Talladega, AL 35160 Office: (256) 362-6187 Cell: (256) 252-9029

Email: goodkim@aces.edu

Entry in the contest is available through 4HOnline. Registration will open in 4HOnline on April 1, 2024 and close at 11:59 p.m. on June 11, 2024. The registration fee is \$20 per participant and includes lunch and all contest expenses.

The 2024 State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest is open to all 4-H members for participation and competition. Competition is for individuals and for teams that shall consist of a minimum of three members. A county team is made up of a minimum of three individuals in an age division with no upper limit of participants on the team with the top three scores comprising the team total. For example, if your county has three Junior age members or ten Junior age members, the county still has one team with the top three scores counting. As a coach, you do not have to designate which members are on the team and which members are considered alternates; the tabulation software puts all your members together as a team and then sorts the top three.

Only one team per county per age group is permitted. There is no limit to the number of individuals from a county that can participate. If a county has two or more distinct 4-H clubs each having a separate and distinct livestock judging team, the county may have a team representing each separate and distinct club.

#### **FALL CONTESTS**

The first-place county senior 4-H team will have the opportunity to represent Alabama 4-H at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- All contestants must have a pencil or pen. All
  contestants must bring their own notebooks or paper
  for taking notes for oral reasons and questions.
- 2. Participants will be provided a contestant number that will identify them throughout the duration of the contest.
- 3. Juniors will give one to two sets of oral reasons and have two sets of questions. Seniors will give four sets of oral reasons and have sets of questions. An exact class list will be provided as soon as possible before the contest, outlining classes and associated details. Contestants will be assigned to groups at the beginning of the contest. They must stay with their assigned group leader until all classes are judged. Only group leaders and ring stewards will be allowed in the contest area.
- 4. Because members from a county may be in the same group, instruct your members about not talking to anyone other than a group leader. Talking or conferring during the contest is prohibited. The contestant cannot wear any markings, clothing items, or jewelry that reveals identity or area of residency. All forms of tobacco use are prohibited. Personal communication devices are prohibited. Contestants talking to anyone other than a group leader may be disqualified.
- 5. Twelve minutes will be allowed for all classes. Signals will be given to start the class and at various intervals to indicate time remaining. When the final signal is given, cards will be collected.

- 6. Lunch will be provided for all contestants during a break period in the contest. Coaches and leaders should plan to meet their contestants at the conclusion of their contests.
- 7. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with the contest starting at 9:00 a.m. Once the contest has started, no additional contestants will be allowed to participate.
- 8. Contestants cannot have taken a postsecondary course in livestock evaluation.
- 9. All contest results will be announced at the event and overall scoring raw data will be provided to the official coaches of record to share with 4-H members and families as a teaching and coaching tool.

#### More Information

Kim Good, 4-H Youth Development Coordinator 130 N. Court Street Talladega, AL 35160

Office: (256) 362-6187 Cell: (256) 252-9029 Email: goodkim@aces.edu

Sarah-Jane French, Professor of Practice, Youth Livestock Programs 112 Upchurch Hall Auburn University, AL 36849

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