

TEXAS 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

October 14, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: District 8 County Extension Agents

FROM: Jay Kingston
District Extension Administrator

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

Megan R. Shaffer

SUBJECT: 2026 DISTRICT 8 4-H HORSE JUDGING CONTEST

Event:	Horse Judging Contest		
Event Date:	Saturday, April 18, 2026		
Schedule:	7:30 am	Registration	
	8:15 am	Orientation	
	8:30 am	Contest Begins	
	3:00 pm	Awards Presentation	(subject to change)
Location:	Brazos County Expo Complex 5827 Leonard Rd Bryan, TX 77807		
Entry Deadline:	All entries will be completed on 4-H Online. https://4honline.com Opens: Monday, March 16, 2026 Closes: Friday, April 2, 2026		
County Approvals:	County offices need to approve registrations on 4-H Connect by Monday, April 5, 2026		
Entry Fee:	\$12 per member per event		

Late Entries:	Late entries will be permitted with an additional \$50 up to 72 hours after the close of the registration period.
Patterns:	Patterns will be provided the morning of the contest.
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 HORSE JUDGING CONTEST

Agent Assignments

Committee:	Becky Coward* Meagan Cline** Kristen Clark Sidney Atchley All committee members and agents in attendance will need to be available to help with reasons and any other duties needed that day.	Josh Evans David Groschke
Registration/Tabulation Review:		
Group Leaders/Reasons Scribes/Reasons Order:		
Awards:	This contest has chosen to get its own awards. All awards will be provided by this committee.	

D8 4-H HORSE JUDGING CONTEST

District Contest Information

Event:	Horse Judging Contest		
Event Date:	Saturday, April 18, 2026		
Schedule:	7:30 am	Registration	
	8:15 am	Orientation	
	8:30 am	Contest Begins	
	3:00 pm	Awards Presentation	(subject to change)
Location:	Brazos County Expo Complex 5827 Leonard Rd Bryan, TX 77807		
Entry Deadline:	All entries will be completed on 4-H Online. https://4honline.com Opens: Monday, March 16, 2026 Closes: Friday, April 2, 2025		
Entry Fee:	\$12 per member per event		
Late Entries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late entries will be permitted with an additional \$50 up to 72 hours after the close of the registration period. 		
Patterns:	Patterns will be provided the morning of the contest.		
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 HORSE JUDGING CONTEST

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 <u>August 31, 2025</u> 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. **Late Fees**

Late entries will be permitted with an additional \$50 up to 72 hours after the close of the registration period.

10. **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.

11. **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 HORSE JUDGING CONTEST

Horse Judging Contest Information

1. Objectives of the contest

- To increase knowledge of Equine evaluation and selection techniques
- 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

- 2 to 4 Halter Classes
- 4 to 6 Performance Classes

3. Reasons

Juniors	No reasons
Intermediates	1 halter class
Seniors	1 halter class 1 performance class

4. Patterns

- Will be provided the morning of the contest

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. Awards

- The top three (3) teams, the top ten (10) individuals overall in each age division, and the top five (5) in halter, performance, and reasons in each age division will receive awards. Additional awards may be presented depending upon donor support.