



Ohio State Fair 4-H Livestock Judging Contest - 2021 Coach's Packet

Information about classes, performance data, scenarios, questions and reasons to prepare your teams for the contest

All contestants will use a Scantron in 2021

All contestants will be using a one-page scantron to mark all of their placings and answers to questions (juniors only). It is recommended that all contestants have a full-sized clipboard (9" x 12") and #2 pencils to fill out the scantron. An example of the scantron that will be used will be sent to the coaches prior to the contest.

Classes, Data & Scenarios

Contestants in both the Junior and Senior contests will place eight classes of livestock, two in each species (beef cattle, meat goats, sheep and swine). Classes will be judged in two rounds, with four classes per round. Contestants will have 15 minutes to judge each class. Juniors will answer the questions while they are judging the class. The following are a list of potential classes for the 2021 contest. These classes are subject to change based upon availability of the animals.

Beef Cattle:

- The plan is for one class of heifers and one class of feedlot market cattle, but two breeding classes are possible.
- Potential breeds include Angus, Simmental or Crossbred.
- Data and a scenario may be provided for one breeding class. All appropriate EPD's, Indexes and \$ Values for the breed may be used for the contest.
- Feedlot market cattle could be steers and/or heifers.

Meat Goats:

- The plan is for one class of breeding does (yearlings or kids) and one class of market goats, but two breeding classes are possible.
- A scenario with no data may be provided for one breeding class.
- If there is a market class and disposition allows, the market goats will be in racks and will be handled.
- Market goats may be wethers and/or doe kids.

Sheep:

- The plan is for one class of breeding sheep and one class of market lambs.
- A scenario may be provided for the breeding class. Data may also be provided. The data could include individual performance records and/or National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP) EBV's and Indexes. Potential breeds include Dorset, Hampshire, Shropshire, Southdown, Suffolk or Crossbreds.
- If disposition allows, the market lambs will be in racks and will be handled.
- Market lambs may be wethers and/or ewe lambs.

Swine:

- The plan is for one class of breeding gilts and one class of market hogs, but two market classes are possible.
- If there is a breeding gilt class, data and a scenario may be provided. The data could include individual performance records, ultrasound data, STAGES EPD's and/or Indexes.
- Market hogs may be barrows and/or gilts.

Special Instructions

- All animals within classes are considered to be the same age, unless their birth dates are provided
- **Hogs:** Consider underlines and vulvas to be sound when placing the class. Talk the differences. Questions can be asked about underlines and vulvas.
- **Sheep & Goats:** Consider mouths to be sound when placing the classes. Talk the differences. Questions can be asked about mouths.
- **Breeding Sheep:** Consider breed character to be acceptable when placing the class. Talk the differences Questions can be asked about breed character.

Senior Oral Reasons

Seniors will give reasons on four classes, one per species. Reasons classes will be announced prior to the contest. Reasons will be given after the judging is complete. Contestants will have at least 15 minutes between each set to prepare. Individual reasons should last no longer than 2 minutes, or points may be deducted.

Junior Oral Reasons – THIS IS OPTIONAL FOR JUNIORS. POINTS WILL NOT BE INCLUDED FOR INDIVIDUAL & TEAM AWARDS.

Juniors have the option to give reasons on two classes. Reasons classes will be announced prior to the contest and they will be different than the questions classes. Reasons will be given after the judging is complete. Contestants will have at least 15 minutes between each set to prepare. Individual reasons should last no longer than 2 minutes, or points may be deducted. Awards will be given for this optional contest.

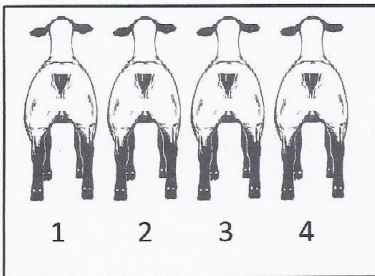
Junior Questions

Juniors will answer questions on one class per species using a scantron sheet while they are judging the class. There will be ten questions per class worth 3 points per question. The following is a guideline for the type of questions that may be asked:

- Most of the questions (up to all 10) will be comparative questions. Examples could include:
 - Which hog is the heaviest muscled?
 - Between #1 & #2, which heifer is more structurally correct?
- If the class has data, up to three questions may be asked to see if the contestant understands the practical use of the data. A sample question would be “Based upon the data, which heifer should raise the heaviest calves at weaning?”
- Up to three questions related to animal identification may be asked. Examples could include:
 - Which doe is parrot mouthed?
 - Which gilt has a whorl?
 - Which ewe has the most wool extension?
 - Which heifer is blaze faced?

Other Helpful Information

When animals are in racks or shown on the halter, they are always numbered 1 to 4 from left to right when viewed from the rear.



Proper steps for handling market lambs and market goats:

Contestants are not required to handle, but it can be helpful for placing classes, answering questions and giving reasons. Contestants can only go through the handling line once.

Steps:

- 1) When the class starts, you will have two minutes to view the class from behind the ropes.
- 2) After two minutes, it will be announced to line-up to handle. Line-up to the left of #1, tuck your notebook in the back of your pants or lay it down somewhere out of the way and get ready to handle the animals.
- 3) The first contestant will step up to #1, but doesn't start until told by the timekeeper. Each contestant will have 12 seconds to handle each lamb.
- 4) The timekeeper will say “go or move” and the first person handles animal #1. Don't move to the next animal until told by the timekeeper.
- 5) After 12 seconds, the timekeeper will say “go or move” and the first contestant immediately moves to animal #2 and starts handling, plus the second contestant in line starts handling #1.
- 6) After 12 seconds, the timekeeper says “go or move” again and everybody shifts to the right and immediately handles the next animal. This will continue until everyone has handled all of the animals.
- 7) The timekeeper will then instruct the contestants to move back behind the ropes.



Photo: North Carolina State University