

TENNESSEE STATE JUNIOR DAIRY JUDGING CONTEST MANUAL

(Updated July 2004)

by Gary W. Rogers and Kristy Hill

INTRODUCTION

Competition in dairy judging is designed to improve the decision-making skills and communication skills of participants. Contests are designed to reward those who work hard at learning these skills and who have a strong interest in dairy cattle.

The Tennessee State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest is a contest where county based teams made up of 4 or fewer members compete against each other in placing classes of 4 dairy animals and in giving oral reasons for some of the classes. The winning Senior Level county 4-H team represents Tennessee at the National Dairy Cattle Judging Contest in Madison, Wisconsin. The second place Senior Level team can choose between the Pennsylvania All American Judging Contest in Harrisburg Pennsylvania and the North American Dairy Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky (team member eligibility must be considered as participants can not judge two years at the same contest). The third place Senior Level team will have the option of representing Tennessee at the contest not chosen by the second place team. In some years a fourth place team or one of the higher placing teams may compete at the Mid-South 4-H Dairy Judging Contest in Memphis, Tennessee. No financial support will be provided to a fourth place team. Final decisions will be made by the Dairy Extension Office in consultation with the State 4-H office and respective coaches.

Winning teams and high placing individuals will be recognized after the completion of the contest. Teams will then need to quickly plan their travel and participation in the upcoming US regional or national events. Limited funds are available at this time to help defray the cost of participation in contests after the state contest. Coaches from winning teams should communicate with the UT Dairy Extension Office for more information on US regional and national contests that occur after the state contest.

Along with the Senior Level contest, an invitational Junior High Level contest will be held. The Junior High Level Contest will be structured similarly to the Senior Level contest except there will be no oral reasons. Likewise, there are no contests outside of Tennessee for Junior High Level teams.

Current plans for the Tennessee State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest are to hold the contest concurrently with the Tennessee State FFA Dairy Judging Contest at the Tennessee State Fair. The Tennessee State Fair is held in early to mid September each year. This leaves only a few weeks between the Tennessee State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest and the following regional and national contests. This means that Senior Level teams should prearrange travel funding for possible travel to Madison, Wisconsin; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; or Louisville, Kentucky. The time between the Tennessee State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest and the Harrisburg Contest will always be short and some years it may only be a few days. Preliminary out of state travel authorization should be obtained before the contest if a team wishes to go to Harrisburg.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SENIOR LEVEL DIVISION

Each county may enter as many Senior Level teams as they can field. Each Senior Level team will consist of 4 or fewer members from their county designated by a leader, coach or agent. Individuals may compete in the contest if under the supervision of a leader, coach, agent or teacher. All participants must be bona fide 4-H members in good standing and must be in the 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade as of January 1 of the current year. Team members should also be 14 years or older as of January 1 of the current year. Team members who are not at least 14 years of age on January 1 are not eligible to compete in US regional and national contests. Winning teams with fewer than three eligible participants will not be allowed to represent Tennessee in US regional or national contests. Participants do not need to qualify at Tennessee district/regional judging contests to participate in the State contest. Youth may not participate if they have previously participated in the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest in Madison, WI.

Although the State 4-H and State FFA Dairy Judging Contests will be held concurrently, participants can compete as a 4-H team member and as an FFA team member if they qualify for both contests. When the contests are held concurrently, any FFA member who would also like to participate in the 4-H contest must be a legitimate 4-H member and must be pre-registered for the 4-H contest using the appropriate registration process and by the proper deadline. No last minute additions to the 4-H contest will be allowed. Participants who legitimately participate in both contests are eligible for awards from each division. Likewise, participants from the both divisions are eligible to participate in US regional or national contests if their respective team qualifies.

ELIGIBILITY FOR JUNIOR HIGH LEVEL DIVISION

Each county may enter as many Junior High Level teams as they can field. Each Junior High Level team will consist of 4 or fewer members from their county designated by a leader, coach, agent or teacher. Individuals may compete in the contest if under the supervision of a leader, coach or agent. All participants must be bona fide 4-H members in good standing and must meet the age and grade requirements of the local and Regional extension offices. Participants do not need to qualify at Tennessee district/regional judging contests to participate.

