

## 2021-22 Delaware 4-H Livestock Judging Contest Leaders Guide

*For special accommodations in accessing this event please notify the extension office two weeks prior to the event.*

### **Introduction:**

The Delaware 4-H Livestock Judging contest is held annually during the Delaware State Fair in conjunction with the Delaware FFA Livestock Judging Career Development event. The contest consists of judging and placing several classes and giving three sets of oral reasons. The contest is organized by officials from the Delaware 4-H and FFA Programs with assistance from volunteers and Delaware State Fair Livestock Department officials.

### **Purpose:**

Judging contests are utilized by the Delaware 4-H program to develop critical thinking skills such as comparing and contrasting, decision making, and oral communication as well as to enhance project knowledge.

### **Eligibility of Participants:**

Participants must be current Delaware 4-H members. Each county is allowed 10 participants for a total of 30 contestants statewide. If a county does not fill all ten of its slots, then those unused slots become available for other counties to utilize. Individual counties determine the selection process to fill these slots. Attending county judging practices is usually a good way to ensure a young person's participation. Project groups are welcomed and encouraged to conduct some of their own trainings as well. Each county is required to hold some sort of qualifying event to be able to participate in a judging contest at the state level. Please check with your county agent if you would like more information on the county qualifying event.

### **Contest Format:**

The State 4-H Livestock Judging contest is held in the show ring of the Kent building. Participants are expected to report at least 10 minutes prior to the start of the contest in order to receive their judging cards and to hear any additional instructions. At this time participants will be notified of the classes to be judged and any reasons classes will be identified. Youth may not be permitted to participate in the contest if they arrive late.

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Participants should bring a clipboard, plain paper for taking oral reasons notes, and a pen or pencil. No additional material is permitted and may result in disqualification. All participants compete against each other regardless of age or experience. *Participants may not use any type of electronic device (cell phone, tablet, etc.) during the contest and will be disqualified if they are caught doing so.*

The contest is comprised of judging six classes of livestock and giving three sets of oral reasons. The specific classes judged are dependant on the livestock that are being exhibited in the various livestock departments during the state fair. Classes are selected from the 4 livestock species (beef, sheep, swine and meat goats) and can be either market or breed type classes. In general, breeding classes and market classes are evaluated using different priorities. Organizers will select the best talking classes representing three of the four livestock species included in the contest (classes with visible differences that can be discussed) as the oral reasons classes.

Youth are given approximately 12 minutes to judge non-reasons classes and 15 minutes to judge reasons classes and take notes. On classes that have handlers, youth are given several different views of the animal.

Hogs are judged loose in a confined area and market lambs and market goats are judged on a rail so that participants have the opportunity to handle the lambs and goats. The lambs and goats may only be handled once. Once time is called participants must hand in their placing card to officials before the next class enters the ring. It is important that they note their class placing on their notes sheet for the oral reasons classes because once the placing card is handed in, they may not have it back.

Participants are expected to give three sets of oral reasons on the designated classes at the conclusion of the judging classes. Contestants are relocated to the Centre where it is quiet and are given adequate time to prepare their reasons. Oral reasons are ideally delivered within two minutes without the use of notes. They are judged on criteria such as terminology, organization, accuracy, relevancy and presentation. A participant will score higher if they can deliver their oral reasons without the use of notes. Sometimes after the delivery of oral reasons, the judge will ask the participant a few specific questions to see how well they understood or observed the class.

### **Available Resources:**

There are several resources available for use by 4-H Leaders, parents, and members to help prepare for the livestock judging contest. The Kansas Livestock Judging manual is available at your county office and gives more specifics on how to judge and place classes. It can also be found here: <https://4-h.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Meat-Judging.pdf> It gives instructions on the proper format, terms, and delivery of oral reasons. There are beef, sheep, and swine learning laboratory kits located in the Kent County office. These kits can be signed out to borrow for meetings and trainings. In the kit you will find lots of activities that support learning and preparing for the State 4-H Livestock Judging contest.

Please do not wait until the last minute to make arrangements to borrow these resources.

Here are some excellent additional on line resources that can be used for practice and help youth prepare for livestock judging.

<http://animal.ufl.edu/youth/livestock/TeachingAids.shtml>

<http://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock/resources.html>

<http://www.livestockjudging.com/>

<http://www.judging101.com/>

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/sheep-judging> VIDEOS!

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/swine-judging> VIDEO!

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/beef-judging> VIDEOS!

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/meat-goat-judging> VIDEOS!

[Judging Sheep and Oral Reasons 101 \(missouri.edu\)](#)

[Judging Meat Goats and Oral Reasons 101 \(missouri.edu\)](#)

[Layout 1 \(missouri.edu\)](#) Judging Swine and Oral Reasons 101

[Judging Beef Cattle and Oral Reasons 101 \(missouri.edu\)](#)

<https://afs.ca.uky.edu/4h-youth/meat-animal/livestock-judging>

<https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/topic-files/goats/2015livestockjudging.ppt>

[http://animalscience.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2012/04/proper\\_handling\\_market\\_lambs.pdf](http://animalscience.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2012/04/proper_handling_market_lambs.pdf)

<https://animalscience.tamu.edu/youth-projects/#livestock>

<https://extension2.missouri.edu/G2952>

<http://www.ohio4h.org/events/ohio-state-fair-4-h-livestock-judging-contest>

Searching You Tube for online livestock judging videos will also provide additional opportunities to view classes and listen to some excellent examples of oral reasons.