

TEXAS 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

February 4, 2020

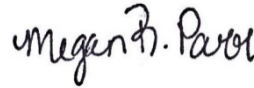
MEMORANDUM

TO: District 8 County Extension Agents

FROM: Donald W. Kelm  
District Extension Administrator



Megan R. Parr  
Extension Program Specialist  
4-H Youth Development



SUBJECT: 2020 DISTRICT 8 4-H TARLETON SPRING JUDGING CONTESTS

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**Events:** Range Evaluation  
Range & Pasture Grass Identification  
Wool Judging & Evaluation  
Mohair Judging & Evaluation  
Entomology Identification  
Ag Product Identification  
Livestock Skillathon

**Event Date:** Friday, April 3, 2020

**Location:** Tarleton State University  
Agricultural Center  
Ag Mechanics Building  
County Road 518  
Stephenville, TX 76401

The GPS coordinates you can use are [32.237415, -98.201903](https://goo.gl/maps/GKnfyxjCZBt).  
<https://goo.gl/maps/GKnfyxjCZBt>

**Entry Deadline:** All entries will be completed on 4-H Connect at <https://texas.4honline.com/>.  
Opens: Monday, March 2, 2020  
Closes: Friday, March 20, 2020

**County Approvals:** County offices need to approve registrations on 4-H Connect by Monday, March 23, 2020.

**Entry Fee:** \$10 per member per event

**Central District 8 | 4-H Youth Development**  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
1229 N US Hwy 281 | Stephenville, Texas 76401  
[megan.parr@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:megan.parr@ag.tamu.edu) | <http://d84-h.tamu.edu>  
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**Late Entries:**

Late entries will be permitted with an additional:

- \$20 late fee per 4-H member up to 60 hours after the regular contest deadline.
- \$50 late fee per 4-H member after 60 hours and up to the time of check-in on-site at an event

**Auxiliary Aids or  
Special  
Accommodations:**

If you have any participants requiring auxiliary aids or special accommodations, please let us know at the time of entry.

## D8 4-H TARLETON SPRING JUDGING CONTESTS

### Schedule

Registration opens at 7:30 am and will be open all day.

Registration will be at the Ag Mechanics Building at the Tarleton Agricultural Center.

Tarleton State University  
 Agricultural Center  
 Ag Mechanics Building  
 County Road 518  
 Stephenville, TX 76401

The GPS coordinates you can use are [32.237415, -98.201903](https://www.google.com/maps/place/32.237415,-98.201903).

<https://goo.gl/maps/GKnfyxjCZBt>

	Check-in by:	Orientation/Contest Starts
Livestock Skillathon	“Come-and-Go Format” See rules for details.	8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Entomology Identification	7:45 am	8:00 am
Mohair Judging & Evaluation	8:45 am	9:00 am
Range & Pasture Grass Identification (Plant ID)	8:45 am	9:00 am
Range Evaluation	9:45 am	10:00 am
Wool Judging & Evaluation	11:15 am	11:30 pm
Awards Ceremony #1	<i>Approximately 1:00 pm or immediately following completion of tabulation for Entomology, Mohair, Wool, Range Evaluation, Livestock Skillathon and Range &amp; Pasture Grass (Plant ID) contests.</i>	
Ag Product Identification	1:45 pm	2:00 pm
Awards Ceremony #2	<i>Approximately 3:30 pm or immediately following completion of tabulation for Ag Product Identification.</i>	

## D8 4-H TARLETON SPRING JUDGING CONTESTS

### *General Rules for all Tarleton-hosted contests*

**1. Rules and Guidelines**

All District contests will be conducted by the rules printed in the District 8 General Rules and Guidelines and in the 2020 Texas 4-H Roundup Guide. If an inconsistency exists, the Texas 4-H Roundup Guide rules will always supersede District policies, rules, and guidelines. All contests listed in the Texas 4-H Roundup Guide will be included in District Contest, provided there are sufficient entries.

**2. Membership**

Participants must be a bona fide 4-H member, currently enrolled in their respective county program.

**3. Age Divisions**

There will be three (3) age divisions (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior) in all contests.

