2022 TEXAS 4-H ROUNDUP
WOOL & MOHAIR JUDGING CONTEST

Beginning with the 2022 Texas 4-H Roundup, the Texas 4-H Wool Judging and Texas 4-H Mohair Judging Contests will be combined into one contest opportunity. Texas 4-H members will be able to earn awards as high point in wool, mohair and a combined overall of both contests. Contestants may participate in all components of the contest or select only wool or mohair.

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

TEAM AND CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY
1. The Texas 4-H Wool & Mohair Judging contest is a senior only (high school age 4-H members as of 9/1/2022) Invitational contest. There is not a limit on the number of teams a county may enter, however the participants must be enrolled in 4-H by **NO LATER THAN March 1, 2022** to be eligible.
2. There is not a District Qualifier requirement, however, we encourage areas with heavy participation in Wool & Mohair Judging to consider offering contest opportunities.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The top four teams in the wool judging contest will be eligible for the National Contest.

There will be two components of the Texas 4-H Wool & Mohair Judging Contest.

4-H WOOL JUDGING COMPONENT

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 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.

WOOL GRADING RAIL

1. The contest grading rail 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 15 minutes for each 15-fleece wool rail. Contestants may be timed and rotated through the 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. Cards with sample locks will be used on the rail for contestants to determine staple length. If a break in the fiber is encountered, the longest part will be used to determine staple length.
5. 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"

6. 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

	Wool Quality Grades (Blood System)				
Clean Fleece Yield	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

VALUE DETERMINATION RAIL

Contestants will determine the actual monetary value of 10 fleeces on the rail. The fleeces will be identified to the contestants prior to evaluating the grading rail and contestants will record their evaluations on a separate paper for use in determining an actual monetary value of each fleece. Contestants will be provided fleece weights and necessary economic values needed to make their calculations. Time will be provided for contestants to complete their evaluations. This contest will be scored separately from the wool contest and have its own awards.

PLACING CLASSES AND REASONS

1. There will be a minimum and four (4) and a maximum of six (6) classes. Classes will consist of both commercial and breed type classes. Contestants will place four commercial fleeces within a class based on the important economic parameters of wool production. Pounds of clean wool produced, fineness, staple length uniformity of length and grade and character should be evaluated for placing commercial fleeces. Contestants will place four breeding fleeces within a class based on the genetic merit of each fleece. Pounds of clean wool, character, staple length, and fineness are all highly heritable traits that will be considered when placing the class. Possible breed fleeces include Rambouillet, Merino, Targhee, and Columbia. Each placing class is worth 50 points.
2. Staple cards may be used in classes to determine fiber length and uniformity.
3. Fleeces that don't make staple for the grade should be penalized and placed accordingly.
4. Contestants will have 15 minutes per class to complete the evaluation.

4-H MOHAIR JUDGING COMPONENT

CONTEST METHOD OF CONDUCT
1. The contest will be divided into two areas: fleece evaluation of grading rail and mohair placing and reason classes.
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. Mohair locks should be pulled with care and only the minimum amount needed to complete reasons. Contestants will be warned for inappropriate mohair 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-mohair sample rail for a total score of 300 points. The rail will be divided into two 15-mohair sample rails. Contestants will have 15 minutes for each 15-mohair sample rail. Contestants may be timed and rotated through the rail.
2. The grading rail consists of six quality grades that are worth 10 points each. If the contestants are one box off from the official grade than the contestant is awarded 5 points; **except for kempy, which is an all or nothing grade.**
3. Contestants must determine the quality grade of each sample. Each row in Table 1 contains a mohair quality grade. For this contest, grades are categories by super kid, kid, yearling, fine adult, adult, and kempy. It is important that contestants do not remove a sample from the box that it is in.

PLACING CLASSES AND REASONS

1. Contestants will place four fleeces within a class based weighting the following characteristics: Finess and Uniformity (40%), Length (20%), Character (10%), Purity (10%), Condition and Yield (10%), Softness (5%), and Luster (5%). More detailed information is available within the Wool and Mohair Judging Manual (AS3-4.058). http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Judging-Wool-and-Mohair.pdf
2. Each placing class is worth 50 points.
3. There will be four classes.
4. Contestants will have 15 minutes per class.

NATIONAL WOOL CONTEST

1. The National wool contest will follow the same guidelines as the state contest with the same classes and rail format.

2. ***NEW for 2022*** A maximum of **four 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.

3. 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.

4. All team members on the National winning team will be ineligible for future participation in both state and the national contest. Teams placing 2nd and lower can continue to participate in both state and national contests.

AWARDS

Individual and team awards will be announced after the contest. The top 3 overall combined Wool & Mohair teams and individuals will be recognized during the Wednesday Evening Assembly.

Awards will also be given for High Points in Wool and Mohair components individually.

Wool & Mohair Combined

Top 10 Teams - Overall   Top 10 Individuals - Overall
Top 10 Teams – Combined Rail   Top 10 Individuals – Combined Rail
Top 10 Teams – Combined Placings & Reasons   Top 10 individuals – Combined Placings
                                                                                                   & Reasons

Wool

Top 5 Teams - Overall   Top 5 Individuals - Overall
Top 5 Teams – Wool Rail   Top 5 Individuals - Wool Rail
Top 5 Teams – Wool Placings & Reasons   Top 5 individuals – Wool Placings
                                                                                          & Reasons

Mohair

Top 5 Teams - Overall   Top 5 Individuals - Overall
Top 5 Teams – Mohair Rail   Top 5 Individuals - Mohair Rail
Top 5 Teams – Mohair Placings & Reasons   Top 5 individuals – Mohair Placings
                                                                                              & Reasons