



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

# **2023 State 4-H Livestock Judging & Skill-A-Thon**

## *Contestant Packet*



**SEPT. 15-16, 2023**

**Registration deadline: Sept. 7, 2023**

**South Dakota State University Animal Science Arena, Brookings, SD**

4-H Youth Livestock Programs Coordinator

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# **2023 State 4-H Livestock Judging & Skill-A-Thon Contestant Packet**



## **Entry Deadline**

The 2023 South Dakota State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest and Livestock Skill-A-Thon entry deadline is Thursday, Sept. 7 at 11:59 p.m.

## **Registration**

The registration fee is \$10 per youth per contest. Registration for the South Dakota State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest and Livestock Skill-A-Thon must be completed in Fair Entry.

A help sheet can be found on the SDSU Extension website that will assist you with the registration process.

Help Sheet: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/4honline-fairentry>

Livestock Judging and Skill-a-Thon teams will be registered by your county's 4-H Youth Program Advisor. Youth may include potential team members in the FairEntry process, but must inform your County Office of your online registration to ensure you are included on a team. All entry fees must be postmarked by Sept. 7, to the State 4-H Office. Individual payments are acceptable. Individuals not registered by Sept. 7, will not be allowed to compete. No team changes will be allowed after Sept. 14.

Each county may enter unlimited teams per age division. County teams consist of three and no more than four members. The three members with the highest total scores will make up the team county total. The contestant with the lowest score is eligible for individual awards. Alternatively, youth may join youth from another county/counties to form a team of up to four members. Team score will be determined from the sum of the top three scores. Youth may also judge as an individual, i.e. they do not have to be part of a three- or four-person team to participate.

**\*\*SENIORS ONLY\*\*** Any senior who has judged at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, in Louisville, Kentucky is eligible to enter as an individual from his/her county and eligible to compete for future State 4-H individual awards. However, a youth that has competed at this event as a team is no longer eligible to be on a team. This does not apply to Denver or Kansas City past participants.

It is the responsibility of the SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Program Advisor or county coaches to verify team and individual entries are accurate during contest registration.

## **Contestants and Eligibility**

Contestants must be a bona-fide South Dakota 4-H member approved by their respective county 4-H Youth Program Advisors.

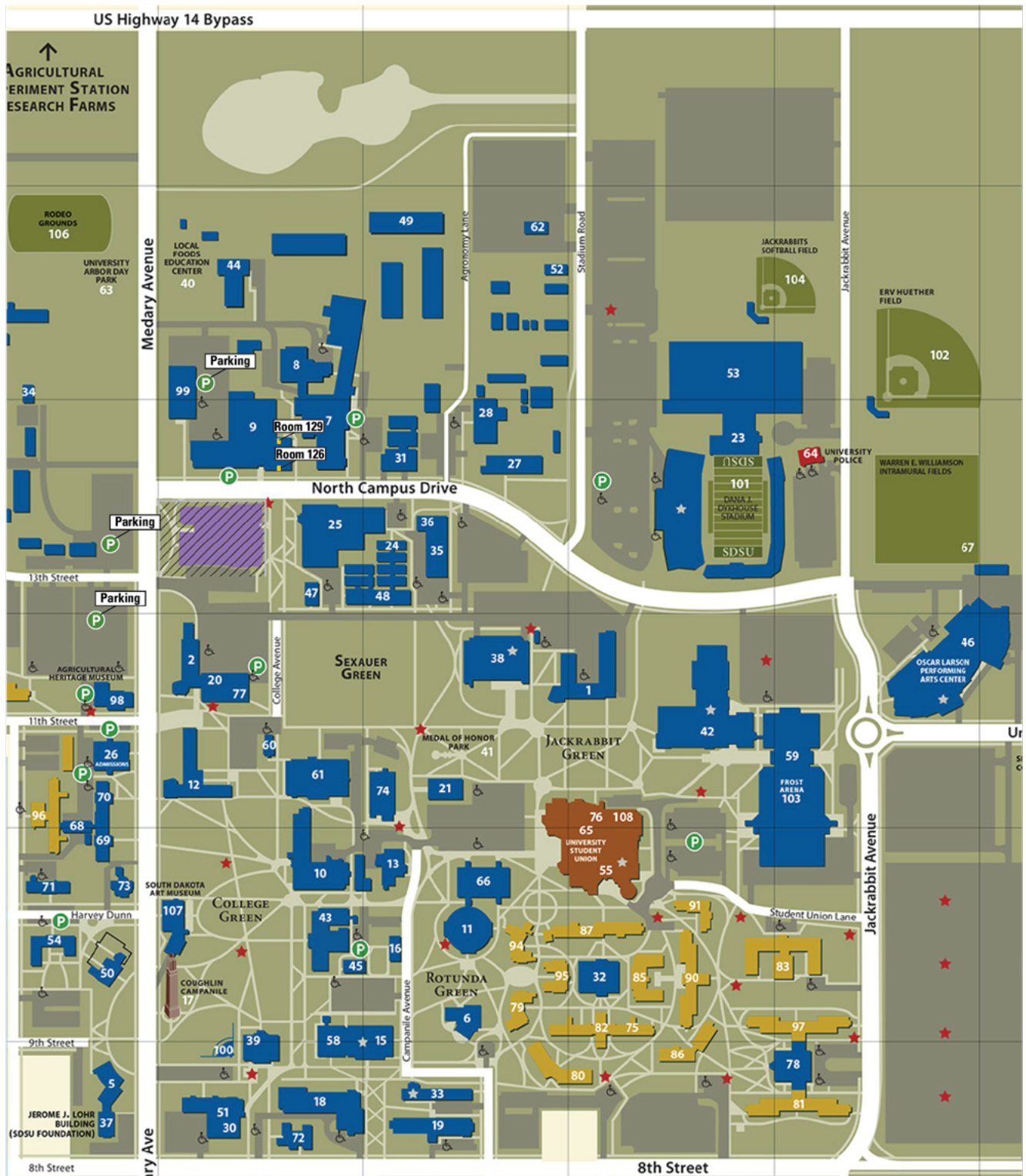
It is preferred that the eligibility of teams competing in the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest and Skill-A-Thon be determined through a county-level 4-H selection process. It is recommended that written selection procedures are made available to all interested parties and participants.