Age divisions are determined by a participant’s grade as of August 31, 2019 as follows:

<b>Age Division</b>	<b>Grades</b>	
Junior	3*, 4, or 5	<i>*Must be at least 8 years old</i>
Intermediate	6, 7, or 8	
Senior	9, 10, 11, or 12*	<i>*Must not be older than 18 years old</i>

Only Senior aged members may advance to the state qualifying competition at Texas 4-H Roundup in the qualifying contests.

**4. Participation/Entries**

4-H members must be certified by the County Extension Agent to participate at any District 4-H event.

**5. Team per county**

There is no limit to the number of teams a county may enter in the district contest.

**6. Members per team**

These are team events; therefore, entrants are encouraged to be part of a team. Each team will have at least three (3) and no more than four (4) members. Individual entries will be allowed, only if there are not enough individuals in the county to make up a team.

*Note:* A County can only have a maximum of 2 individual entries per age division. If there are 3 individuals wanting to judge in the same age division, they must be considered a team entry.

All team members must be from the same county and within the same age division. Exception: Juniors may move up to the Intermediate age division when participating on a team that has true Intermediates (based upon grades listed above) on it. No one may move up to the Senior age division. No individual may move down to a younger age division.

**7. Multiple Entries at Tarleton Spring Judging Contests**

4-H members may participate in multiple events. The schedule is built to allow youth to participate in multiple contests on the same day. Lunch will be on your own, so youth will need to be prepared if planning to compete in contests that are around lunch time.

## **8. Academic Eligibility of Participants**

According to the Texas Education Code, a 4-H member must be deemed “eligible” to compete in an event that takes place on a weekday or weekend. All 4-H youth, including youth in public, private, and/or home school must adhere to the following guidelines regarding extracurricular activities and academic eligibility:

- Complete a “Declaration of Eligibility Form”  
OR
- Name of 4-H member must appear on a list of eligible students to participate in a specific extracurricular activity signed by the school principal or designee.

If a 4-H member is ineligible for a 4-H competitive event, the agent must notify the 4-H member, his/her parents, and the district office, by letter, of this situation. If the parent has any questions, he/she should be referred to the school administrator.

## **9. Entry Fee**

There is a \$10 entry fee per member per contest. All entries must be submitted through 4-H Connect by the entry due date.

## **10. Late Fees**

Late entries will be permitted with an additional \$20 late fee per 4-H member 60 hours after the regular contest deadline. \$50 late fee per member after 60 hours and up to the time of the check-in on-site at the event.

## **11. Awards**

The top three (3) teams and the top five (5) individuals in each age division in each contest will receive awards.

## **12. Auxiliary Aids/Special Accommodations**

If 4-H members that are participating in District 4-H events require auxiliary aids or special accommodations, please notify the District Office at the same time that entry materials are due.

## **13. These are invitational only contests. These contests are invitational at Texas 4-H Roundup:**

- Ag Product ID *open to intermediates*
- Entomology *open to intermediates*
- Livestock Skill-a-thon *open to intermediates*
- Range Evaluation *open to intermediates*
- Range & Pasture Grass Identification *open to intermediates*
- Wool Judging – Only Senior (9th – 12th grades).
- Mohair Judging - Only Senior (9th – 12th grades).

## D8 4-H TARLETON SPRING JUDGING CONTESTS

### *Livestock Skillathon*

#### 1. Objective

The Livestock Skillathon contest tests a 4-H member's knowledge and comprehension of animal science and livestock management practices. The contest provides an opportunity for youth to gain and develop production livestock skills and life skills through a competitive environment.

#### 2. Contest Logistics

- This will be a "come and go" format where there is not a specific time that all contestants will be required to report.
- The contest will be open from 8 am to 12 noon.
- All contestants that are designated as a team must enter the contest at the same time.

#### 3. Contest Format

The contest may include the following components:

- Identification
- Placing classes
- Written Exam/Quality Assurance Quiz
- Hands-on practicum
- Live animal evaluation or handling

#### 4. Contest Subject Matter

Contest subject matter may include, but is not limited to, the following topics:

- Livestock equipment identification – name and use category
- Livestock breed identification – breed name and descriptions
- Retail meat cut identification – beef, lamb, pork; identify specie, primal, and retail cut
- Feed sample identification
- Potential judging classes – hay, wool, meat, livestock
- Quality Assurance Exercises
- General Livestock Industry
- **NEW!** Team Exercise 10. For senior complete teams only. This area will not affect individual scores. Team members are allowed to collaborate on team exercises. Possible team exercises include Keep/Cull – EPD Only, Livestock Performance and Marketing, Quality Assurance, and Nutrition and Feeding. (Examples included later in this document)

#### 5. Scan Sheet

One of the following scan sheets will be used.