Participants can compete as a Junior High Level 4-H team member and as an FFA team member if they qualify for both contests. When the contests are held concurrently, any FFA member who would also like to participate in the 4-H contest must be a legitimate 4-H member and must be pre-registered for the 4-H contest using the appropriate registration process and by the proper deadline. No last minute additions to the 4-H contest will be allowed. Participants who legitimately participate in both contests are eligible for awards from each division.

STATE DAIRY JUDGING CONTEST GENERAL RULES

1. Participants will be asked to judge five to six classes of dairy cows and/or dairy heifers. Classes will consist of four animals. Attempts will be made to have at least two breeds

represented in the contest. Likewise, attempts will be made to have at least two cow classes and two heifer classes in the contest.

2. Participants will have 15 minutes to complete their placing for a non-reasons class. Participants will have up to 20 minutes for any reasons or questions class.
3. Junior High Level participants will be required to answer written questions on three classes. Classes with written questions will be identified before the class judging begins. Classes with written questions may be classes from any breed in the contest and from any age group of animals including cows or heifers. Attempts will be made to have at least one cow class serve as a class with written questions. Junior High Level participants will not be required to give oral reasons.
4. Senior Level participants will be required to give three sets of oral reasons to a qualified reasons taker. Oral reasons classes will be identified before the class judging begins. Oral reasons classes may be classes from any breed in the contest and from any age group of animals including cows and/or heifers. Attempts will be made to have at least one cow class serve as an oral reasons class. A set of oral reasons should be no longer than 2 minutes. Reasons takers have the option of asking questions about the class. A minimum of 30 minutes will be provided between the last judging class and the beginning of the oral reasons. Ordering for oral reasons will be determined based on the pre-registration for the contest. A contestant order for oral reasons will be made available to the participants as soon as possible after the completion of the last judging class.
5. Maximum scores per judging class will be 50 points and the maximum score for a set of oral reasons will also be 50 points. Individuals will be ranked based on the cumulative scores for class placings and oral reasons. Individual ties will be broken on individual total reasons scores or question scores. The “cut” system will be used for scoring classes and is illustrated later in this document.
6. The total scores from the top three individuals for a team will be used to determine the final ranking of the teams. If a team has four members the team member with the lowest total score will be dropped to determine this ranking and be designated as the alternate. Designated alternates are still eligible for individual awards. Ties will be broken based on total team reasons scores and written question scores.
7. When the State 4-H Contest is concurrent with the State FFA Contest, the same classes will be used for placings and oral reasons in both contests and a contestant’s scores will count for both contests.
8. Attempts will be made to have classes paraded in front of contestants and to ensure that all contestants have a reasonable view of all animals. Some type of barrier will be established to provide direction to the contestants as to their limits on viewing location. Close up inspection opportunities will be determined on contest day and will depend on the level of participation and the contest animals.

9. There will be no communication among contestants allowed after the contest begins. Likewise there should be no communication between contestants and leaders (coaches) after the contest begins. Participants should not discuss the classes with anyone until the contest is finished. There should be no communication among contestants until after the oral reasons are completed. Those who violate this rule can be removed from the contest and be ruled ineligible for the contest.
10. All placings, team rankings and individual rankings will be final when announced. All decisions made by officials and qualified reasons takers will be final. Leaders, agents or coaches may make suggestions to contest officials after the end of the contest. Suggestions and input will help to continue the development of this educational activity and add to its success. Please provide comments to:

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Dairy Extension Leader
University of Tennessee
201D McCord Hall
2640 Morgan Circle
Knoxville, TN 37996-4500
Email: grogers2@tennessee.edu
Phone: 865-974-7289

RESOURCES FOR DAIRY JUDGING

Many resources are available to help with dairy cattle judging. The Hoard's Dairyman Judging Guide available at www.hoards.com is an excellent resource. It contains around 40 pages of materials including the PDCA scorecard and several example classes. In addition, the Holstein Foundation has an excellent dairy judging workbook available as a free download at: www.holsteinfoundation.org. If you have any concerns over available resources, contact your local extension office or the UT Dairy Extension office listed above.

