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.
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 community.

**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 Committee.

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**Connections & Events**
- **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.
- **California State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest**
  [www.ca4h.org/Programs/](http://www.ca4h.org/Programs/)

**Curriculum**
- SDSU Livestock Judging Manual
- MS 4-H Livestock Judging Manual
  [//msucares.com/pubs/publications/p2289.htm](http:////msucares.com/pubs/publications/p2289.htm)
- KSU Livestock Judging Guide

**4-H Record Book**
- 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.
- 4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

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**Resources**
- The Judging Connection
  [www.thejudgingconnection.com/](http://www.thejudgingconnection.com/)
- Livestock Breed Associations
  [www.hobbyfarms.com/farm-resources/livestock-resources/Livestock-Breed-Associations.aspx](http://www.hobbyfarms.com/farm-resources/livestock-resources/Livestock-Breed-Associations.aspx)
- California Cattlewomen
  [www.cattlewomen.org](http://www.cattlewomen.org)
- Judging 101
  [www.judging101.com](http://www.judging101.com)
- UM Livestock Judging Techniques
- ISU 4-H Livestock Judging
  [www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/livestock/Livestock%20Judging.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/livestock/Livestock%20Judging.htm)
- CSU Judging Classes
  [//livestock.colostate.edu/youth/judging/index.html](http:////livestock.colostate.edu/youth/judging/index.html)
- OSU Breeds of Livestock
  [www.4hrecordbooks.org](http://www.4hrecordbooks.org)