Universal Form D, Form #705D-1:

<https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/Samples/705D-1-UnivD.pdf>

Meat Skillathon, 480-5b:

[http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/roundup\\_livestock\\_skill\\_a\\_thon\\_guide\\_2020.pdf](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/roundup_livestock_skill_a_thon_guide_2020.pdf)

#### 6. Contest Resources

[http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/roundup\\_livestock\\_skill\\_a\\_thon\\_guide\\_2020.pdf](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/roundup_livestock_skill_a_thon_guide_2020.pdf)

## D8 4-H TARLETON SPRING JUDGING CONTESTS

### *Entomology Identification*

#### 1. Description of contest

This contest provides an opportunity for 4-H members to explore the exciting world of insects and helps them become familiar with common insects in their area. It introduces members to the concept of classification and grouping objects or living organisms according to the physical characteristics they share. The additional bonus is that while learning the name of each insect, 4-H members gain an understanding of its biology and behavior.

#### 2. Contest Format

4-H members will identify selected insects and complete a written examination on insects. Each part is worth 50% of the total score.

##### Identification

Actual insect specimens or photographs will be used in the Identification portion of the contest. The identification portion will require a common name as well as the insect Order.

##### Written Exam

The written exam may include question formats such as true/false, matching or completion questions, short answer, or fill-in-the-blank. Questions will be prepared primarily from “Study Materials for 4-H Entomology Contests.”

Tie-breakers will be designated. If there are still ties, then spelling will be used.

	Written Exam	Identification of Insects
Junior	20 questions	5 insects
Intermediate	30 questions	10 insects
Senior	50 questions	25 insects

#### 3. Contest Study Materials

<https://entomology.tamu.edu/extension/youth/4-h/4h-contest/>

## D8 4-H TARLETON SPRING JUDGING CONTESTS

### *Range & Pasture Grass Identification (Plant ID)*

#### 1. Description of the contest

You will learn to identify all of the 74 native and introduced grasses which are listed on the Master Plant List for 4-H. The grasses in the grass contest are important for their value in making decisions about the Texas forage resources, their health, and help to determine the change that has occurred on our land base in Texas. You will learn how plants grow, grazing impacts on land, grass and plant identification and examination.

#### 2. Number of Grasses to be Identified

- Junior 30 plants from the Master Plant List (Forbes, Legumes, Wood Plants, Grasses)
- Intermediate 40 plants from the Master Plant List
- Senior 40 plants from the Master Plant List

#### 3. Display of the plants

The plants and grasses for the contest will be from the Master Plant List. They may be live or mounted. Individuals will have 60 seconds per plant for identification.

#### 4. Scan Sheet

Plant Identification, Form #707-4 will be used.

<https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/707-4.pdf>

#### 5. Contest Study Resources

The Master Plant list, rules, description of plants and more can be found on the Range Science & Management Project Resources page on the Texas 4-H website at the following link:

<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/range-science/>



## D8 4-H TARLETON SPRING JUDGING CONTESTS

### *Range Evaluation*

#### 1. Description of the contest

This is the next step after you have learned the grass and plant types! The 4-H judging program concentrates on making decisions about the rangeland resource including ecological site health determination, stocking rate, and the use of management tools to benefit the forage, soil, water, and livestock/wildlife resources. You will learn about grazing distribution, season of forage use, kinds and classes of livestock and stocking rate. And then actually calculate a current stocking rate for the given situation. The key to success in this contest relies on your ability to identify plants and have knowledge of their ecological and economic value. The 4-H Range Evaluation Contest is conducted totally outdoors.

#### 2. Contest Components to be Judged

- Part I Youth will identify 20-40 plants from the Master Plant List.
- Part II Youth will evaluate a marked range site.
- Part III Youth will judge 4 marked range plots evaluating plot range health and answering questions.

