

TEXAS 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

October 3, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: District 8 County Extension Agents

FROM: Jay Kingston
District Extension Administrator

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

SUBJECT: 2026 DISTRICT 8 4-H LIVESTOCK & MEATS JUDGING CONTESTS

Events: Livestock Judging Contest
Meat Judging & Identification Contest

Event Date: Saturday, May 2, 2026

Entry Deadline: All entries will be completed on 4-H Connect at <https://texas.4honline.com/>.
Opens: Monday, April 2, 2026
Closes: Thursday, April 20, 2026

County Approvals: County offices need to approve registrations on 4-H Connect by Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Entry Fee: \$12 per member per event

Late Entries: Late entries will be permitted with an additional \$50 late fee up to 72 hours after the close of registration. There will be no additional entries after the 72-hour period is closed.

Auxiliary Aids or Special Accommodations: If you have any participants requiring auxiliary aids or special accommodations, please let us know at the time entry materials are due.

Central District 8 | 4-H Youth Development
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
1229 N US Hwy 281 | Stephenville, Texas 76401
megan.shaffer@ag.tamu.edu | <http://d84-h.tamu.edu>
Tel. 254.968.4144 | Fax. 254.965.3759



D8 4-H TAMU JUDGING CONTESTS

Agent Assignments

Livestock Judging Contest

Committee:	Jerod Meurer*	Meagan Cline
	Josh Evans*	Erin Davis
	Haley Acord	David Groschke
	Thomas Boyle	

Registration/Tabulation Review:

Group Leaders:

Listen to Intermediate Reasons:

Reasons Scribes:

Assist with snack service:

Awards Presentation:

Bring PA System for Awards:

Should be provided by Kleburg

Awards Purchasing:

This contest has chosen to get its own awards. All awards will be provided by this committee.

Meat Judging & Identification Contest

Committee:	Kristen Clark/Cassie Mavis*
	TJ Cummings
	Madeline Makovy

Contest Assistance:

Agents with teams will be responsible for assisting as needed with registration, tabulation, and awards.

Awards Purchasing:

This contest has chosen to get its own awards. All awards will be provided by this committee.

D8 4-H TAMU JUDGING CONTESTS

District Contest Information

Events:	Livestock Judging Contest Meat Judging & Identification Contest
Event Date:	Saturday, May 2, 2026
Entry Deadline:	All entries will be completed on 4-H Connect at https://texas.4honline.com/ . Check with your County Extension Agent for county entry deadlines.
Entry Fee:	\$12 per member per event
Late Entries:	Late entries will be permitted with an additional \$50 late fee up to 72 hours after the close of registration. There will be no additional entries after the 72-hour period is closed.
Auxiliary Aids or Special Accommodations:	If you have any participants requiring auxiliary aids or special accommodations, please let us know at the time entry materials are due.

D8 4-H TAMU JUDGING CONTESTS

Schedule & Locations

Livestock Judging Contest

7:15 am	Registration
7:30 am	Livestock in place
7:45 am	Official Placings
8:00 am	Contest Begins
2:00 pm	Awards Presentation (subject to change)

Louis Peace Pavillion
 555 George Bush Dr W
 College Station, TX

Meat Judging & Identification Contest

7:30 am	Registration
8:00 am	Contest Begins
1:00 pm	Awards Presentation (subject to change)

Rosenthal Meat Science & Technology Center
 488 Olsen Blvd
 College Station, TX
<http://aggiemap.tamu.edu/?Bldg=1505>

D8 4-H TAMU JUDGING CONTESTS

General Rules

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 2026 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, 2025 as follows:

Age Division	Grades	
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.

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 be moved up to an Intermediate team, if necessary. However, Intermediates may NOT move up to a Senior team. NO individual may move down to a younger age division.

7. 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.

8. Entry Fee

There is a \$12 entry fee per member per contest. All entries must be submitted through 4-H Connect by the entry due date.

9. Scantrons

Scantrons will be processed the way in which they are brought into tabulation. This means that there will be no team number or name corrections in the tabulation room. ***Those with missing or incorrect team numbers will be listed on judgingcard.com under a "DQ" contest.***

10. Team Names on Clothing

Per the Texas 4-H Rules & Guidelines, there should be no identifying insignia on clothing worn into the reasons room. This will result in disqualification from the contest.

11. Late Fees

Late entries will be permitted with an additional \$50 late fee up to 72 hours after the close of registration. There will be no additional entries after the 72-hour period is closed.

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 time entry materials are due.

13. Qualifying for State

Only Senior 4-H members are eligible to advance to state. The top three teams and the top three individuals (if not part of one of the top three teams) will advance to state.

D8 4-H TAMU JUDGING CONTESTS

Livestock Judging Contest Information

1. Objectives of the contest

- To increase knowledge of livestock evaluation and selection techniques
- To better understand breeding concepts and use of analytical tools such as EPDs
- To employ decision making skills
- To create a sense of team work
- To learn to make individual decisions and support them with oral statements

2. Classes *(Estimated. This could change.)*

- 2 Market Steer
- 1 Breeding Cattle
- 1 Goat
- 1 Market Lamb
- 1 Breeding Lamb
- 2 Market Swine

3. Reasons

Juniors	No reasons
Intermediates	2 sets: <i>(classes to be determined)</i>
Seniors	4 sets: <i>(classes to be determined)</i>

4. Estimated Progeny Differences (EPDs)

- Estimated Progeny Differences and a herd use description will be provided on the breeding cattle class.

5. Contest Resources

- <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Livestock-Judging-FAQ.pdf>

6. Awards

- The top three (3) teams and the top five (5) individuals in each age division in each contest will receive awards. Additional awards may be presented depending upon donor support.

D8 4-H TAMU JUDGING CONTESTS

Meat Judging & Identification Contest Information

1. Objectives of the contest

- Learn to Identify and evaluate meat cuts of Beef, Swine, and Sheep
- Learn to critically evaluate meat cuts and defend this evaluation with written reasons
- Learn to work as a team in accomplishing shared goals

2. Class Descriptions & Contest Guidelines:

- <http://agrillife.org/4hmeat/texas-4-h-meat-judging-rules-guidelines/>

3. Contestants will bring with them to the contest:

- Hard hat
- Frock
- Clipboard
- Pencils

4. Awards

- The top three (3) teams and the top five (5) individuals in each age division in each contest will receive awards. Additional awards may be presented depending upon donor support.
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