OBJECTIVES

Targeted Life Skills: Self-esteem, Decision Making, Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Communication, Cooperation, Teamwork

This activity will train 4-H members in live animal evaluation of breeding and market animals. In their training prior to the annual state contest, the 4-H'ers should learn the parts of each of the four species which they are to judge: beef cattle, sheep, swine, and goats. They should also learn breed differences within the species. 4-H members should learn to make their own decisions based upon the best available information. Experience is given in developing their speaking ability through the use of oral reasons. This oral presentation justifies the contestant’s placement of the class and can be the most beneficial part of the contest. Individual teams are encouraged to compete in livestock judging contests as they are available for additional training prior to the state contest.

ACTIVITY

The State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest will be held during the Arkansas 4-H State O-Rama. All teams and individuals must be registered via Judging Card.

Note: Only contest officials, agents, and leaders assigned to the contest will be allowed on the arena floor during the livestock judging contest. Classes may be reviewed after the contest is completed.

1. Contestants should be prepared to place 6-8 classes of beef cattle, swine, sheep, and goats. (The final class number and selection will be based upon availability of suitable animals.)

2. Oral reasons will be required on three of the selected classes. One set will be on a performance class and two sets will be on market classes. (The final number of reasons classes may change by contest officials depending on classes available.)

3. One class will serve as a question reasons class. Contestants will be asked specific questions pertaining to one class designated by the contest officials.

4. At least one class will have a set of evaluation data and a production situation statement.

ELIGIBILITY

The contest is limited to senior 4-H members. The contestant must be 14 years old on January 1 of the current year, but not have had his or her 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current year. Any 4-H member whose name is entered by his or her county extension agent will be eligible to enter this contest and compete as an individual. However, for a county to be eligible for team competition, it will have to have at least three entries. A county may enter four individuals, but only the top three scores will count.
toward the winning team.

**AWARDS**

The high-point contestant will receive a trophy. The winning team (three high scores and an alternate) will receive a trophy and will be eligible to attend the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest. Out-of-state trip expense will be covered if funding is available. Second- through fifth-place teams will receive ribbons.

**PREPARED BY**

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