



4-H Livestock Judging Contest

American Royal Event Contact:

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This contest will be held in conjunction with the FFA Livestock Judging Contest

Sunday, October 18th, 8:00 a.m., Hale Arena

Entry Fee: \$175.00 per team – must accompany entry

Entry Deadline: October 1, 2026

Rules

1. The contest is open to four 4-H members from a state. The team representing each state must be a County Team or a local extension unit that is selected by the State 4-H Leader to represent the state.
2. Team entries must be approved by the State 4-H Leader and the approval form must be signed and submitted before entries are considered complete.
3. All teams must be entered on or before October 1, 2026. Entries should be completed online.
4. Team members shall have passed their fourteenth (14) birthday and shall not have passed their nineteenth (19) birthday on January 1, 2026.
5. 4-H members who have previously participated in a 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at the American Royal or who have participated in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest at Louisville are not eligible. Teams that will judge at the 4-H National Contest 2026 are not eligible.
6. Members who are currently, or who have been in the past, members of university, college, junior college, or technical school livestock judging teams are not eligible to compete in this contest.
7. No contestant will be eligible to compete in any judging contest at the American Royal if they have any sanctions or disciplinary action taken against them by the North American Livestock Show & Rodeo Managers Association, The International Association of Fairs and Expositions, 4-H, FFA, and/or breed association(s).
8. Members who have completed more than one semester or quarter of academic or vocational training beyond high school or have completed a post-secondary course

related to visual livestock and/or carcass evaluation are not eligible to compete in this contest.

9. The superintendent of the contest and the management of the American Royal reserve the right to rule on any question of eligibility not covered in the preceding rules.
10. No team members, alternates, coaches, or individuals accompanying the team will be allowed on the American Royal Grounds prior to 7:00 a.m., October 18. Exceptions to this rule will be made for the coaches meeting and team members who are exhibitors, in which case special permission must be secured from the Event Manager, Regan Culp.
11. In the contest the three high scoring contestants from each state will be considered the official team of their respective states; however the contestant with the low score will remain eligible for awards.
12. No contestant shall wear any article of clothing, pins, or badges that will in any way reveal the identity of the state he/she represents. Most teams wear blazers and slacks.
13. Ten (10) classes of livestock will be judged. These placings classes will consist of any or all of the following: breeding cattle, market steers, breeding sheep, market lambs, breeding hogs, market hogs, breeding goats, and market goats. The number of classes per species will be determined by the contest superintendent.
14. Each class will consist of four animals to be designated by numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4.
15. Six (6) sets of oral reasons will also be given by contestants. The number of oral reasons per species will be determined by the contest superintendent. Reasons will be given on classes that will be decided by the judges and the contest superintendent.
16. One or more classes utilizing performance data may be included in the contest. One of these may be a reasons class.
17. The final scores will be based on 50 points on each placing and 50 points on each set of reasons.
18. Contestants who fail to properly mark their placing on a card will receive a score of 0 for that class.
19. The contestant will be given 12 minutes to place each class and two (2) minutes for each set of oral reasons.
20. Contestants will be told two minutes before time is up. When final time is called the contestants must mark their placings immediately.
21. Each group of contestants will change to another class as directed by the superintendent.
22. Handling of breeding classes will not be permitted.
23. Stop watches or equivalents may be used in the reason sessions.

24. No communication devices (phones, tablets, computers, etc.) will be allowed during the contest.
25. There will be no conferring between contestants or anyone else while the contest is in progress except as directed by the superintendent or his representatives.
26. Any coach or contestant who violates any of the rules of this contest will be barred from competing in future contests and this team will be disqualified.
27. Ties will be broken by a method determined by show management and superintendent. No duplicate awards will be given. Results when announced will be official and final.
28. A meeting for coaches will be held Saturday, October 17 at 5:00 PM. at the American Royal, Wagstaff Sale Center, 1701 American Royal Court, Kansas City, MO 64102. This meeting will be brief and will not include dinner. Coaches will receive their team packets at this meeting.
29. All contestants are expected to be present for the Awards Event on Sunday, October 18 immediately after the completion of the critique at the American Royal, Wagstaff Sale Center.
30. All contestants and coaches are directed to follow the health guidelines set forth by the American Royal Association with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State of Missouri and the Kansas City, Missouri Health Department (KCHD). The processes and procedures are subject to change.