## **Age Divisions**

Age Divisions for the South Dakota 4-H program:

- Beginner: Age 8, 9 or 10 on or before Jan. 1 of the current 4-H year
- Junior: Age 11, 12 or 13 on or before Jan. 1 of the current 4-H year
- Senior: Age 14, 15, 16, 17 or 18 on or before Jan. 1 of the current 4-H year and not have turned 19 on or before Jan. 1 of the current year.

The SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program should be accessible to the wide diversity of youth who live in our state, regardless of their backgrounds and characteristics – including physical, mental or emotional abilities or limitations. Please make requests for any necessary accommodations for youth participating in the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest to the South Dakota State 4-H Office prior to Sept. 1. See the guidelines for Accommodation of Children with Disabilities within this document.



## Method of Conduct – All Events

- Contestants, parents, coaches and volunteers must conduct themselves in a courteous, respectful manner, use appropriate language, exhibit good sportsmanship and act as positive role models.
- Youth participating in the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest and/or Skill-A-Thon will be required to respect others' property and privacy rights, apply rules of safety to individuals, groups and property as well as accept personal responsibility for their behavior.
- Illegal behaviors including: the possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs and tobacco products, stolen goods, weapons and fireworks, sexual, physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
- Law enforcement may be called and illegal behaviors may result in citations or arrest. Consequences may include removal from participation in the event; restitution or repayment of damages; sanctions and/or participation in future local, state, regional or national 4-H events; loss of status as a 4-H member in good standing, etc.
- Contestants should wear neat, clean, suitable clothing to uphold the image of the 4-H organization. No contestant shall wear any clothing, pins or badges that will in any way reveal his/her identity or the county that he/she represents. No hats are to be worn during the contest. Closed-toed shoes must be worn during the contest.
- All electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, pagers, PDAs, calculators, etc.) are prohibited. Contestants are advised to remove these devices prior to the start of the contest. If a competing contestant's phone should ring or if he/ she is discovered using such electronic devices during the contest, the contestant and his/her team will be disqualified.

