

California State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest Rules and Regulations

I. Purpose of Activity: To provide youth with an experiential learning opportunity that focuses on decision making, critical thinking, communication and teamwork life skills as well as building mastery in the area of Dairy science and its related career fields. This is an educational experience that will prepare and provide an opportunity to evaluate youth's mastery in accordance with national 4-H program guidelines for future participation at a national educational event.

The Dairy Judging Contest at the state level would be held in conjunction with an official state FFA judging contest as a way to reduce costs. It will be under the jurisdiction of the State 4-H Animal Science Advisory Committee to conduct each year as it does the State Livestock Judging Contest.

The knowledge gained by holding a contest that follows national standards would provide educational benefits to all the youth who participate in California at this state contest.

Youth will have an opportunity to increase their understanding in the evaluation of the different aspects of the dairy industry including but not limited to cattle selection, husbandry and production of quality dairy products. This will require them to develop critical thinking skills as well as employ high-quality decision making skills while working as a coherent team.

II. General Rules

- A. Each county is invited to enter one or more 4-H dairy judging teams of three members. A team may also enter one alternative per team. When the alternative judges, the three members with the three high scores will make up the team total score and be determined as the official team for placing. The county team/s members shall be selected in a manner determined by the county 4H Youth Development Program Staff.
- B. Each 4-H dairy team must be accompanied by a 4-H team coach that is certified as a 4-H adult volunteer. (4-H team coach/adult volunteers must be 21 years old or older.)
- C. Each contestant must have passed his or her 14th birthday and not have passed his other 19th birthday on January 1st and be enrolled in 4-H and the 4-H dairy project as a 4-H member by January 1st of the calendar year in which the State and National contests are held.
- D. Contestants in state 4H competition must not have participated in official post secondary (university, college, junior college) competitive events of a similar nature and in the same subject matter area. (For example, a contestant who has

competed in an official collegiate dairy judging contest is ineligible to compete at the state level.)

- E. An entry fee will be set each year for each team and for individual entrants which must be forwarded with the entry form for the state contest. The money received from this fee is used in defraying the expenses of the contest.
- F. Information regarding rule sheets, meeting date, times and place will be forwarded to 4-H counties by the State Animal Science Advisory Committee which will over see and coordinate the state contest.
- G. Violation of the above rules will result in forfeiture of any awards or recognition which have been won in the State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest. Rule infractions will be handled on a case by case basis by the State Animal Science Advisory Committee in consultation with the State 4-H Program Director.
- H. The site of the official State 4-H Dairy Judging contest, the content of the general rules for each year's contest and make up of the contest will be determined each year by the State 4-H Animal Science Advisory Committee.
- I. As with all 4-H events and programs the California 4-H Code of Conduct must be adhered to at all times by contestants, coaches and volunteers. Adults must also agree to abide by the adult volunteer code of conduct.
- J. No 4-H member is to leave the grounds of the contest without the permission of their coach and/or volunteer-chaperone.
- K. Any 4-H members who have been found to have violated any of the above rules will be subject to immediate suspension from the contest and forfeit awards.

III. Judging Contest Rules – These may vary from year to year depending on the site of the contest, the organization or individual in charge of planning the overall event and the State 4-H Animal Science Advisory Committee.

A. General Rules

1. Each 4-H member entering the contest must be a current 4-H member in good standing as determined by the State 4-H Animal Science Advisory Committee or its designee.
2. No 4-H member or 4-H coach will be allowed to practice judging or familiarize themselves with animals that are to be used in the statewide contest.
3. All coaches and visitors must remain away from the contest area until the contest is completed.
4. No notes may be used while giving oral reasons although notes may be taken while judging, provided only a blank notebook or paper is used.