CALCULATION OF JUDGING CONTEST SCORES

In a judging contest, the placings will be graded by a designated scorer. However, sometimes you will want to score your own cards. It is important that you know how to score your placings. It is part of learning how to judge animals.

The official judge for a class of animals puts his or her placing on the class (for example: 2-4-1-3). Then cuts will be assigned between pairs (2-8-3). Assigning cuts allows the judge to take care of easy and hard placings by using a small cut if the pair is close and a large cut if it is an easy placing. This placing is an example of a close top and bottom pair with an easy placing between the top and bottom pair.

Official Placing: 2-4-1-3, cuts 2 8 3

Example placement 1.

If you placed the class 4-2-3-1, your score is 45 points.

4 over 2 minus 2 points - 2

4 over 3 correct

4 over 1 correct

2 over 3 correct

2 over 1 correct

3 over 1 minus 3 points - 3

Possible Score: 50 - 5 = 45

Example placement 2.

If you placed the class 2-1-3-4, your score is 31 points.

2 over 1 correct

2 over 3 correct

2 over 4 correct

1 over 3 correct

1 over 4 minus 8 points - 8

3 over 4 minus 8 + 3 - 11
-19

Possible Score: 50 - 19 = 31

You will note from both examples that each animal is checked against every other placing in the class. In Example 1, your placing at the top of the class is 4-2. Look at the official placing. Your placing is switched with a 2-point cut; therefore, you get a minus 2 for that placing. In Example 2, note that 3 over 4 cost 11 points because when you look at the official placing, the 8 and 3 cut points must be added together.

ADDITIONAL PLACINGS TO PRACTICE

Practice the following placings by scoring each one. Answers are given at the bottom of the page.

	<u>Official Placing</u>	<u>Cuts</u>	<u>Contestant Placing</u>	<u>Score</u>
1.	A - B - C - D	2-4-2	C - A - B - D	_____
2.	B - A - C - D	3-4-3	A - B - C - D	_____
3.	B - A - D - C	2-3-4	A - B - C - D	_____
4.	D - C - B - A	5-2-3	C - B - D - A	_____
5.	D - C - B - A	6-1-5	C - D - B - A	_____
6.	A - B - C - D	1-3-5	B - A - D - C	_____
7.	A - B - C - D	2-6-2	A - C - B - D	_____
8.	A - B - C - D	3-5-3	D - C - B - A	_____
9.	A - B - C - D	4-5-4	C - A - B - D	_____
10.	B - D - A - C	2-8-3	D - B - A - C	_____
11.	C - A - B - D	3-5-2	A - D - C - B	_____
12.	D - B - A - C	2-6-4	D - C - B - A	_____
13.	A - B - C - D	1-4-2	C - A - B - D	_____
14.	A - B - C - D	4-5-4	B - A - D - C	_____
15.	A - B - C - D	4-5-4	A - C - B - D	_____
16.	A - B - C - D	5-5-2	C - B - A - D	_____
17.	A - C - B - D	5-5-2	A - B - C - D	_____
18.	C - A - B - D	5-5-2	A - B - C - D	_____
19.	B - A - C - D	6-5-4	A - B - C - D	_____
20.	A - B - C - D	6-5-4	D - B - C - A	_____

Answers: 1)40; 2)47; 3)44; 4)38; 5)44; 6)44; 7)44; 8)12; 9)36; 10)48; 11)35; 12)36; 13)41;
14)42; 15)45; 16)40; 17)45; 18)35; 19)45; 20)5.

TO ENTER:

Complete the following entry form or provide the same information and send the information by the registration deadline to grogers2@tennessee.edu (phone 865-974-7289) or to:

Dr. Gary W. Rogers
Dairy Extension Leader
University of Tennessee
201D McCord Hall
2640 Morgan Circle
Knoxville, TN 37996

Check One: _____ Junior Level _____ Senior Level

COUNTY _____

AGENT _____

COACH _____

DATE _____

School Grade*	Birth date**	Name	Address	FFA***
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	Y or N
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	Y or N
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	Y or N
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	Y or N

*Grade enrolled as of January 1 of current year.

**Not needed for Junior Level contestants

***Please circle Y or N for Yes or No if also competing in the FFA contest.