## Method of Conduct – Livestock Judging

- Contestants, parents and coaches are to avoid the Animal Science Arena, the morning of the contest, prior to the contest start, unless involved in the operation of the contest.
- Contestants will be divided into groups for the contest and will remain with their assigned group throughout the contest. While the contest is in progress, there is no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by the Contest Superintendent or his/her representative. Offending contestants may be disqualified.
- The Senior contest will be comprised of eight classes of livestock.
  - These classes (depending on availability) will consist of any combination of Market Beef, Breeding Beef, Market Sheep, Breeding Sheep, Market Hog, Breeding Hog, Market Goat or Breeding Meat Goat. All classes will be comprised of four animals, and the animals will be designated with numbers 1-2-3-4. At least one breeding class from each species will have performance data and a scenario included. However, contest administrators and officials will strive to include performance information and scenarios for all breeding classes, if possible.
  - Contestants will present oral reasons on four classes. Contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving oral reasons.
- The Junior contest will be comprised of eight classes of livestock.
  - These classes (depending on availability) will consist of any combination of Market Beef, Breeding Beef, Market Sheep, Breeding Sheep, Market Hog, Breeding Hog, Market Goat or Breeding Meat Goat. All classes will be comprised of four animals, and the animals will be designated with numbers 1-2-3-4. Contest administrators and officials will strive to include performance information and scenarios on all breeding classes, if possible.
  - Contestants will present oral reasons on two classes. Contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving oral reasons.
- The Beginner contest will be comprised of four classes of livestock.
  - These classes (depending on availability) will consist of any combination of Market Beef, Breeding Beef, Market Sheep, Breeding Sheep, Market Hog, Breeding Hog, Market Goat or Breeding Meat Goat. All classes will be comprised of four animals, and the animals will be designated with numbers 1-2-3-4.
  - Questions will be asked on one class. Contestants are not permitted to use notes while completing questions.
  - A Parts Identification Quiz will be given. It will consist of any body part identification of Beef, Meat Goat, Sheep or Swine.
- Two minutes will be allowed to give oral reasons for those classes indicated as oral reason classes.
- Contestants will be allowed 10-12 minutes per class to make their observations, take notes and record placings. Placings will be marked on scantrons following the conclusion of judging.

- Breeding Cattle and Market Beef may not be handled. All judging of non-reasons cattle classes will be done from a distance of 10-15 feet. Close inspections may be allowed. This will be determined after selection of classes.
- Breeding sheep and goats will not be handled as they will be loose in a pen. When handling Market Sheep or Meat Goats, contestants will stand in line and will be given 15 seconds to handle each lamb or goat individually. Lambs or goats may not be re-handled at any time.

## **Determination of Ratings – Livestock Judging**

- Fifty points shall constitute a perfect mark for placing classes, answering questions, and presenting oral reasons.
  - If tied for overall individual or team awards, the contestant or team having the highest total reasons (for beginners, questions score used) score shall be listed first.
  - If tied for total reasons score, the contestant or team having the lowest total placing score on reasons classes shall be listed first.
  - If tied for a species award, the contestant or team having the highest reasons total reasons score on the species shall be listed first.
    - » If still tied, the contestant or team having the highest total reasons score overall shall be listed first.
- The officials' placing and class critique will be given immediately following the conclusion of the contest once all placing and reasons cards have been submitted to the scoring committee.
- Official results will be tabulated and reviewed by an assigned committee prior to public announcement.

## **Method of Conduct – Livestock Skillathon**

- Junior and Senior contestants will be divided into groups to start the contest but will be allowed to rotate through stations at their own pace. A time limit of no more than 20 minutes for a single station may be implemented at the discretion of contest coordinators. While the contest is in progress, there is no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by the Contest Superintendent or his/her representative. Offending contestants may be disqualified.
- Beginner contestants will follow the instructions of the contest coordinators for rotation and completion of stations. Beginner participants will be in different groups than Juniors and Seniors.
- Effort will be made to provide a complete contest consistent with the descriptions below. However, contest coordinators reserve the right to make changes based on circumstances of the event.
- Beginner: (200 points)
  - Breed ID: 10 breeds (30 points)
  - Equipment ID: 10 equipment (30 points)
  - Retail Meat ID: 5 Species name only (15 points)
  - Feed ID: 5 ID (15 points)
  - Quiz: 10 questions (30 points)
  - Quality Assurance: Hands-on activity (35 points)
  - Wool judging: 5 questions to answer, no placing (15 points)
  - Hay Judging: 5 questions to answer, no placing (15 points)
  - Livestock Performance Problem: 5 questions (15 points)
- Junior: (385 points)
  - Breed ID: 10 breeds and descriptions (50 points)
  - Equipment ID: 25 equipment (50 points)
  - Retail Meat ID: 10 Species and Retail cut name (30 points)
  - Feed ID: 16-17 ID (50 points)
  - Quiz: 15 questions (45 points)
  - Quality Assurance: Hands-on activity plus questions (50 points)
  - Wool judging: Placing class (25 points) + 5 questions (15 points)(40 points total)
  - Hay Judging: Placing class (25 points) + 5 questions (15 points)(40 points total)
  - Livestock Performance Problem: 10 questions (30 points)
- Seniors: (445 points)
  - Breed ID: 10 breeds and descriptions (50 points)
  - Equipment ID: 25 equipment (50 points)
  - Retail Meat ID: 10 Species, Wholesale and Retail cut name (50 points)

