



4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING PROJECT



In this project, youth learn how livestock producers and breeders evaluate the form of their animals with their function to produce high quality saleable products to their customers. Youth will analyze individual animal traits, of four animals presented together as a class, to each other and to an accepted ideal for that species. Then, youth will rank each animal in the class and communicate their reasoning as to what order each animal was placed. Livestock judging events require youth to:

- Possess breeding and market animal industry preferences; while making accurate and complete observations
- Compare and contrast individual animals to others in class; and make deci-

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Describe breeds of animals which may include beef, sheep, swine, goats, and other animals.
- Describe parts of the animal.
- Compare and contrast a class (i.e., top pair and bottom pair) as to muscle, fat, volume, and structure. These would be independent comparisons.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Compare and contrast class pairs (i.e., top pair, middle pair, and bottom pair) as to muscle, fat, volume, and structure, including prioritization of these traits.
- Develop livestock reasons script template.

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Interpret performance data based on industry standards.
- Evaluate livestock and provide written and oral justification or placing's for market and breeding classes.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.

4-H THRIVE

Help Youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

Goal Selection: Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.

Pursue Strategies: Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.

Shift Gears: Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal.

Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the



Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Use a handheld ultrasound instrument to determine back fat and loin depth measurements to estimate USDA Yield Grade.
- Conduct a fecal floatation to check for an intestinal parasite load of an animal.

Healthy Living

- Design and create an exhibit that features cuts of meat and their anatomical origin.
- Create a collection of recipes that features lean sources of protein.

Citizenship

- Apply for a service-learning grant to inform the public about livestock bio-security issues related to fairs and expositions.
- Attend or establish a Quality Assurance and Ethics training workshop in your

Leadership

- Join a livestock breed association/Jr. association and participate in meetings.
- Develop and share a county breeder/producer address book by species.
- Join your local fair's junior livestock committee or 4-H Council 's Livestock Com-

Resources

- The Judging Connection www.thejudgingconnection.com/
- Livestock Breed Associations www.hobbyfarms.com/farm-resources/livestock-resources/Livestock-Breed-Associations.aspx
- California Cattlewomen www.cattletwomen.org
- Judging 101 www.judging101.com
- UM Livestock Judging Techniques [//extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=G2952](http://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=G2952)
- ISU 4-H Livestock Judging www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/livestock/Livestock%20Judging.htm
- USU Livestock Judging [//extension.usu.edu/cyberlivestock/htm/livestock-judging](http://extension.usu.edu/cyberlivestock/htm/livestock-judging)
- CSU Judging Classes [//livestock.colostate.edu/youth/judging/index.html](http://livestock.colostate.edu/youth/judging/index.html)
- OSU Breeds of Livestock

Connections & Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Book
<p>Post-Secondary Colleges and State Field Days – Participate in a livestock judging contest as an individual and part of a team. During these events, 4-H members apply observation, critical-thinking and communication skills to evaluate sheep, swine and beef classes.</p> <p>California State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest. www.ca4h.org/Programs/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDSU Livestock Judging Manual www.sdstate.edu/ars/students/activities/judging/evaluation/upload/LivestockJudgingManual.pdf • MS 4-H Livestock Judging Manual //msucare.com/pubs/publications/p2289.htm • KSU Livestock Judging Guide 	<p>4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.</p> <p>4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.</p>



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