



Welcome to 4-H Judging

Judging in 4-H is an activity that requires participants to either evaluate or identify one of several different kinds of objects or animals, sometimes rank these items/animals from best to worse, and at times determine WHY they made the rankings they did. Participating in these activities allows for developing skills in decision making and critical thinking. In some contests, participants will be asked to provide reasons (either oral or written). Reasons are explanations of why you chose the rankings you did. This develops speaking abilities and confidence in public speaking. In other contests, participants will identify items and/or characteristics associated with those items. Judging and contest participation can develop great speaking skills, create opportunities for scholarships to college, build character, and allow participants to learn about specific subjects that interest them.

Events

Members interested in judging will need to express their interest to the extension office and then attend judging practice. Practice is essential to judging success and should be taken seriously with every effort made to attend practices. Participants who are interested in many contests will likely need to narrow down the contests they participate in. All judges will compete in a county contest (June) to qualify to move on to district (June) or state judging. District contest is for novice and junior members with state being for seniors. Some contests are only available to specific age groups (denoted below) and contests often vary in requirement by age group (i.e., number of classes, number of reasons classes, identification of characteristics, etc.).

Contests

- **Agronomy** – Focuses on developing an understanding in agronomic sciences. Includes identification of plant, seeds, and farm equipment, placing classes of grain crops, forage crops, and fruit/vegetable crops, identification of insects and insect characteristics, and demonstrating knowledge of seed tags.
- **Fashion/Clothing Revue** – Participant must be enrolled in sewing projects and will create specific items based on 4-H project book material. Eligible items will be taken to contest and judged based on specific criteria.
- **Consumer Decision Making** – Focused on developing skills needed to be a good customer and make informed decisions on how products compare to one another. Includes judging of classes and giving oral reasons.





- **Favorite Foods** – Gives participants a chance to exhibit a favorite food they have learned to prepare. Includes preparing your favorite food, exhibiting your food along with its recipe and accompanying food items, and explain how to prepare this food and why it makes a difference to good health.
- **Hippology** – Develops a knowledge and understanding of equine science and husbandry. Includes written examinations on breed, colors, color patterns, activities, anatomy, etc., identification of various equine related equipment, and other horse related knowledge, and judging of classes of horses.
- **Horticulture** – Educates participants on identifying fruits, vegetables, and floral/foliage plants. Includes identification of fruit, vegetable, nut and floral/foliage specimens.
- **Horse Bowl** Open to youth enrolled in 4-H horse projects to demonstrate their knowledge of equine-related subject matter. Includes a quiz bowl.
- **Horse Judging** – Develops an understanding of the qualities and characteristics that make horses desirable and how to evaluate those qualities in live animals. Includes ranking horses in different classes including halter/confirmation classes, performance classes, and giving oral reasons.
- **Entomology** – Educates participants in identifying insects, insect characteristics, and insect related knowledge. Includes insect identification and identification of insect characteristics.
- **Livestock** – Develops an understanding of the qualities and characteristics that make livestock desirable including cattle, sheep, pigs, and goats. Includes ranking classes of animals and giving oral reasons.
- **Livestock Skill-A-Thon** – Provides an opportunity for participants to develop their livestock production skills and life skills by demonstrating the breadth of their knowledge and understanding of animal science and livestock management practices. Includes quizzes, breed identification, retail meat cut identification, hay and wool classes, quality assurance exercises, livestock equipment identification, feed/nutrient identification, and evaluation of performance and feeding information.
- **Meat Judging** *Seniors only – Develops skills and knowledge related to retail meat processing, cuts, evaluation, and preparation. Includes placing retail and wholesale cut classes and retail cut identification.
- **Presentations/Illustrated Talk** – Open to members enrolled in agriculture projects, family and consumer science projects, and general projects. Includes participants giving presentation in an area in which they are enrolled.
- **Public Speaking** – Develops public speaking skills and includes giving prepared speeches or impromptu speeches where participants are given a topic and five minutes to prepare a speech related to that topic.
- **Range Plant ID** *Novice/Junior Only – Develops participant knowledge on range plants and range landscape. Includes identification of range plant specimens.





- **Range Management** *Seniors Only – Develops participant knowledge of range management practices. Includes identification of range plants, and classifying range utilization, sites, and practices.
- **Talent Show** *Seniors Only – Provides an opportunity for participants to showcase, develop, and discover their talents while developing confidence.
- **Welcome to NM 4-H Bowl** *Must be a first year novice – Provides first year members an opportunity to demonstrate what they learned in the “Welcome to NM 4-H” project (must be enrolled). Includes a quiz bowl on project material.
- **Wildlife** – Develops knowledge related to wildlife, wildlife habitat, and wildlife management. Includes identification of wildlife species and testing of general wildlife knowledge including food, habitat requirements, etc.

