

# Alaska State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest Rules



*The Alaska Youth Livestock Judging Contest is an educational experience that gives youth a greater understanding of livestock selection and performance evaluation. Participants gain experience in the decision-making process by determining and ranking four livestock animals in a class from the most desirable to the least desirable traits/performance. Participants develop speaking skills through individually presenting an oral defense of their placing.*

*The State Contest may determine qualification for national events. It is open to only those who qualify from districts in Alaska. Youth may participate as individuals or as team members.*

## Objectives

- ◆ Teach youth the principles of livestock selection and performance evaluation as related to meat and/or breeding characteristics.
- ◆ Stimulate youth achievement by providing the opportunity for competitive learning experience in an area of their special interest.
- ◆ Help youth develop positive attitudes about their own abilities and their relationships with others.

## CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Contestants must be enrolled in 4-H and dues paid.
2. The District 4-H Agent must certify each district's entry.
3. Contestants must be 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade for the current school year.

The age divisions for the Alaska Youth Livestock Judging Contest are determined by contestant's grade for the current school year or previous school year if it is summer:

Junior	grade 3 - 5
Intermediate	grade 6 - 8
Senior	grade 9 - 12

## INSURANCE

Districts are required to verify that all participants are covered by insurance before attending the State Contest.

**Grievances** -- Any protest must be submitted in writing (along with a \$25 deposit) not less than one hour prior to the scheduled awards presentation. Protests will be reviewed by a three-member Grievance Committee. Deposits will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained. **Decisions of Grievance Committee are FINAL.**

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

All contestants, coaches, parents and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. At no time will disrespectful behavior (be it toward contest officials, other contestants or coaches, or the general public) be tolerated. Failure to comply may result in immediate disqualification of any individuals, teams and/or family members of the violator.

## **METHOD OF CONDUCT**

1. A team may have three (3) or four (4) members; when four (4) are entered, the three (3) highest overall scores will make up the team totals.
2. All contestants will report to the contest venue, where they will receive full instructions and be given placing cards. All contestants will remain with the assigned group throughout the contest. Reasons and official placings will be given after contest is complete and award given.
3. Hats are prohibited in the judging arena.
4. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between the contestants or between contestants and anyone else except as directed by the Contest Superintendents or their representatives.
5. Two (2) to four (4) livestock species/breed classes will be judged. Contestants will give oral reasons on one class. All classes will be judged as sound of limb, eye, wind, mouth and reproductive. Live animal judging will be done if at all possible but may be substituted with photos if necessary.
6. The animals and showmen will be designated by numbers 1-2-3-4 and numbered from left to right as viewed from the rear.
7. Animals will not be handled by the contestants, but time will be provided in classes for close inspection and to observe the animals in movement.
9. Five (5) minutes will be allowed for contestants to judge non-reason classes and seven (7) minutes will be given contestants during reasons classes to make their observations, take notes and fill out their placing cards.
10. Two (2) minutes will be allowed for each contestant to give oral reasons to the judge. Contestants are encouraged not to use notes while giving reasons. Contestant's placing card will not be offered to them upon entering the reasons room.

## **CONTEST RULES**

Contestants are expected to abide by these judging contest rules:

1. No talking during the contest.
2. No printed material may be taken into the contest.
3. Be quick and courteous in response to group leader directions.
4. Stay with group until dismissed.
5. Refrain from conduct that would distract fellow contestants.
6. Standard 4-H show attire must be worn during the contest and at the awards presentation. No open toed shoes or sandals, crop-top shirts or shorts will be allowed. Shirts must be tucked in.

**Rule violations may constitute a zero for that class, or dismissal from the contest. These rules will be enforced.**

## **CONTEST SUPERINTENDENTS**

1. It shall be the duty of the Superintendents and the Livestock Contest Committee to see that all rules and regulations are carried out.
2. The Superintendents will take no part in rating the contestants.
3. They shall have charge of all records and shall have all ratings received, tabulated and totaled.
4. The Superintendents will be responsible for all cuts on official placings.

## **SUPPORT STAFF**

Assistants, including the announcer, group leaders, timer, gatemen, tabulators, etc., shall be directly responsible to the Superintendents and shall assist them in conducting the contest.

## **JUDGES**

1. Classes will be placed in accordance with the rules of the respective breed association rules.
2. The judges shall place the classes while the contestants are working in the arena. The judges shall enter their placings on the placing card, indicate the cuts to be made, and file that card with the Superintendents for final review and approval. Referee judge(s) may be used at the discretion of the Superintendents.
3. When the contestant has finished giving reasons, the reason listener will place the reason score upon the contestant's computer sheet for tabulation.

## **DETERMINATION OF RATINGS**

1. Fifty (50) points shall constitute a perfect mark on placing and 50 points shall constitute a perfect mark on reasons.
2. Priority order for breaking ties:
  - a. If tied for a division award, the contestant or team having the highest reason score in that division will be listed first.
  - b. If tied for an award in reasons, the contestant or team having the highest placing score on the reasons classes will be listed first.
  - c. If tied for individual or team overall award, the contestant or team having the highest overall reason score shall be listed first.
  - d. If still tied for either (a) or (c) above, the contestant or team having the highest score in placing reason classes shall be listed first.
  - e. If still tied, the contestant or team with the highest overall placing score will be listed first.
  - f. If still tied, the contestant or team with the highest single class reasons score will be listed first.
  - g. If contestants are still tied from above, the youngest contestant or team shall be listed first.

## **AWARDS**

Ribbons will be presented to the top five teams and the top five individuals.



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