- Feed ID: 16-17 ID (50 points)
- Quiz: 15 questions (45 points)
- Quality Assurance: Hands-on activity plus questions (50 points)
- Wool judging: Placing class (25 points) + 5 questions (25 points)(50 points total)
- Hay Judging: Placing class (25 points) + 5 questions (25 points)(50 points total)
- Livestock Performance Problem: 10 questions (50 points)

## Contests Schedule

### Friday, Sept. 15

5:00-5:45 p.m. Livestock Skill-A-Thon Registration 5:45-6 p.m. Skill-A-Thon Orientation

6 p.m. ALL Participants Begin Skill-A-Thon\*

\*All skill-a-thon participants must be present at the start of the Skill-A-Thon (6 p.m.) to compete. Contestants will be on a rotation schedule through the Skill-A-Thon stations.

5-8 p.m. Livestock Skill-A-Thon Contest

6-8 p.m. Practice Livestock Judging

### Saturday, Sept. 16

9-9:30 a.m. All Participant Judging Registration (Animal Science Complex)

9:30-9:45 a.m. Junior and Senior Orientation

9:45 a.m. All Ages Begin Contest in Respective Locations  
(oral reasons follow completion of the judging contest classes)

9:45 a.m. Beginner Livestock Judging (SDSU Cow/Calf Unit)

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch

## Awards

- Top 5 contestants and teams in each age division (Beginner, Junior and Senior) will be recognized for Overall Individual and Team awards in Livestock Judging and Livestock Skillathon.
- Top five Junior and Senior contestants and teams will be recognized for Oral Reasons, Beef Judging, Sheep/Goat Judging and Swine Judging.
- Top five Junior and Senior individuals will be recognized for Quality Assurance, Evaluation and Identification divisions in Livestock Skillathon.
- The first place senior Livestock Judging team will be given the opportunity to compete at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Competition at Louisville, KY. The next four highest individuals will be offered the opportunity to form a team to compete at Western National Roundup in Denver, CO.
- The first place senior Skillathon team will be given the opportunity to compete at the National 4-H Skillathon Competition at Louisville, KY. The next four highest individuals will be offered the opportunity to form a team to compete at Western National Roundup in Denver, CO in the Livestock Quiz Bowl contest.
- Funding for these teams is made possible by the Livestock Industry Trust Fund each year depending on their contribution.
- Awards will be given after the conclusion of the contests and class critiques. Location will be in or near Animal Science Arena or classrooms based on weather and other factors.
- 4-H youth in South Dakota are not eligible to compete in more than one national livestock judging contest in the qualifying year.
- In the event of national trips being canceled the winning team will be allowed to compete to earn a national trip the following year.

## National 4-H Competitive Event Eligibility

- Contestants must be at least 14 years of age as of January 1 of the current year and must not have reached their 19th birthday as of Jan. 1 of the 4-H program year in which the national 4-H competitive event is held.
- All contestants must be members of 4-H in the state they are representing during the year in which the national 4-H competitive event is held.
- The contestant(s) or team(s) of contestants must be certified as the official state entry by the State 4-H Office or by



a person designated by the State 4-H Office. The individual(s) or team(s) may be selected by any procedure the State 4-H Office deems appropriate. Individual team members must be a minimum of 14-years-old at the time of the qualifying event.

- Contestants, their county 4-H Youth Program Advisor and the State 4-H Leader must certify as follows on the livestock judging entry: This contestant has not participated in post-secondary coursework in the subject area of the national 4-H competition, nor has he or she participated in training for post-secondary competition in the subject area of the national 4-H competition.

NOTE: Violation of the above will result in forfeiture of any awards or recognition that has been won in the national 4-H competitive event.