

# 2026 4-H/FFA Livestock Evaluation Contest

Superintendent: Jess Moody - (406) 930-2519  
Competition Date: **MONDAY** - October 12, 2026  
Registration: [www.JudgingCard.com](http://www.JudgingCard.com) | (979) 575-2686 | [info@judgingcard.com](mailto:info@judgingcard.com)  
Entry Fee: \$75/team | \$25/individual (*please see team specifications below*)  
Payment: NILE Contests  
*Check or Credit Card* P.O. Box 1981  
*accepted. Send payments* Billings, MT 59103  
*or call with payment info* [livestock@thenile.org](mailto:livestock@thenile.org) | (406) 256-2495



**Entry Deadline:**  
September 30, 2026

Teams entries submitted at  
[www.JudgingCard.com](http://www.JudgingCard.com)

Day of Schedule:  
6:30-7:15am: Registration & Breakfast - Expo Center  
7:20am: Pre-contest instructions - Expo Show Ring  
7:30am: Judging of all classes of Livestock - First Interstate Arena  
CONTEST FORMAT (*read below*)  
12-12:30pm: Lunch - Arena Concourse - *Requires a pre-paid lunch ticket purchased with entry - \$10/person*  
12:30-2pm: Reasons (*followed by officials*)

**Purpose:** To provide educational experience and incentive to learn more about meat animal evaluation and pricing. Also, to assist young people in expanding their acquaintances among leaders in the livestock field and improve their communication skills. This contest is governed by the NILE, which is not affiliated with any other organization nor its rules. Rule discrepancies are settled via NILE Superintendent, whose decision is final.

**Registration & Entry Fee:** All registrations will be submitted through JudgingCard.com, ([www.Judgingcard.com](http://www.Judgingcard.com)). If you have never previously registered a team through JudgingCard.com, please contact them to setup an account: [info@judgingcard.com](mailto:info@judgingcard.com) or (979) 575-2686. Upon completion of your registration you will be directed to send payment for all your entries and requested lunch tickets to the NILE Office.

**Entry Fee:** Due September 30, 2026. Entries for ALL teams will be \$75. Entry fee for individuals will be \$25/person. All payments of entries and requested number of lunch tickets, shall be mailed or called into the NILE office. (See above) **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Entries must be paid in full PRIOR TO ARRIVAL at competition.** A Purchase Order (PO) IS NOT ACCEPTED. All entries shall be submitted through JudgingCard.com (see above). **NO REFUNDS AFTER September 30, 2026!!!!**

**Eligibility:** Contestants may compete on a 4-H team, FFA team, or as an individual. Teams must be made up of individuals from the same FFA chapters or counties (4-H). FFA contestants must be currently enrolled in high school.

**Maximum Entry: NO MORE THAN** Two (2) 4-H teams per county consisting of one (1) senior team and one (1) junior team - Two (2) FFA teams consisting of one (1) senior team and one (1) junior team. Only those team members officially entered may judge from the arena floor. Additional judges are NOT allowed on the floor.

**Teams:** Each FFA Chapter or 4-H Team will consist of **NO MORE THAN** one (1) senior team and one (1) junior team each consisting of four (4) members with the option of two (2) alternates; for up to six (6) members per team. The top four (4) scores will count towards the overall team score.

**Maximum of 12 members per chapter/county may judge (this includes team members and individuals).** FFA Jr. Team members shall be defined as members grade 10 and below, Sr. Teams will be defined as members grades 11-12 of current school year. A 4-H Junior Member will be defined as ages 8-13 and a 4-H Senior Member will be defined as members 14 years and over as of current 4-H year.

**Individuals:** Individuals enrolled in a 4-H or FFA program that have not graduated or under the age of 19 and are not part of a team, may be allowed to enter. (Not a collegiate competition). However, no more than twelve (12) total judges (counting those on teams) will be allowed from a county/chapter. Those competing as individuals will not be eligible for team awards, but will be eligible for individual awards.

## Contest Details:

- All participants will be expected to remain in the contest until the announced hour of completion.
- Participants will be allowed a time of twelve minutes to judge each class. Each participant is asked to judge independently and separately from other contestants or team members. No visiting during the time of judging, if found visiting they will be disqualified. Any participant with a cell phone on their person during the contest will face automatic disqualification.
- The chaperon, advisor or leader is required to register their team, pick up judging packet and attend the leaders meeting prior to contest. The chaperon, advisor or leader must also be available to help in the contest. Coaches will also be asked to give a phone number where they can be contacted during the contest in case of emergency.
- All classes will be judged, followed by reasons. A short break for lunch will be taken - **NO ADVISORS/COACHES WILL BE ALLOWED** to interact or converse with any judge until they have completed the contest.
- It is encouraged that each livestock evaluation judge purchase a lunch ticket.
- Production records will be available on some classes of Breeding Stock. Final placing will be based on records as well as visual appraisal.
- One award will be given in each category, all ties will be broken.
- The judging contest may consist of up to (16) classes selected from the following: beef - live feeder calf, breeding and cull-keep or market class; swine - market, breeding; sheep - market, breeding, cull; and reason classes; goats - market, breeding, cull; and reason classes.  
(The management reserves the right to alter any classes because of difficulty in securing livestock or any other reason).

**Awards:** Results will be posted within 24 hours of the completion of the contest. All results as announced are final. Sr & Jr. FFA & 4-H - trophy to top placing teams, plaques to teams 2nd - 3rd place (per division). Plaques to individual champions 1st through 3rd (per division). Division champion awards (plaque to top placing individual): Champion Beef, Sheep, Swine & Reasons Judge (per division).

**Questions:** For general contest questions and information please call the NILE office at 406.256.2499 or [livestock@thenile.org](mailto:livestock@thenile.org). For contest details, contact Jess Moody. For team entry & registration, contact [JudgingCard.com](http://JudgingCard.com) (see top of page for contact information).