



2024 Livestock Judging Contest Rules

Youth 4-H/FFA Division

September 29th, 2024

Nebraska State Fairgrounds - Grand Island, NE

2024 Superintendent:

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Aksarben Stock Show Contact:

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Sunday, September 29th, 8:00 a.m., Thompson Foods Indoor Arena at Fonner Park

Entry Site	Aksarbenstockshow.com
Entry Fee	\$160 per team and/or \$40 per individual
Entry Deadline	Wednesday, September 11 th
Coaches Meeting	Saturday, September 28 th at 7 p.m. Barr Middle School (602 West Stolley Park Rd. Grand Island, NE)
Check-in	Sunday, September 29 th from 7 to 7:45 a.m. at Thompson Foods Indoor Arena
Lunch & Reasons	Barr Middle School
Official Critique & Awards	Pinnacle Bank Expo Center Quilt Room on Fonner Park immediately following conclusion of reasons

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. TEAM AND ENTRIES

- a. Each state is invited to enter up to three (3) 4-H and three (3) FFA livestock judging teams in the youth division of the Aksarben Stock Show livestock judging contest. Teams may consist of three or four members each. The three members with the highest overall scores will make up the team total. However, the contestant with the lowest score is eligible for individual awards.
- b. If more than three 4-H or more than three FFA teams enter from the same state, preference will be given to the teams that placed higher, as a team, in their respective state contest.
 - i. The contest superintendent will contact the state 4-H extension leader/state FFA organization to determine which teams will be eligible to compete in the Aksarben Livestock Judging Contest.
- c. Entries and fee payment can be made online at aksarbenstockshow.com by **Wednesday, September 11th**. A fee of \$160.00 per team (3 or 4 youth) and/or \$40 per individual (maximum of two additional individuals per team) must accompany entry. Money received from entry fees will be used to defray contest expenses.

- d. Each state that has youth entered in the Aksarben 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest is responsible for medical/accident insurance for those youth while traveling to and from Aksarben as well as during the Aksarben 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest and other events associated with the Aksarben Stock Show.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF CONTESTANTS

- a. Contestants must be bona fide 4-H/FFA member certified by the 4-H Program Leader/State FFA organization of their respective states.
- b. Youth shall NOT have participated in **any** post-secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive event of a similar nature and in the same subject matter area. A competitive event is defined here as an event open to more than one educational institution (or its students) in which scores are kept and awards are offered to any or all participants.
- c. Teams and contestants who have earned the right to represent their state in various national competitions in 2023 or 2024 are eligible and encouraged to participate in this contest at the discretion of their individual states.
- d. College freshmen who have qualified to compete in the 4-H/FFA divisions of the American Royal, National Western, or National 4-H (the NAILE at Louisville) and National FFA Convention Livestock Judging Contests may also compete as an individual in the 4-H/FFA division of the Aksarben Stock Show Livestock Judging Contest provided they meet previously stated eligibility requirements outlined above.
- e. State 4-H/FFA Leaders are responsible for determining eligibility of participants in the Aksarben 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest from their respective states.
- f. Contestants will be subject to disqualification from the contest for rules and regulations infractions.

3. JUDGING SYSTEM

- a. A committee of officials shall place all classes and score all oral reasons. A selection committee shall select all classes for the contest and decide which classes require oral reasons. If the number of teams entered indicates that additional officials are necessary to expedite and make more efficient the scoring of reasons, the Superintendent shall have the authority to appoint such officials.
- b. The judges shall place the classes while the contestants are working in the area. The judges shall enter their placings on the placing card, indicate the cuts to be made and file that card with the Superintendent.
- c. All contestants will report to the Thompson Foods Indoor Arena at 7:30 a.m., Sunday, September 29th, where they will receive full contest instructions.

4. METHOD OF CONDUCT

- a. No team members, alternates, coaches, or individuals accompanying the team will be allowed on the Aksarben Stock Show Grounds prior to 7 a.m. on September 29th. Exceptions to this rule will be made for team members who are exhibitors, in which case special permission must be secured from the Livestock Judging Contestant Superintendent.
- b. At the coaches meeting, coaches should be prepared to check names, addresses, and ages of all contestants. Substitutions and roster changes may be conducted at this time, but all alternates must be similarly certified by the individual state 4-H/FFA leaders.

