Eligibility
Youth are invited to enter as an individual or team. Teams consist of at least three members. A team may also enter an alternate. When the alternate judges, the three members with the highest total score will make up the team total. All competitive contestants are eligible for individual awards. Youth can register in the following categories:

- South Carolina 4-H – open to only 4-H members in good standing in South Carolina
- South Carolina FFA – open to only FFA members in good standing in South Carolina

Participants may judge in both 4-H and FFA divisions, assuming they are members in good standing with both organizations and have consulted with their advisor and 4-H agent. Participants will need to register for both contests.

4-H Registration
A complete online entry form must be submitted by April 1, 2020. Visit the website below to register for the contest:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-sc-4-h-ffa-livestock-judging-contest-tickets-96928779589

FFA Registration
Visit https://www.clemson.edu/extension/scaged/scffa/career-development-events/livestock-evaluation.html for event registration and additional information.

Out of State Participants
We invite other youth participants from out of state to attend this contest and use it as a workout. There are no awards given but we are happy to score and provide that feedback to coaches. Use the 4-H link above to register.

Changes This Year
To better align the 4-H and FFA contests a general knowledge test, group exercise and potentially 2 keep/cull classes will be added to the 4-H contest this year. This year’s questions will be based on livestock judging information that would be taught as part of training a livestock judging team. Examples would include interpreting performance information, terminology and labeling of beef, meat goat, sheep and swine. Questions will be age appropriate for the outlined ages. To facilitate this transition these components will be scored but the scores will not count toward individual and team awards. Assuming these components are a positive educational experience for our participants these scores will count beginning with the 2021 contest.
Schedule

- 10:00 AM Registration/Check-In
- 10:45-11:00 Contest Overview
- 11:00-12:00 Knowledge Test and Group Activity
- 12:00 Lunch (Provided)
- 12:30-1:00 2 Classes of Keep/Cull
- 1:00-2:30 6 Judging Classes
- 2:30-2:45 Reasons Preparation
- 2:45-until Reasons
- At completion of reasons official placings & class critiques will be given
- Awards given at conclusion of official critique

Resources to Prepare for the 4-H Contest

The following resources (available to 4-H agents in the Livestock Judging Box Folder) will be used to develop questions for this year’s contest.

- SDSU Livestock Judging Manual
- UF Livestock judging Manual
  - https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/4H/4H10100.pdf
- MU Livestock Judging PowerPoint
- UK Judging Performance Classes
- Livestock Contest Scantron (to be used by contestants during the contest. These will be provided for participants the following link is to allow coaches to familiarize their youth)

All categories are divided into age divisions. The age divisions are based on the youth’s age as of January 1 of the current year:

- Novice/Non-Competitive - open to any youth attending who elect to participate
- Cloverbud – youth ages 5-8
- Junior – youth ages 9-13
- Senior- youth ages 14-18

For teams with contestants that fall within multiple age categories the team “age” is determined by the oldest member of the team.

To be eligible for competition, youth shall not have participated in any post-secondary (university, college, junior college or technical school) competitive livestock judging event. A competitive event is defined here as an event open to more than one educational institution (or it’s students) in which scores are kept and awards are offered to any or all participants. Youth shall not have participated in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.
Violation of any of these eligibility rules shall disqualify all members of the entered team as contestants in this or future Clemson University, Clemson Extension, and/or South Carolina 4-H Livestock Judging Contests. Further, the coach will be barred from participation in the current, as well as, the following year’s contest.

