



## Kansas Beef Expo Livestock Judging Contest

*Coaches and Participants,*

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2024 Kansas Beef Expo Livestock Judging Contest. We at Hutchinson Community College have remained committed to providing a great learning experience for your students to aid in their preparation for spring judging events and we are proud to serve as your contest host again this year. HCC will also plan to be hosting the Blue Dragon Classic contest on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Bar K Bar arena and Celebration Centre in Lyons, KS. Please keep this date in mind as you begin to look ahead to possible spring events to attend. Below you will find usual details with changes/updates for the 2024 contest.

**Contest Date:** Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 2024, 9:30 a.m. start time.

**Contest Location:** Horse Expo Arena I and II (South East side of fairgrounds, just east of Sheep/Swine Barn) Students will judge inside, but please dress appropriately for December weather.

**Registration:** 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Please enter via the Google forms link on or before December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm Central Time. <https://forms.gle/my9jFCEbCtjrgMtKA>

We want to be giving final instructions and breaking students into groups by 9:15-9:20 a.m

**Entry Fee:** \$10 per Non-Reasons contestant, \$15 per Reasons contestant

**(Checks made out to HCC Livestock Judging Team)**

**Classes:** You can expect a total of 8-10 classes. There will be 4-8 cattle classes depending on availability. You can expect to see a combination of the following classes: prospect steers, prospect market heifers, breeding heifer calves, bred heifers, and bulls. Expected progeny differences may also be used. Continued for 2024, since we began this in 2020 we intend to include a “small species” division at the Kansas Beef Expo to help keep your students sharp on all livestock. We anticipate having 2-4 classes of a combination of swine, sheep and/or goats. These small species classes may also be used for contestants to give their reasons on.

**Divisions:** Please identify on the entry form which division your students will be competing in. The senior division is for the 10-12<sup>th</sup> graders, intermediate 7-9<sup>th</sup> grade and junior is 6<sup>th</sup> grade and under. Within each age groups, students/teams can participate in reasons or the placings only division, but may not “double enter” in a division.

- A. Senior Division – Reasons
- B. Senior Division – Placings Only
- C. Intermediate Division – Reasons
- D. Intermediate Division – Placings Only
- E. Junior Division – Reasons
- F. Junior Division – Placings Only

**Reasons:** Reasons are anticipated to begin at 11:45 a.m. and conclude by 1:30 p.m. Lunch will not be provided but snacks and water will be available for reasons contestants. Individuals/teams competing in the Junior and Intermediate reasons category will give 2 sets of reasons. Seniors will give 3 sets.

**Critique:** An official description of the classes with placings and cuts will be provided immediately after the conclusion of reasons.

**Results:** Due to unknown number of participants, a Facebook live will be done to announce results approximately 2-3 hours after the completion of judging. If you wish to stay to collect your awards and receive recognition that is acceptable, but please realize for the Non-reasons contest, it takes a while to finish tabulation as there is a large number of contestants and we do not use Scantrons. Any awards that your school and/or students win will be coordinated on how to receive. It is the responsibility of the contestant/team to arrange for this. We will not ship awards.

**Coaches and Advisors:** We will need coaches/advisors to serve as group leaders. We will try to keep as many classes around after the contest for you and your students to re-visit if necessary; however, please realize many people have graciously let us borrow their animal to stand tied up or be led for about 3 hours and anxiously wait to have them returned to the stall. Feel free to take your students through the barn afterward to show them additional livestock and create another learning opportunity, if you are permitted.

**Expectations:** We expect there to be no talking amongst contestants during any portion of the contest, and no contestants are permitted to be on an electronic device of any kind. All contestants will receive one warning before being broken into groups on contest morning. Any contestants caught talking to anyone other than if asking their group leader a question, or on an electronic device will have their cards pulled and will be removed from the contest. Reasons contestants will not be permitted to talk to their teammates or other contestants at any point until after reasons are finished. If any contestant is caught talking during reasons or is on an electronic device, they will be removed from the contest. It is the responsibility of the coaches/advisors to relay the seriousness of the no-talking and no-electronics rules. There will be no wiggle room or gray area on this. Contestants will be removed from the contest if they are talking or on an electronic device; no questions asked.

We are looking forward to making this year's event a successful one. Please feel free to contact me with questions concerning the contest.

Sincerely,

Kane Austin

Hutchinson Community College

Ag Instructor/Livestock Judging Coach

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