

## Idaho's 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026 at 9 a.m.  
Eastern Idaho State Fair, Blackfoot, Idaho  
Yellow Show Barn and Beef Show Arena

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

#### Entry

- Each county in Idaho is invited to enter **ONLY one** Senior division team, **ONLY one** Junior division team and **ONLY one** C division team.
- Teams consist of three or four members. In teams in which there are four members, all will compete, but the member receiving the lowest overall score will be automatically declared the alternate. The scores of the alternate will not be included in any of the team totals but will be considered in making all individual awards. Teams consisting of three members will not have an alternate and all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards.
- The cost to enter the contest is \$50 per team and includes a T-shirt for the team members. Money for the teams must accompany the registration in order to be qualified to attend. **LUNCH WILL NOT BE PROVIDED.**
- Entries are due by Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026 (if your county has the qualifying contest after the entry deadline, your intent to participate and the number of teams you are entering must be made by the deadline).
- Entries after that date will NOT be accepted. **No late entries.**
- An Extension Educator from the participants' county must approve the registration in order to validate the registration of the teams. Registration will be online this year.
- Coaches will be given the opportunity to review their team entry prior to the contest.
- Changes to teams will not be allowed on the day of the contest.

#### Eligibility:

- Contestants must be currently enrolled 4-H members through [ZSuite](#) and approved by the county's University of Idaho Extension office.
- Counties must have a qualifying contest in order to be eligible to be considered for awards.
- Contestants must be on a team in order to participate.

#### Divisions

##### Senior

- Members must be at least 14 as of Jan. 1 of the current year (age requirement follows National rules).
- This division will also include teams of mixed ages.
- A Mixed-age team is a team consisting of members whose ages are from BOTH the Senior Division and Junior Division. Mixed teams will compete in the Senior Division.
- Mixed teams are not eligible for the national competition.
- Must complete all reasons classes.

##### Junior

- Members are 13 and younger as of Jan. 1 of the current year.

## C Team

- **Must be a mixed aged team, consisting of both junior and senior age 4-H youth or junior age youth only. A “C” team cannot consist of all senior aged youth.**
- Completes only one reasons class.
- Must declare species when registering for the contest.

### Contest:

- Classes will be judged in a designated area and include 1-3 classes each of beef, sheep, swine and meat goats. Potential classes will be listed on the 4-H website.
- One set of oral reasons on beef, sheep and swine will be required.
- At least one class will have a scenario with data. Examples of scenarios will be listed on the 4-H website.
- A questions class may be added on any species. Examples of questions will be listed on the 4-H website.
- Due to the difficulty of the national contest, this contest is given to prepare teams to compete at the national level.
- Teams wishing to participate without any intention of going to a national contest, may enter as a C-division team and complete only one reasons class in the species of their choice.
- The choice of reasons class for each C team member must be made when entering the contest.

### Awards:

- The top Senior division winning team at the State Contest (team members cannot be changed after the contest) will qualify to attend the Western National 4-H Roundup Livestock Judging Contest to be held in January of 2027 (age requirement follows National rules).
- The qualifying team for the contest is awarded \$500 from **Idaho Central Credit Union**.
- 4-H will provide travel scholarship funds for the qualifying team.
- If the winning team chooses not to go to the contest, the money is forfeited. An alternate team (the next highest placing team) will be chosen if the first-place team is not willing or able to attend the Western National 4-H Roundup contest.
- **C-A-L Ranch Stores of Southeastern Idaho** will award banners to the persons placing highest in each of the three contest divisions.
- **Eastern Idaho State Fair** will give an award to the four members of the first-place teams in the three contest divisions.
- **Idaho Central Credit Union**, Pocatello, Idaho will sponsor the award for the High Individual Judge.
- Award presented to high team in each division and rosettes to top 3 teams in each division.
- Award presented to top three high reasons individuals overall in each contest division.
- Award presented to the high individual overall in each contest division and rosettes to the top 5 individuals.

If you have any questions regarding this contest, please contact Scott Nash at 208-317-4375.

<https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/events/state>