



2025 Washington 4-H State Livestock Judging Contest - Rules and Guidelines

Saturday, June 28, 2025 – Ardell Pavilion, Grant County Fair Grounds, Moses Lake, WA

If you have questions, please reach out to Paul Kuber at pskuber@wsu.edu or 509-477-2185.

CONTEST COMMITTEE –

Paul Kuber, 4-H State Agri-Science Specialist, WSUE, *Contest Chair*

Kate McCloskey, 4-H Program coordinator, WSUE, *Contest Committee Member*

Sarah Smith, Livestock Extension Specialist, WSUE, *Contest Committee Member*

Mark Heitstuman, Interim State 4-H Leader, WSUE, *Contest Committee Member*

Carolyn Russo, Program Coordinator, WSUE, *Contest Committee Member*

Denise Echelbarger, Director of Development, WSUE *Contest Committee Member*
(Registration and Contest Instructions will be in the Ardell Pavilion)

2025 CONTEST INFORMATION (alterations or additions to last year's rules are highlighted in green) –

- **Registration:** Contest registration will require coaches to complete the entry form and have it signed by their WSU Extension office in their county and sent into the state office **by end of day June 13, 2025**. Please send the entry form electronically to robert.kestell@wsu.edu and copy pskuber@wsu.edu. The signed entry form will be used to assure that **ALL team members are current Washington 4-H members and in good standing** for each county or club within county team and individual registered for the contest. Each entry form will have to have an official signature from the county Extension office. **If entry forms are incomplete, then teams will NOT be allowed to register and participate in the contest until all information and signatures are provided or a phone call from the county office confirms information. If that cannot be confirmed by the start of the contest on June 28, then teams and individuals not verified will NOT compete.**
 - Registration fees for those that submit the team members form by the end of day on June 13, 2025 will be **\$60 per team (up to 4 members)/ \$20 per individual (for additional alternates)**. Contest fees can accompany the official signed registration form, the day of contest during registration and can be paid by check, cash or card. **Note: Any team or individual that registers after June 13 will be considered a late registration (team or Individual) and will be charged \$30 per individual (\$90 per team of 3 and \$120 per team of 4).**
 - Coaches will identify the team(s) if they have more than 4 individuals, within an age division, the day of the contest. There will be “NO” highest 3 scores from all participants from a county grouped together for team placings. A county that has more than 4 individuals, within an age category (JR, INT, SR), competing in the state contest will have to elect a team 1, and 2, etc. or a team 1 and alternates (if not enough for a second team).
 - Be sure to bring a copy of your roster so we can match up with your pre-registration copy, so registration goes smoothly. Roster substitutions will be allowed with proper documentation, on a person-by-person basis. Additional team members added the day of the contest or after June 13 will be charged the late registration fee.
- **Contestant Dress Code:** Participants must dress in contest attire, consisting of jeans or khakis with a dress shirt (long or short sleeve) or polo tucked in. Participants should also refrain from wearing pants (jeans or khakis) or shirts (dress or polo) that have holes or are torn or t-shirts that display any graphics or print. **New in 2025 there will be no ball caps or hats allowed during the contest, the awards and for photographs.** Contestants are not permitted to wear any apparel (shirts, jackets, belt buckles, etc.) that distinguishes in any manner who they are or where they are from, i.e., individual's name, 4-H club, county, etc. Dressing or acting inappropriately may result in disqualification from the contest as determined by the contest committee.



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- **New in 2025 Contestants from previous years who have competed at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest held in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exhibition are ineligible to compete in the Washington State Contest for the remainder of their 4-H career.**
- **Top 3 Travel Teams:** Senior division teams that rank 1, 2 or 3 in the state contest will have to determine the national contest they will travel to ***before leaving after the awards ceremony***. See travel award attachment.
- **No Qualifying Event:** All current 4-H members in good standing who are registered through the county that they are representing will be eligible to compete in the 2025 State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.
- **Cross-County Teams:** In all divisions (JUNIOR, INTERMEDIATE and SENIOR), cross-county teams will be allowed to participate providing team members are from neighboring counties with one common border. For cross-county teams:
 - Cross-county team members must represent their county of 4-H enrollment,
 - One Extension professional from the county in which the team is registered must sign the registration form,
 - One Extension professional from the other county where the cross-county team member(s) are enrolled must provide enrollment documentation in the form of a letter attached to the team’s registration form. This letter must be written on county Extension letterhead, and
 - Documentation will be confirmed upon receipt of registration.

NOTE: *To offer youth in Washington 4-H access to coaches with a knowledge base, we have enacted cross county teams. As the program grows, we will see more coaches that will offer more access to youth, locally in most areas.*

- All team members and alternates will compete as individuals for the divisional and overall individual awards. Only individuals that are entered as a Team (3 or 4 contestants) will compete for team divisional and team overall awards.
- A county with 2 or fewer contestants will register the contestants as individuals for the contest, again they will be eligible for the division and overall awards.
- There is “**NO**” limit to the number of participants from a county, providing they are active 4-H members in good standing as validated by the local Extension professional in your county.

