

# LIVESTOCK JUDGING

Livestock Judging trains young people in decision-making skills related to the evaluation of meat animals. 4-H members learn:

- How to evaluate the conformation of different breeds of beef cattle, sheep and swine.
- How to use performance data to assist in evaluation and selection of livestock.
- How to defend their placings through the delivery of oral reasons.

**Publication(s):** There are no official UT Extension Publications on Livestock Judging. There are, however, several videos available for loan from the Regional Office.

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**Eligibility:** See the Judging Team Eligibility Table at the end of this section.

## **General Rules:**

A team will consist of three to four members, with the top three scores being combined to make up the team score. There will be at least six classes of livestock, two of each species of beef cattle, sheep and swine. If possible, there will be a market and a breeding class from each species. It is easier to obtain market classes in sheep and swine than it is to get a market steer class. **Senior High contestants will be required to give 3 sets of oral reasons – one for each species.** Jr. High contestants may be asked to answer questions on one or more classes. There will be at least one set of performance data (EPD's) for both Senior and Jr. High participants to use in evaluation.

## **Regional Contests:**

The Regional Livestock Judging Contest will be held prior to the State Judging Contest at a location designated by the Region Office. Check the Region Calendar for date and location.

## **State Contest:**

The State Contest will take place in June at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). The top four placing Senior High teams from the Regional Contests will qualify for this contest.

## **National Contest or Tour:**

The National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest takes place in November at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky. Only the top placing team earns a berth in this contest. The second thru fifth placing Senior High teams can chose to go to either fo the following contests: Keystone National in Harrisburg, PA; Eastern North American in Baltimore, MD; National Western in Denver, CO; or American Royal in Kansas City, MO.