

## DIVISION U - 4-H JUDGING CONTESTS

### Division Rules & Regulations:

1. Only 4-H Members may compete in this division. 4-H Members may only compete in one State Fair Judging Contest (Sections I-V) per year.
2. All contestants must comply with "General State Fair Rules & Regulations", "General 4-H and FFA Rules & Regulations", these "Division Rules & Regulations" and the applicable "Section Rules & Regulations". Please note that these are only general rules, please refer to the State 4-H Judging Contest Guidelines & Procedures (available from the 4-H office) for additional information.
3. Contestants will participate according to 4-H Age (as of 1/1/26): Junior (ages 8-10); Intermediate (ages 11-13), Senior (ages 14-18) - unless noted.
4. **Entries will be made by 4-H member in 4-HOnline at <https://v2.4honline.com> by July 31<sup>st</sup> and verified by 4-H Extension Educator.** Counties/City may enter one (1) Team (consisting of 4 Members) and unlimited number of Individuals in each age division, unless otherwise noted. All will participate in contest.
  - a. Verification that each 4-H Member has participated in a 4-H educational program will be made by the 4-H Extension Educator.
  - b. Selection/verification of contestants will be at discretion of the 4-H Extension Educator.
  - c. **Substitutions:** If a registered Team Member is not present on the day of the contest, a registered Individual from the same county/city may substitute for the absent Team Member. The contest Superintendent must approve the substitution prior to the start of the contest.
  - d. Team Members must be enrolled in 4-H in the same county/Baltimore City, exceptions are those 4-H Members that belong to an approved project club that crosses county/city lines (i.e., a tri-county livestock club). 4-H Members enrolled in such clubs may compete jointly as a team in that project area. The 4-H Extension Educator approving the Joint Team entry must notify the State 4-H Office by July 31, 2026.
  - e. Restrictions relative to college/vocational training for these contests are listed in the department.
  - f. There is a \$5.00 fee per participant for all judging contests. An additional \$10.00 lunch fee will be collected per participant in the Dairy & Livestock Judging contests. Checks should be made payable to the Maryland 4-H Foundation and are due at time of entry.
5. A 4-H member who has represented Maryland on a team in a National 4-H Contest is ineligible for the State 4-H Contest in the same contest area. A 4-H member may not represent Maryland 4-H at an out-of-state competition as a member of more than one team in a given year.
6. Contestants will not be allowed to take books, notes or writing paper into the contest except cards as provided by the superintendent. **Cell phones and other portable electronic devices are not allowed.** While the contest is in progress there shall be no communication among the contestants or between a contestant and anyone else, except as directed by the superintendent or his representative. Contestants will be under the direct supervision of the group leader at all times.
7. **Scoring:** Unless otherwise noted, the top three scores of designated team members will determine the team score in the respective age divisions. All ties will be broken by the Superintendent using prescribed procedures.
8. **Awards:** Unless otherwise noted, all contestants (both team members and individuals) share in the individual awards. Ribbons and premiums will be awarded to the 20 High Individuals in each age division for each contest. Premiums: 1<sup>st</sup> (\$20), 2<sup>nd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> (\$15), 11<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> (\$5). Awards will be presented to the Team members in each age division for each contest as well as special awards (see each individual section).
9. All contests, except for the DAIRY GOAT JUDGING AND SKILLS EVENT, will be held on Saturday, September 5, 2026.

### SPECIAL AWARDS

The four (4) Senior Individuals selected to represent Maryland 4-H at the national contests will receive sweatshirts *sponsored by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland, College Park*

### SECTION 1 - DAIRY JUDGING

Superintendent: Brian Schnebl  
Asst. Superintendent: Emily Yeiser-Stepp

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### Section Rules & Regulations:

1. There is a \$5.00 participant fee and a separate \$10.00 lunch fee required for this event.
2. \*\*Counties/City may enter one (1) Team (consisting of 4 members) and an unlimited number of Individuals in each age division at the discretion of the contest superintendent. All will participate in the contest.
2. The contest will begin at 8:30am on Saturday, September 5, 2026 in the Cow Palace; with registration available at 8:00am.
3. This contest shall consist of placing 10 classes of cows and heifers selected from Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Jersey, Red & White, and Holstein breeds.
4. Contestants will have a total of 12 minutes to place each of the five heifer classes and non-reason cow classes. Placing cards will be collected after the total allocated time for each class has expired. Ring Procedure Placings will be as follows (activity/minutes): Circle the ring clockwise (2 minutes), Head to Tail (3 minutes), Circle the ring counterclockwise (2 minutes), Side by Side (3 minutes), Head to Tail (2 minutes).
5. Juniors will be required to give 1 set of Oral Reasons on the cow classes, Intermediates will be required to give 2 sets and seniors will be required to give 4 sets. Oral Reasons will be required on 4 classes of cows. A total of 20 minutes will be available for oral reason classes (activity/minutes): Head to Tail (1 minute), Circle the ring clockwise (2 minutes), Side by Side (2 minutes), Head to Tail (2 minutes).
6. A designated number of High Senior Individuals, who are available for further training on Sunday, September 6th, will make up the group from which four (4) may be selected to represent MD 4-H at the World Dairy Expo and four (4) may be selected to represent Maryland 4-H at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE).
7. A 4-H member who is participating in or has completed post-secondary course work in Dairy Cattle Judging or Dairy Cattle Evaluation is not eligible. A 4-H member who has participated in a post-secondary Dairy Cattle Judging Contest is not eligible.
8. Please refer to the Maryland 4-H website for the complete list of rules and regulations for the Maryland 4-H Dairy Judging Contest.