Contest Rules and General Procedures
1. All contestants and coaches will check in to the contest office on the day of contest by 10:30 am, where they will check names, addresses, and age of the contestants.
2. All contestants and coaches must attend the contest orientation held at 10:45 pm. At that time, the contest will be explained, and contest instruction will be given.
3. Contest will be held in a covered area but heating and air conditioning may not be available. Contestants should dress accordingly.
4. All electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, calculators, etc.) are prohibited. Please advise all contestants to remove these devices prior to the start of the contest. If a contestant’s device should make any noise, or if they are discovered using such electronic devices during the contest, the contestant and their team may be disqualified.
5. Contestants will be divided into groups for the contest and will remain with their assigned group throughout the contest and the delivery of oral reasons. While the contest is in progress, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by the Superintendent or his/her representative. Lunch will be available. Coaches and parents should not approach contestants while the contest is being conducted. If information needs to be relayed from a parent or coach to a contestant during the contest, the parent or coach should contact the Superintendent or his/her representative to relay the information. Offending contestants may be disqualified.
6. The Contest will be comprised of the following:
   a. Cloverbud – youth ages 5-8
      • General Knowledge Test
      • Group Exercise
      • Four classes- At least one breeding class will have performance data and a scenario included.
      • One reason class will be offered but not required
   b. Junior – youth ages 9-13
      • General Knowledge Test
      • Group Exercise
      • 2 Keep/Cull Classes. Dependent upon animal availability. Keep/Cull classes can also be done on paper...meaning you select your animals based on performance data and a scenario with no actual animals
      • Six classes- At least one breeding class will have performance data and a scenario included.
      • Two of the eight classes will be reason classes
   c. Senior - youth ages 14-18
      • General Knowledge Test
      • Group Exercise
• 2 Keep/Cull Classes. Dependent upon animal availability. Keep/Cull classes can also be done on paper...meaning you select your animals based on performance data and a scenario with no actual animals
• Six classes- At least one breeding class will have performance data and a scenario included.
• Two of the eight classes will be reason classes

7. All placing classes will be comprised of four animals, and the animals will be designated with numbers 1-2-3-4.
8. Contestants will be allowed to bring a blank notebook, clipboard, or other note taking materials into the contest. Notes taken may be used while preparing for oral reasons. Contestants are not encouraged to use notes while giving oral reasons. Officials are instructed to impose a standard deduction on participants using notes while giving reasons.
9. Two minutes will be allowed to give oral reasons on each class.
10. Contestants will be allowed twelve (12) minutes to place each non-reason class.
11. Contestants will be allowed fifteen (15) minutes on each reasons class, to make their observations, take notes, and fill-out their placing card.
12. Time may be called earlier if all contestants have submitted cards and no one requests full time.
13. Once time has been called and judging on a class has been completed, contestants must immediately turn in their cards to their Group Leader. Any contestant failing to turn in their card either by the time the Ring Clerk picks up the Group’s cards from the Group Leader or the group has rotated to the next class shall receive a zero as a placing score for the class.
14. Breeding cattle and steers will NOT be handled. All judging of cattle classes will be done from a distance of 10-30 feet. Close inspection may or may not be allowed. This will be determined after selection of the classes.
15. Handling of sheep and goats may or may not be allowed. If handling is allowed, contestants will stand in line and will be allowed 15 seconds to handle each animal individually. Lambs and goats will not be re-handled at any time.
16. All rules and regulations are to be interpreted/enforced by the contest Superintendent and his/her assistants. Any situation requiring attention will be addressed by common sense and with the motive of improving the educational opportunities/outcomes for contest participants.

Superintendent
1. It shall be the duty of the superintendent to see that all rules and regulations of the contest are followed. He/she shall determine the answers to all questions, which may arise in connection with the interpretation of the rules governing the contest.
2. The Superintendent may designate assistant superintendents and others to assist with contest management.
3. The Superintendent shall take charge of all records and shall have all scores tabulated and totaled.
Clerks and Assistants
The clerks, assistants and attendants shall be under the direction of the Superintendent. They shall carry out all assignments in a professional and orderly manner.

Scoring and Awards
1. Fifty (50) points shall constitute a perfect mark for placing classes and 50 points constitute a perfect make on oral reasons.
2. Awards will be presented at the conclusion of the contest once tabulations are complete.
3. In the event of software/computer failure or other circumstances beyond the control of Contest Officials scores and placings will be tabulated in alternative manners and with the consent of coaches, awards will be mailed at a later date.
4. The following awards will be given:
   • Cloverbud members will be recognized with ribbons.
The following awards will be given for 4-H Junior and Senior age divisions
   • 1st-10th Place Individual Reasons- Ribbons
   • 1st-5th Place Team Reasons- Ribbons
   • 1st-10th Place Top Overall Individual- Ribbons
   • 1st-5th Place Top Overall Team- Ribbons
5. Tiebreakers:
   • If tied for species awards, a contestant or team having the highest total reasons score on the species shall be listed first.
   • If tied for overall individual or team award, the contestant or team having the highest total reasons score shall be listed first.
     o If still tied, the team or individual with the highest placing in reasons classes will be first.
     o If still tied, the team or individual with the highest single reason score will be first.
     o If still tied, the youngest contestant or team of youngest member shall be first.