5. Any contestant who confers with other individuals without authorization while the contest is in progress may be immediately barred from the contest by the contest chairperson.
6. A set amount of time will be allowed contestants on reason classes, to take notes and fill out placing cards.
7. A set amount of time will be allowed to give oral reasons to the judges, use of notes will not be allowed unless special needs are identified and approved by the contest chairperson.
8. The number of classes of animals judged as well as the number of reason classes will be determined by the event organizers.
9. Animals will be designated by numbers 1-2-3-4 numbered left to right.
10. Contestants may only use clip board and/or a note book pad. No additional judging information will be permitted.
11. Any protests concerning the outcome of the judging contest must be submitted in writing within 24 hours after results are given out. After this time, the results will be considered final.

IV. State 4-H Dairy Judging Chairperson

- A. It shall be the duty of the State 4-H Animal Science Advisory Committee in cooperation with the State 4-H Program staff to appoint the Chairperson each year for the State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest.
- B. It shall be the duty of the State 4-H Dairy Judging Chairperson to see that all rules and regulations of the contest are carried out. He or she shall decide all questions which may arise in connection with the interpretation of the rules governing the contest. The chairperson shall also serve as liaison with the organization that is hosting the contest and the State 4-H Animal Science Advisory Committee and the State 4-H Office staff.
- C. The Chairperson can recruit and engage assistant judging contest superintendents and/or helpers to assist him or her. State 4-H Policy regarding adult involvement with 4-H activities must be followed at all time.
- D. The state 4-H Dairy Judging Chairperson will not take part in tabulation of the contestants.
- E. The Chairperson shall have charge of all records and shall have responsibility to see all scores are tabulated and totaled.
- F. Clerks and assistants involved directly with the 4-H Dairy judging contest shall be under the direction of the Chair of the event.

V. Determination of Rankings

- A. Fifty points shall constitute a perfect mark on placing and fifty points a perfect mark on reasons.
- B. Ties
 1. If tied for a category or breed award, contestant or team having highest reason score on the breed or category shall be listed first.
 2. If tied for individual or team overall award, contestant or team having

- highest total reason score shall be listed first.
3. If still tied from either of the above, contestant or team having highest score in placing shall be listed first.
 4. If contestants are still tied from a, b or c above, the youngest contestant shall be listed first.
 5. If tied for individual total reasons award, the youngest contestant shall be listed first.
- C. Records will be tabulated and submitted to the State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest Chairperson to be awarded at the award ceremony held in conjunction with the sponsoring organization's award ceremony.
- D. Team alternates are eligible for individual awards.

VI. AWARDS SYSTEM

- A. The State 4-H Incentive Program will award gold, silver, and bronze medallions respectively to the first, second, and third high point individuals/teams in the contest.
- B. Ribbons will be given to first, second, third, fourth and fifth place teams and individuals in each category.
- C. The top placing county team in the State 4-H Dairy Judging contest shall be eligible to represent the State of California in the official National 4-H Dairy Judging competition at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. If the top placing county dairy team does not desire or is ineligible to participate in the official National 4-H Judging Contest, then the succeeding high scoring county teams shall be eligible in order to represent California at the National Dairy Judging Contest.
- D. After the highest placing team is identified to represent California at the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest the remaining teams in succeeding order of scores will be identified to represent California in other national 4-H dairy judging contests that have limitations of one 4-H team per state.
- E. The 4-H State Champion Dairy Judging Team members cannot compete in any future state final 4-H dairy judging competition.
- F. Contestants who have judged as an alternate at the National 4H Dairy Judging Contest are considered as being part of the official State team and are ineligible to compete a second time at the National level.
- G. The state designated dairy judging teams will be required to acquire sponsorship assistance to attend the national events, until such time State support is developed through the State 4-H Foundation (State 4-H

Incentives and Recognition).

VII. JUDGES

- A.** A committee of judges shall select and place all classes and hear and score all reasons. The judges shall decide which classes require reasons. If the number of teams entered indicates that additional judges are necessary to expedite and make more efficient the hearing and scoring of reasons, the contest chairperson shall appoint such judges.
- B.** The judges shall place the classes and enter their placings on placing cards, indicate the cuts to be made and file that card with the contest chairperson.
- C.** Contestants may be handed their placing card as they appear before each judging committee to give their reasons. When the contestant has finished, the judge will place the official reason grade upon the placing card and submit for tabulation/scoring.