

## Kansas 4-H Livestock Judging All-Star Team Selection Process

The purpose of the Kansas 4-H Livestock Judging All-Star Team is to recognize and identify individuals in the state who possess a strong ability in the field of livestock evaluation to represent the state of Kansas at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky. It is intended that the All-Star team serves as a prestigious culmination of a 4-H member's livestock judging experience, therefore, the team is selected via a thorough selection process, which is detailed below.

### Eligibility

- A 4-H member must be at least 14 years of age or older and not older than 19 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year to be eligible for the All-Star team
- Must not have previously judged in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest (if an individual is selected to the All-Star team, but does not get to judge in the National Contest, they are eligible to try out for the team again)
- Must not have participated in any post-secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive livestock judging contest at any level
- Must not have completed or be currently enrolled in a post-secondary course primarily in visual livestock judging/evaluation

### Selection Procedures

- The top 15 individuals (meeting the above eligibility requirements) from the Kansas State 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes contest are invited to participate in the selection process
- Invitees will have the option to participate in each of the following events through a partnership with KS 4-H, the KSU Department of Animal Sciences and Industry and the KSU Livestock Judging Team. Points from all events indicated as **required** will be tracked in a spreadsheet confidential to the KSU Livestock Judging Team (LJT) Coaches and State 4-H Staff until completion of the selection process. If an event is not indicated as required, points will not be tracked; however, it is strongly encouraged that individuals participate in as many of the activities as possible.
- Livestock judging events open those invited to the selection process:
  - o *Kansas State Fair Open Show Weekend Workout* (**REQUIRED**)
    - Classes of beef cattle, swine, sheep, and goats (number TBD based on availability) and oral reasons (scored by KSU LJT coaches/team members and/or outside officials, pending availability)
  - o *Other workouts held in conjunction with the KSU LJT practice schedule*
    - Participants are invited to attend any weekend practices alongside the KSU LJT that come after the KSF Open Show Workout and before the Flint Hills Classic as their schedule permits. These are **NOT required** as part of the selection process. All-Star team coaches will communicate practice opportunities with participants as plans are solidified.

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- *Flint Hills Classic Livestock Judging Contest (Hutchinson, KS; **REQUIRED**)*
  - Formal livestock judging contest hosted in conjunction with KS Livestock Association (12 classes of beef cattle, swine, sheep, and goats with 4 sets of oral reasons)
- Following the conclusion of the Flint Hills Classic Contest, points from all **required** events will be tabulated, with the top 6 individuals overall (placings and reasons scores) being named to the state 4-H All-Star Team (final points will be shared with all participants).
  - A student may decline the invitation for various reasons, if desired, in which case the next highest individual will be moved up
  - A brief meeting with All-Star Team coaches, State 4-H Staff and parents/guardians/county coaches will be mandatory immediately following the announcement of the All-Star Team

#### All-Star Team Participation Guidelines

- The 6 selected individuals will be coached by a graduate student in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry in preparation for the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, KY
  - Practices will be scheduled in advance by the KSU LJT and All-Star Team coaches
    - It is expected that All-Star Team members attend as many practices as possible, however, if travel distance, schedules, etc., limit a team member from attending, alternate practice options will be provided
  - The trip to the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest will be **REQUIRED** by all 6 team members (dates will be communicated shortly after team selection)
    - During this trip, all points (placings and reasons) from practices will be tracked
    - Final selection of the team representing Kansas in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest (4 members total) will occur the evening prior to the contest
    - The remaining two team members will be listed as alternates and will be eligible to try out for the All-Star Team again in future years