I. GENERAL RULES

A. Each county is invited to enter one or more 4-H livestock judging teams of three members. Teams may also be made of individuals from multiple counties within the California 4-H YDP. A team may also enter one alternate. When the alternate judges, the three members with the three high scores will make up the team total.

B. Registration form and photo identification must be submitted and verified by county 4-H Staff by the entry deadline.

C. CONFIRMATION OF NATIONAL 4-H JUDGING PARTICIPATION MUST BE CONFIRMED TO STATE 4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING CHAIRPERSON BY MAY 30TH FOLLOWING THE STATE FINALS.

D. A 4-H team coach that is certified as a 4-H adult volunteer must accompany each 4-H livestock team. (4-H team coach/adult leaders must be 21 years or older.)

E. For national contests: In additional to the coach, there should be appropriate chaperones present to accompany team members. 4-H leader-chaperones must be at least 25 years of age and in good standing with their county 4-H YDP. The coach may act as a chaperone if he/she meets the age requirements listed.

F. Each contestant must have passed his or her 14th birthday and not have passed his or her 19th birthday on January 1st and be enrolled as a 4-H member by January 1st of the calendar year in which the State and National contest are held.

G. Contestants in state 4-H competition must not have participated in official post secondary (university, college, junior college) competitive events of a similar nature and in the same subject matter area. (For example, a contestant who has competed in an official collegiate livestock judging contest is ineligible to compete at the state level).

H. Contestants who have judged as an alternate at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest are considered as being part of the official State team and are ineligible to compete a second time.

I. An entry fee will be charged for each team and individuals, which must be forwarded with team entry. The money received from this fee is used in defraying the expenses of the contest.

J. Information regarding rule sheets, meeting date, times and place will be forwarded to 4-H counties by State 4-H Livestock Projects and Program Area Coordinator after entries are received.

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K. Violation of the above rules will result in forfeiture of any awards or recognition which have been won in the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest. Rule infractions will be handled on a case by case basis.

II. RULES OF CONDUCT

A. No 4-H member is to leave the grounds without the permission of their coach or leader-chaperone.

B. Smoking or use of tobacco will not be permitted by 4-H members while attending or taking part in any official 4-H activity.

C. Drinking or possession of alcoholic beverages or drugs shall not be tolerated. Violation of this rule will cause immediate suspension from contest and forfeiture of all awards.

D. Proper conduct is expected from 4-H members, coaches and leader-chaperones at all times. 4-H team coaches and leader-chaperones shall be responsible for 4-H members conduct at all times.

E. California 4-H Code of Conduct shall be adhered to.

F. 4-H members who have been found to have violated any of the above rules will be subjected to immediate suspension from the contest and forfeit awards.

III. JUDGING CONTEST RULES

These may vary from year to year depending on the site of the contest, the organization or individual in charge of planning the overall event and the State 4-H Animal Science Advisory Committee.

A. General Rules

1. Each 4-H member entering the contest must be in current good standing (as determined by State 4-H Youth Staff).
2. No 4-H member or 4-H coach will be allowed to practice judging or familiarize themselves with animals to be used in the statewide contest.
3. All coaches and visitors must remain away from contest area until contest is completed.
4. No notes may be used while giving oral reasons although notes may be taken while judging, provided only a blank notebook or paper is used.
5. Any contestant who confers with other individuals without authorization while the contest is in progress may be immediately barred from the contest by the contest chairperson.
6. Fifteen minutes will be allowed for contestants on reason classes, to take notes and fill out placing cards.
7. Two minutes will be allowed to give oral reasons to the judges, use of notes will not be allowed unless special needs are identified and approved by contest chairperson.
8. Up to eleven classes of animals will be judged as follows: one or two classes of meat goats; and three classes each of beef cattle, sheep, and swine. Up to two questions classes on beef
cattle, sheep, or swine may be implemented. Production information may be included for breeding classes.

9. Reasons will be taken on three (3) classes (1 from each species).
10. The animals will be designated by numbers 1-2-3-4 numbered from left to right viewing the animals from the rear view or on their bodies.
11. In handling individual livestock, contestants may stand in line and may be allowed to handle each animal individually.
12. Contestants may only use a clip board and/or a note book pad. No additional judging information will be permitted.
13. Any protests concerning the outcome of the judging contest must be submitted in writing within 24 hours after results are given out. After this time, the results will be considered final.

IV. DETERMINATION OF RATINGS

These may vary from year to year depending on the site of the contest, the organization or individual in charge of planning the overall event and the State 4-H Animal Science Advisory Committee.

A. Fifty points shall constitute a perfect mark on placing and fifty points a perfect mark on reasons.

B. Ties:
1. If tied for a species award, contestant or team having highest reason score on the species shall be listed first.

2. If tied for individual or team overall award, contestant or team having highest total reason score shall be listed first.

3. If still tied from either of the above, contestant or team having highest score in placing shall be listed first.

4. If contestants are still tied from 1, 2 or 3 above, the youngest contestant shall be listed first.

5. If tied for individual total reasons award, the youngest contestant shall be listed first.

C. Records tabulated and submitted the State 4-H Livestock Coordinator to be awarded at the award ceremony held in conjunction with the sponsoring organization’s award ceremony.

D. Team alternates are eligible for individual awards.

V. AWARDS SYSTEM

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These may vary from year to year depending on the site of the contest, the organization or individual in charge of planning the overall event and the State 4-H Animal Science Advisory Committee.

A. The State 4-H Incentive Program will award gold, silver, and bronze medallions respectively to the first, second, and third high point individuals/teams in the contest.

B. Ribbons will be given to first, second, third, fourth and fifth place teams and individuals in each species.

C. The first place team will be eligible to compete in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky. In the event of no teams entering, the top individual or individuals may be eligible at the discretion of the State 4-H Associate Director of Program and Policy.

D. The second and third place teams may attend and participate in the 4-H Livestock Judging Contests at (No funding will available for 2nd and 3rd place teams):

   1. 2nd Place Team: American Royal, November, Kansas City, MO.
   2. 3rd Place Team: National Western Stock Show, January, Denver, CO.

E. The 4-H State Champion Livestock Judging Team members can compete in future state final 4-H livestock judging competitions with the understanding that they cannot return to the 4-H National Livestock Judging Competition, and would therefore be competing to attend one of the above listed competitions (see rule V:c)

F. State winning teams should acquire sponsorship assistance locally. They may also be eligible for financial assistance from the State 4-H Office. This should be considered as soon as possible to allow time for fundraising and financial planning.

VI. JUDGES

A. A committee of judges shall select and place all classes and hear and score all reasons. The contest chairman shall decide which classes require reasons. If the number of teams entered indicates that additional judges are necessary to expedite and make more efficient the hearing and scoring of reasons, the contest chairperson shall appoint such judges.

B. The judges shall place the classes and enter their placing on placing cards, indicate the cuts to be made and file that card with the contest chairperson.

C. Contestants may be handed their placing card as they appear before each judging committee to give their reasons. When the contestant has finished, the judge will place the official reason grade upon the placing card and submit for tabulation/scoring.

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