



Texas 4-H Livestock Judging Project

Project Description

Livestock judging is the evaluation of an animal's physical traits. The ultimate goal is to compare and contrast the four animals in a given class against one another, and then compare them to what is considered the "ideal" animal.

The livestock judging project allows personal growth and development as it requires a student to think critically. It can teach youth valuable time management skills, responsibility, and how to be competitive while demonstrating honesty, integrity, and respect. This project also provides opportunities for learning about animal selection and obtaining general knowledge about the livestock industry, as well as interacting with current industry leaders, which may prove beneficial throughout one's 4-H career and into adulthood.

Basic

- Learn about the anatomy of cattle, swine, sheep, and goats
- Identify desirable physical traits of market and breeding livestock
- Learn how to compare the animals in a class and place them based off of their desirable traits

Intermediate

- Learn about expected progeny difference data and how to interpret that data
- Learn the basics of oral reasons
- Learn more about animal composition and structural make up of an animal

Advanced

- Learn to effectively communicate oral reasons to defend your placings
- Identify balance and design of phenotypical aspects of livestock
- Utilize EPD data to project breeding animal productivity

TAKE LIVESTOCK JUDGING FURTHER

Project Learning Opportunities:

- Attend local and county livestock judging practices and project meetings.
- Take advantage of various livestock judging contest clinics and learning opportunities, including those held by your 4-H district.
- Livestock Judging Contests at major or local livestock shows
- Texas 4-H Roundup Livestock Judging Contest
- Practice judging classes by utilizing online livestock judging classes.
- Tour local livestock breeding operations.
- Attend livestock judging camps hosted by collegiate teams during the summer.

Resources:

<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Explore-Book-Livestock-Judging.pdf>

https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/roundup_livestock_judging_faq.pdf

<https://texasyouthlivestock.com/resources/>

<https://www.livestockjudging.com/>

Judge2Win.com

Did you know?

4-H is a club for kids and teens to develop life skills and make friends. Youth can join 4-H in all 254 counties. Everybody ages 8-18 and in 3rd-12th grades can join 4-H. Kids in Kindergarten to 2nd grades can join as Clover Kids. There are 43 different project areas in five project categories: Agriculture & Livestock, Family & Community Health, Leadership & Citizenship, Natural Resources, and STEM.

Want to get started?

First...Contact your County Extension Agent!

- Contact information can be found at texas4-h.tamu.edu > contacts information at the bottom of the page > county offices

Explore more at texas4-h.tamu.edu