- c. Contestants shall not wear any clothing (including belt buckles), pins, or badges that reveal their identity or the state they represent. No hats are to be worn during the contest.
- d. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between contestants or anyone else, except as directed by the Superintendent or his/her representative. Cell phones, smart watches, pagers, and other electronic communication devices are prohibited. Any violation of this rule may result in expulsion and disqualification of the offender.
- e. CLASSES - The contest will consist of twelve classes of livestock. Classes will consist of beef, swine, sheep and goats (breeding and market). All classes will be comprised of four animals and the animals will be designated by numbers 1-2-3-4. Performance breeding classes may include individual performance or genetic records, and a situation (scenario) statement. Breeding classes may be male or female.
- f. REASONS - Youth contestants shall give oral reasons on four classes. Reasons classes will be announced prior to the start of the contest. Each division of the contest (4-H, Freshmen, Sophomores, and Senior College) will present reasons to their own set of officials.
- g. QUESTIONS. 4-H/FFA contestants will answer three sets (10 questions/set) of questions. Questions will be asked of all contestants simultaneously upon conclusion of all judging. Contestants will be given 5 minutes to review their notes before each set of questions. The question reader will read each question twice. Once all questions have been asked, questions will each be reread a third time. Each question is worth 5 points.
- h. Contestants must have a CLEAN notebook for taking notes. This is the contestants' responsibility; notebooks and writing utensils are NOT provided. Contestants' notebooks are subject to inspection at any time, and supplemental materials brought into the contest including pre-written notes/terms will subject the contestant to potential disqualification from the contest.
- i. TIME ALLOWED - Contestants will be allowed 12 minutes to place each class. There will be a two-minute time warning. Two minutes will be allowed to give oral reasons to judges.
- j. Upon conclusion of judging each class, contestants will be asked to turn cards in to their group leader. Cards are to be turned in "face down", and cards will NOT be returned once they have been turned in. Cards will be considered LATE and NOT scored once "time in" has been called on the subsequent class. It is the responsibility of contestants to make sure their card has been turned in on time! Blank or double-marked cards will receive a zero. A photocopy of such cards will be made available to coaches after the contest.
- k. Handling of breeding classes will not be permitted. Handling of market cattle will be dictated upon the start of the contest. Coordinated close inspection will be allowed. Market lambs and market goats will be placed in stands, (1, 2, 3, 4 from left to right, when viewed from behind). Handling of market lambs and goats will be dictated upon the start of the contest. However, close inspection will be allowed, and they will be removed from the racks and walked.
- l. All coaches, assistants, and non-judging alternates should be available during the morning of the contest to assist with the running of the contest, if needed.
- m. Any coach or contestant who violates any rules of this contest will be barred from competing in future contests and his/her team will be disqualified.

5. SUPERINTENDENT

- a. The Superintendent shall have complete charge of the contest. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to see that all rules and regulations of the contest are carried out. He/She shall see that all rules and regulations governing the contest are duly carried out and that the contest is

conducted with fairness and justice to all concerned. The Superintendent shall also decide all questions which may arise in connection with the interpretation of the rules. The Superintendent may assign assistant superintendents and helpers to assist him/her. The Superintendent will oversee all final decisions, results and rankings following tabulation.

6. CLERKS AND ASSISTANTS

- a. The clerks, assistants and attendants shall be under the direction of the Superintendent and shall carry out all assignments in an orderly manner; and none of them shall confer with a contestant unless directed by the Superintendent.

7. DETERMINATION OF RANKINGS

- a. Ties will be broken by a method determined by show management and superintendent. No duplicate awards will be given. Results when announced will be official and final. Once results are tabulated and submitted by the Superintendent to the Aksarben Stock Show management, results shall be final.
- b. Team alternates are eligible for individual awards.