


4-H WOOL JUDGING CONTEST GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION 2021 TEXAS 4-H ROUNDUP

Revised August 6, 2020

OBJECTIVE

The Wool Contest tests a 4-H members knowledge and ability to determine the grade, rank, and categorize wool. The contest provides an opportunity for youth to compete and develop skills that can be used on a sheep ranching operation, within the wool industry, or agricultural teaching field.

TEAM AND CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY

1.  The wool judging contest is a senior only (high school age 4-H members as of 9/1/2020) Invitational contest. Only 2 (two) teams per county will be eligible to compete. There is not a District Qualifier requirement, however, we encourage areas with heavy participation in Wool Judging consider offering contest opportunities.
2. Teams consist of three or four members. In teams in which there are four members, all will compete, but the member receiving the lowest score will be declared the alternate.
3. In the event of a team/individual tie, the tie breaker will be the team/individual with the highest rail score. If the rail score doesn't break the tie, then it moves to overall reasons, then placings, and finally reasons score from hardest to easiest placing class.

CONTEST METHOD OF CONDUCT

1. The contest will be divided into two areas: fleece evaluation of grading rail and wool class placing and reasons.
2. The contest will be conducted using a scantron or evaluation sheet.
3. While completing the competition, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by contest officials.
4. Contestants may use an unmarked clipboard and blank scantron or evaluation sheet. Contestants may bring no books, notes, measuring devices or other reference material into the contest area. Contest officials reserve the right to check contestant's clipboard and scantron to make sure they are blank. Violators are subject to contest dismissal.
5. Contestants should handle the fleeces with care and respect for fellow contestants. Fleeces should not be rough handled in any manner. Wool locks should be pulled with care and only the minimum amount needed to complete reasons. Contestants will be warned for inappropriate wool handling and contestants can lose their privilege to handle fleeces or take samples.

FLEECE EVALUATION OF GRADING RAIL

1. The contest will consist of a 30-fleece rail for a total score of 300 points. The rail will be divided into two 15-fleece wool rails. Contestants will have 30 minutes for each 15-fleece wool rail.
2. The grading rail consists of three wool quality characteristics: wool quality, staple length, and clean fleece yield.
3. Contestants must determine the quality grade of each fleece. Each row in Table 1 contains a wool quality grade and this is defined by three different systems (blood grade, spin count, and fiber diameter). For this contest, grades are categories by the blood grade system. Contestants will receive 4 points for full credit for each correct wool blood grade selected. If contestants select a blood grade that is one grade above or below the correct grade, they will receive 2 points.
4. Contestants must determine the staple length category that each fleece would be classified into. Within each wool quality grade, there are length specifications that determine the fleece staple length classification. Contestants will receive 2 points for each staple length category correctly answered. No points will be awarded for incorrect answers.

TABLE 1: WOOL QUALITY GRADE AND LENGTH STANDARDS

Wool Quality Grades			Staple Lengths		
Blood Grade	Spin Count	Fiber Diameter (Microns)	Staple	French Combing	Clothing
Fine	64s, 70s, 80s	≤ 22.04	>3.00"	3.00"-2.00"	<2.00"
Half	60s and 62s	22.05-24.94	>3.25"	3.25"-2.25"	<2.25"
3/8	56s and 58s	24.95-27.84	>3.50"		<3.50"
1/4	54s and 50s	27.85-30.99	>4.00"		<4.00"
Low 1/4	48s and lower	≥ 31.00	>4.00"		<4.00"

4. Contestants will estimate the percent clean fibers based on raw fleece weight. If a contestant is within 4 points above or 4 points below the official percentage yield, they will receive full credit of 4 points. If the constant is within 8 points above or 8 points below the percentage yield, they receive partial credit of 2 points. Table 2 defines the average and normal range of clean fleece yields based on the different blood grade categories.

TABLE 2: AVERAGE AND NORMAL RANGE OF CLEAN FLEECE YIELDS

Clean Fleece Yield	Wool Quality Grades (Blood System)				
	Fine	Half	3/8	1/4	Low ¼
Average (%)	50	55	60	65	65
Normal Range (%)	40-60	45-65	50-70	55-75	55-75

PLACING CLASSES AND REASONS

1. Contestants will place four fleeces within a class based on the amount of clean fibers present. Each placing class is worth 50 points.
2. There will be four classes.
3. Contestants will have 15 minutes per class.

AWARDS

Individual and team awards will be given.

Top 5 teams overall

Top 10 individuals overall

Top 5 teams in Wool Rail

Top 10 individuals in Wool Rail

Top 5 teams in Class Placing

Top 10 individuals in Class Placing

The top 3 overall teams and individuals will be recognized during the Wednesday Evening Assembly.

NATIONAL WOOL CONTEST

1. A maximum of two teams may enter from each state with selection of teams to be made by each 4-H/FFA office. Entries must be submitted listing team member's ages, birthdays, county, state, and coach to the contest coordinator.
2. Contestants must be eligible to compete as senior 4-H members in their respective state contest the year of this contest. Students must not be enrolled in college prior to their local state contest.
3. All team members will be ineligible for future participation in the national contest.