#### 3. Scan Sheet



Plant Identification, Form #707-4 will be used for Part I (identification of plants from Master Plant List).  
<https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/707-4.pdf>

#### 4. Contest Study Resources

The Master Plant list, rules, description of plants and more can be found on the Range Science & Management Project Resources page on the Texas 4-H website at the following link:  
<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/range-science/>

## **D8 4-H TARLETON SPRING JUDGING CONTESTS**

### *Wool Judging & Evaluation*

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The Wool Contest tests a 4-H member's 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.

#### **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 scan sheet or evaluation sheet that will be provided for contestants on the day of the contest. Wool scan sheet, #528-5 will be used. <https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/528-5-Wool.pdf>
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 scan sheet 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 scan sheet 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.
6. 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.

#### **FLEECE EVALUATION OF GRADING RAIL**

1. The fleece rail may consist of 15-30 fleeces for a total of 150-300 points. The rail may be divided into two rails with approximately 1-2 minutes per fleece.
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''

- 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**

- Contestants will place four fleeces within a class based on the amount of clean fibers present. Each placing class is worth 50 points.
- There will be two to four classes.
- Contestants will have 10-15 minutes per class.

**CONTEST RESOURCES**

- Judging Wool & Mohair  
<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Judging-Wool-and-Mohair.pdf>
- Texas 4-H Wool Judging Contest General Rules & Information **Updated rules coming soon!**  
<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/TX-State-4-H-Wool-Judging-9.1.18.pdf>

## **D8 4-H TARLETON SPRING JUDGING CONTESTS**

### *Mohair Judging & Evaluation*

#### **OBJECTIVE**

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

#### **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 scan sheet or evaluation sheet that will be provided for contestants on the day of the contest. Mohair scan sheet, #528-6 will be used. <https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/528-6-Mohair.pdf>
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 scan sheet 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 scan sheet 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.
6. 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.

#### **FLEECE EVALUATION OF GRADING RAIL**

1. The sample rail may consist of 10-30 mohair samples for a total score of 100-300 points. The rail may be divided into two rails with approximately 1-2 minutes per fleece.
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 on weighting the following characteristics: Fineness 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 two to four classes.
4. Contestants will have 10-15 minutes per class.

## CONTEST RESOURCES

- Judging Wool & Mohair  
<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Judging-Wool-and-Mohair.pdf>
- Texas 4-H Mohair Judging Contest General Rules & Information *Updated rules coming soon!*  
<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/TX-State-4-H-Mohair-Rules-9.1.18.pdf>

## D8 4-H TARLETON SPRING JUDGING CONTESTS

### *Agriculture Production Identification*

#### 1. **Contest Format.**

- a. 20 Texas agricultural products are selected and exhibited at separate stations. Products can range from garlic to a ribeye steak.
- b. Contestants select the correct identification of each product from four possible answers.
- c. Each station also has one multiple choice question pertaining to the product on display.
  - i. Questions are general to the industry that produced the product, (i.e. Texas' national ranking, economic impact to Texas, general nutritional content, region of production) or specific to the individual product that is on display (i.e. cooking method, use, growing season, specific nutrition of the cut or variety).
- d. Contestants are given 30 seconds at each station to answer both questions.
- e. Contestants must advance from one exhibit to the next when instructed to do so.
- f. Contestants must evaluate each exhibit in sequence and will not be allowed to return to any exhibit after advancing.
- g. The contest will be open for all youth and adults present to walk-through the exhibits following the completion of the contest.

2. **Scoring.** Contestants will receive five points for each product that is correctly identified and five points for each question that is correctly answered. However, for points to be awarded on questions pertaining directly to the product displayed, the product must be correctly identified. (Total possible points: 200 per individual.)

3. **Team Scores.** Team scores will be determined by the combined score of the three (3) highest scoring individual team members. The contestant with the lowest score will be designated as alternate but will still be eligible to receive individual awards. (Total possible points: 600 per team.)

4. **Ties:** Five stations will be selected as tie breakers in advance of the contest. Teams with the highest cumulative scores at these five stations will win any ties. If ties still remain, winners will be determined by a method designated by the contest officials.

5. **Study Guide and Resources.** The Ag Product Identification Study Guide that includes numerous websites and resources can be found at the following link:

<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/agproductidguide.pdf>

6. **Scan Sheet.** The Agricultural Product Identification Form scan sheet, Form #API2 will be used.

<https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/AgProductID.pdf>