TENTATIVE CONTEST SCHEDULE –

8:30 am	Registration begins
10:00 am	Contest instructions
10:30 am	Contest class rotation 1 (4 classes will all be reasons and or questions with 15 min per class)
11:50 am	Break
12:05 pm	Contest class rotation 2 (4 classes that will be placing only with 10 minutes per class)
1:05 pm	Judging is complete (lunch will be served as students are preparing for reasons)
1:45 pm	Reasons and questions will begin: Seniors (4 sets of reasons) Intermediates (2 sets of reasons and 2 sets of questions) Juniors (1 set of reasons and 1 set of questions)
4:00 pm	Contest critique with the officials
4:30 pm	State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest Awards Ceremony

GENERAL RULES:

1. All participants must be current 4-H members in good standing in Washington, prior to the contest.
2. Youth must represent their county of 4-H enrollment unless they are an approved cross-county team.



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3. Contestants must not have participated in or enrolled in official post-secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive judging events, including judging courses, for the respective contest/species they wish to enter.
4. A team must consist of a minimum of three (3) and maximum of four (4) members within the same age category/division.
5. When four members judge, the contestant with the lowest overall score will be designated as the alternate; however, will still be eligible for individual awards.
6. If a county does not have enough members for a team, they may enter one or two individuals to compete for individual awards.
7. Each **SENIOR** contestant **must** have passed his or her 14th birthday and **cannot** have passed his or her 19th birthday on or before October 1 of the current 4-H year when the contest will be held. (Therefore, youth turning 19 on or before September 30 the year before the contest, are **NOT** eligible as they have aged out of 4-H)
8. Each **INTERMEDIATE** contestant **must** be 11 years of age on or before October 1 of the current 4-H year when the contest will be held and **cannot** have passed his or her 13th birthday on or before October 1 of the current 4-H year when the contest will be held. (Therefore, youth turning 14 on or before September 30 the year before the contest, are eligible for the **SENIOR** contest)
9. Each **JUNIOR** contestant **must** be 8 years of age on or before October 1 of the current 4-H year when the contest will be held and **cannot** have passed his or her 10th birthday on or before October 1 of the current 4-H year when the contest will be held. (Therefore, youth turning 11 on or before September 30 the year before the contest, are eligible for the **INTERMEDIATE** contest)
10. Each county may enter multiple teams; however, only one (1) team from a county, regardless of placing in the contest, will be eligible for travel to a National or Regional contest (*see travel award document*).
11. All teams, as well as individuals, are eligible for awards.
12. As mentioned earlier a county Extension professional must sign each team's registration form to validate those participants are 4-H members in good standing and that the participant ages are correct. If there is an error, then the entire team/individuals will be disqualified from awards.
13. Contestants are not permitted to have cell phones or any other electronic devices in their possession during competition. Team members will be allowed to have a clean (unused) notebook/notepad for not taking for reasons and questions.
14. **SENIORS** are required to give four (4) sets of oral reasons which will all be included in the scoring for both team and individual awards. There will be at least 1 beef, 1 sheep, and 1 swine set of oral reasons, with the 4th set determined and announced the day of the contest. *Specific reasons classes will be determined the day of the contest.*
15. **INTERMEDIATES** are required to give 2 sets of oral reasons and answer 2 sets of questions (10 questions in each class) based on 2 designated classes, which will be counted in the scoring procedure for both individual and team placings. *Specific reasons and questions classes will be determined the day of the contest.*
16. **JUNIORS** are required to give one (1) sets of oral reasons and answer 1 set of questions (10 questions in each class) based on 1 designated class, which will be counted in the scoring procedure for both individual and team placings. *The specific reasons and questions class will be determined the day of the contest.*
(Note - questions will be answered during the reasons portion of the contest. Contestants should take notes on designated questions classes to review prior to questions being answered. Contestants will not be answering questions with the class in view)



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AWARDS:

SENIOR TEAM AWARDS

1. Top five (5) highest scoring county teams overall.
2. Top ten (10) individuals overall.
3. Top five (5) teams in oral reasons
4. Top ten (10) individuals in oral reasons.
5. Top five (5) teams in beef, swine, sheep, and meat goats.
6. Top five (5) highest scoring individuals in beef, swine, sheep, and meat goats.

JUNIOR and INTERMEDIATE AWARDS

1. Top five (5) highest scoring county teams overall.
2. Top ten (10) individuals overall.
3. Top five (5) teams in oral reasons and questions.
4. Top ten (10) individuals in oral reasons and questions.
5. Top five (5) teams in beef, swine, sheep, and meat goats.
6. Top five (5) highest scoring individuals in beef, swine, sheep, and meat goats.