



August 10, 2026

TO: State 4-H Program Leaders
Extension Livestock Specialists

FROM: Bonnie Boyden *Bonnie Boyden*
Vice Chair National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest
Dr. Brian Bolt
Superintendent National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

RE: 2026 National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest Entries

Please read the following information. The rules and forms are located on our website listed below. Please visit our website for all information to register for the contest.

Please ensure that the coach of your State 4-H Livestock Judging Team receives this entry and information packet regarding the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest. Also, that all required documents are signed and returned by the deadline.

All forms and rules can be located at the website below

youthlivestockcontests.org

The National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest is held in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky. A coaches' meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 16th at 7:30 p.m. at the Crown Plaza Airport Hotel Meeting Room. Due to the size of the room, **we are asking that only one (1) coach to attend in person.** There will be a zoom options for the assistant coaches. The contest will take place at the North American International Livestock Exposition on Tuesday, November 17th starting at 7:30 a.m.

Again, all rules, entry and registration information regarding this contest will be available on-line at: <https://youthlivestockcontests.org/>

The website contains all the information needed to be complete and return by stated deadline of October 14th.

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1. **National Contest Rules:**

- a. Including important times and dates of the contest and how the contest will be conducted.

2. **Team Entry Form**

- a. Be sure **all** of the requested information is included, signed and correct. Substitutions of contestants may be made during the coaches' meeting so long as they are listed on the entry form. No refunds for team entries will be given.
- b. The **original entry form and all required documentation must be received BY OCTOBER 14** and sent to the vice chair. **Payment** can be made either by checks made out to National Youth Contest for \$600.00 per team or on the website. Entries will be accepted until 11:59 pm on October 14. Late registration at \$1000/team will be accepted up to one week (October 21, 11:59 p.m.)
- c. Send all required information and entry questions to:
Bonnie Boyden, Program Management Specialist, 4-H
9501 Crain Highway, Bel Alton, MD 20611
bboyden@umd.edu
Office 301 934-5404 or cell 301 653-1285

3. **New for 2026 extra meal tickets can only be purchased on the website by October 14th. There is a limit of 5 extra tickets per team. Ticket cost is \$30.00 per ticket.** Each team will receive 5 tickets for the awards breakfast with the team's registration.

4. **Coaches' Committee Sign-Up Form** – required to be signed and returned with registration form. This form is used to assign coaches to livestock committees according to their preferences. All coaches are expected to help conduct the contest.

5. **Coaches' Code of Ethics Form** – required to be signed and returned with registration form.

6. **Kentucky Code of Conduct and State Verification Forms** – required to be signed and returned with registration form.

7. **Hotel Reservation**

- a. A block of rooms is reserved at the Crown Plaza Airport Hotel for the National Contest. Please reach out to the hotel for reservations.

[National Livestock Judging Contest 2026 - Start your reservation](#)

Your assistance in ensuring that these forms and information are promptly forwarded to the coach of your state's livestock judging team is greatly appreciated!
