

## 2026 NWJSE “COUG Premier Exhibitor” Award

1. **Participants do not need to pre-register for this event. When an exhibitor enters a quality class (Market, Prospect, and/or Breeding), showmanship, marketing competition (see specifics) and participates in the 2026 skillathon, they will be automatically entered into the 2025 COUG Premier Exhibitor competition.** This is all or nothing, to be eligible for the “**COUG Premier Exhibitor**”, exhibitors **MUST** participate in **ALL** four events. Youth **must** exhibit their own animals in quality and showmanship to compete.

2. Exhibitors who have achieved the above requirements are eligible to score 400 max points by adding the scores given to quality class, showmanship, marketing and skillathon rank to determine the “**COUG Premier Exhibitor**” award. Rankings will be assigned points according to the following scale: 1st place - 100 points, 2nd place - 98 points, 3rd place - 96 points, 4<sup>th</sup> place - 94 points, and 5th place - 92 points, etc. Again these points will be assigned to your highest class placing in quality (breeding, prospect and/or market), showmanship, marketing/promotion/advocacy piece and skillathon.

3. The top “**COUG Premier Exhibitor**” will be selected from each age division: Junior (8-11), Intermediate (12-14), and Senior (15-18) age division. These 3 individuals will compete for the overall “**COUG Premier Exhibitor**”.

4. If tied for “**COUG Premier Exhibitor**”, Ties will be broken on the Skillathon, emphasizing knowledge. The following procedure will be used to break ties:

**“COUG Premier Exhibitor” TIE BREAKERS –**

- ✓ 1st Skillathon Age Division Placing;
- ✓ 2nd: Total Score of Skillathon Stations;
- ✓ 3rd: If Total Skillathon Score is tied then Station Scores:
  - Skillathon Station 1
  - Skillathon Station 2
  - Skillathon Station 3
  - Skillathon Station 4
- ✓ 4th: Best animal as determined by the show judge;
- ✓ 5th: Interview by Exhibition Official.

**AWARDS:**

CPE Junior (age: 8-11) – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

CPE Intermediate (age: 12-14) – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, and

CPE Senior (age: 15-18) – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Overall COUG Premier Exhibitor

## SKILLATHON PARTICIPATION:

Youth will enter the day of the competition (Friday, July 18, 2025). Youth will be required to complete 5 subject matter stations in the skillathon.

Skillathon placings for each age division will be posted after the event and first place for each age division will be recognized along with the overall Youth Skillathon winner. Once the youth have participated, the Skillathon will be open to adult participants. The adult division will be scored as an individual class.

### Stations that will be offered in 2026:

- ✓ Station 1: Breed Identification and Origin (20 points)
- ✓ Station 2: Lamb Meat Identification and Carcass Evaluation. (20 points)
- ✓ Station 3: Genetics (20 points)
- ✓ Station 4: Equipment ID and Use (20 points)
- ✓ Station 5: A wild card (20 points). Topic could be any of the following: animal anatomy, biological systems, Quality Assurance, breed identification, nutrition, animal welfare and handling, genetics, meat cuts, selection and evaluation, etc.
- ✓ YQCA: By going to <https://yqcaprogram.org> and certifying through the online curriculum, instructor-led or by testing-out and providing documentation (Bring a Printed Certificate of Your Current and Valid YQCA Certification) that you did so you can earn 10 extra points

### Rules:

1. A parent/guardian, or responsible adult, MUST sign the youth's skillathon score sheet at the skillathon registration table verifying the youth is in the correct age (as of October 1 of the current year) division (Junior, Intermediate and Senior) BEFORE the youth can participate in the skillathon. **This is to verify age category, if it is determined at the completion of the skillathon that a youth exhibitor was entered in the wrong age category, the exhibitor will be removed from consideration for the CPE competition.** Skillathon participants will be required to sign their score sheet immediately upon completion of the skillathon.

2. Skillathon participants are not permitted to bring study materials or electronic devices such as cell phones into the Skillathon evaluation area. Participants are to work independently, and parents as well as siblings will not be allowed to help youth or each other, respectively. Once the youth participant starts the Skillathon they will need to complete it as they will not be let back in.

\*Ties in the Skillathon will be broken by: Skillathon Station 4, Skillathon Station 1, Skillathon Station 2, and Skillathon Station 3

Helpful resources (contest content may come from additional sources)

- ✓ These examples are from the National 4-H Skillathon Resource Library:  
<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/charles-county/4-h-youth-development/animal-projects>
- ✓ Meat Evaluation- Retail Cut Id:  
[https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/202103/Skillathon\\_NAILE\\_Meat\\_Retail\\_Cut\\_Identification.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/202103/Skillathon_NAILE_Meat_Retail_Cut_Identification.pdf)
- ✓ Quality Assurance:  
[https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/202103/Skillathon\\_Individual\\_Quality\\_Assurance\\_Examples.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/202103/Skillathon_Individual_Quality_Assurance_Examples.pdf)
- ✓ Hay and Wool Skillathon Resources:  
[https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-03/Hay\\_Judging\\_Example\\_Class.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-03/Hay_Judging_Example_Class.pdf)  
[https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-03/4-H\\_Wool\\_Evaluation.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-03/4-H_Wool_Evaluation.pdf)
- ✓ Examples of Breeds and Origins: [https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-03/Skillathon\\_Livestock\\_Breed\\_Identification.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-03/Skillathon_Livestock_Breed_Identification.pdf)
- ✓ Examples of Equipment Id and Use: [https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-03/Skillathon\\_Equipment\\_Identification\\_Prep\\_0.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-03/Skillathon_Equipment_Identification_Prep_0.pdf)

## EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY/POSTER COMPETITION:

**Expectations:** Youth will need to enter the poster competition when they arrive to the show grounds. Posters will be on display for evaluation near the showring. The evaluation and the score by the official judge will count toward the COUG Premier Exhibitor (CPE) Award. The judge(s) will rank posters within each age division (Junior, Intermediate and Senior). Posters should address the assigned Big Question.

*To be eligible for Cougar Premier Exhibitor Sweepstakes award(s), youth must create a poster that addresses the Big Question.*

**The Big Question: How does your sheep project impact the sheep industry?**

### Rules:

1. Each individual is encouraged to create and exhibit an educational poster. Poster entries are not limited only to live animal exhibitors—any youth interested in sheep may create and submit a poster for judging although only youth registered with the NWJSE will be eligible for premium or awards.
2. Entries must be on poster board and be displayed in the designated area near the show ring by 1PM Friday and not removed before 1:30 PM. on Saturday.
3. Exhibitors should display their names clearly on the front of their poster.
4. Exhibits shall be of an educational or informative nature and feature the youth's answer to the show's unique annual Big Question.
5. Exhibits will be evaluated based on the relevance to the assignment. The WSU Educational Display Scorecard (C0679E) will be used for judging considering **Design** (color, lettering, illustration and layout); **Originality and Creativity** (shows innovation/imagination); **Educational Value** (main idea, appropriate and accurate message, inspires viewers response). Professional or commercially designed exhibits may be discounted.