### SPECIAL AWARDS

- **Louis McLane Merryman Memorial Trophy** - A silver bowl presented annually to the winning 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Team in memory of Louis McLane Merryman, a former Maryland State Fair President and a lifelong supporter of 4-H, *provided by Mrs. Josie Merryman VanNess.*
- **Bea Pfefferkorn Memorial Awards** - Awarded to High Junior & Intermediate Individual with the highest score on Oral Reasons, *sponsored by Maryland State Fair*
- **Dorothy Emerson Memorial Trophy** - Awarded to the High-Scoring Individual on Oral Reasons, *sponsored by the Maryland State Fair.*
- **Select Sire Power, Inc. Award** - Awarded to the High-Scoring Senior on Placings, *sponsored by the Maryland Sales Division of Select Sire Power, Inc.*
- **John L. Morris Trophy** - Awarded to the High-Scoring Senior for all breeds, *sponsored by the Maryland Holstein Friesian Association.*
- **Breed Awards** - Awards will be presented to members of the High Team and the High Individuals in each age division, *sponsored by Maryland Ayrshire Breeders Association, Maryland Brown Swiss Association, Maryland Guernsey Breeders Association, Maryland Holstein Association and the Maryland Jersey Association.*

- **John B. Merryman Endowment** - A \$1,000 donation from this fund at the Maryland 4-H Foundation, Inc. will be made available to support the Maryland 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Teams participating in regional and national competitions.
- **The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources** is presenting a \$1000 scholarship to the Senior High Individual in the contest. The award will be given upon acceptance and enrollment in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Maryland 4-H Foundation will match the \$1000 scholarship upon acceptance into the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland.

## SECTION 2 - LIVESTOCK JUDGING

Superintendent: Drew Cashman

Phone:

Email:

### Section Rules & Regulations:

1. There is a \$5.00 participant fee and a separate \$10.00 lunch fee required for this event.
2. The contest will begin at 9:00am on Saturday, September 5, 2026 in the Cow Palace.
3. This contest shall consist of placing not less than 9 classes of breeding and market animals selected from Beef Cattle, Sheep, Swine and Meat Goats.
4. Juniors will be required to give 1 set of Oral Reasons (the particular species will be rotated every year: 2026 Sheep and 2027 Beef, 2028 Swine). Intermediates will be required to give 3 sets (one per species) and Seniors will be required to give 4 sets. Seniors will have a total of 12 minutes to place each class with an additional 3 minutes for Reasons classes. Any potential goat classes will be placing classes only, no reasons.
5. A designated number of High Senior Individuals, who are available for further training on Sunday, September 6th and Monday, September 7th will make up the group from which four (4) may be selected to represent Maryland 4-H at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) Contest in Louisville, KY and four (4) may be selected to represent Maryland 4-H at the Keystone International Livestock Expo (KILE) Contest in Harrisburg, PA.
6. A 4-H member is not eligible to participate in this contest if they have participated in any post-secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) **competitive event** of a similar nature and in the same subject matter area. A 4-H member may not be enrolled in or have completed a post-secondary course in visual livestock evaluation and/ or carcass evaluation.
7. Please refer to the Maryland 4-H website for the complete list of rules and regulations for the Maryland 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.

### SPECIAL AWARDS

#### **SHEEP**

- An award will be presented to the High Individual in each age division sponsored by: *The Maryland Sheep Breeder's Association.*
- An award will be presented to each member of the High Team in each age division in Sheep Judging sponsored by: *The Maryland Sheep Breeder's Association.*

#### **SWINE**

- An award will be presented to the High Individual in each age division sponsored by: *The Maryland Pork Producers.*
- An award will be presented to the members of the High Team in each age division in Swine Judging sponsored by: *The Maryland Pork Producers.*

#### **BEEF**

- An award will be presented to the High Individual in each age division sponsored by: *Doug and Pam Velisek.*
- An award will be presented to each member of the High Team in each age division in Swine Judging. Senior Team sponsored by: *Michael Kinna.* Intermediate Team sponsored by: *The Michael Harrison Family.* Junior Team sponsored by: *David, Kimmi Lechliders and Family.*

#### **ORAL REASONS**

- The High-Scoring Individual in overall Oral Reasons in each age division will receive an award sponsored by: *Sheepman Supply, The Dinsmore Family.*
- The High-Scoring Individual in Senior Oral Reasons receives an award *In Memory of Frank Feeser, sponsored by the Feeser Memorial Fund.*
- The High-Scoring Senior Team in Oral Reasons will receive an award sponsored by: *Drew, Christy Cashman and Family.*
- The High-Scoring Intermediate Team in Oral Reasons will receive an award sponsored by: *Cody, Megan Cashman and Family.*
- The High-Scoring Junior Team in Oral Reasons will receive an award sponsored by: *Drew and Tucker Schmidt.*

#### **HIGH INDIVIDUALS and HIGH TEAMS**

- The High Senior Individual will receive a belt buckle sponsored by: *Kyle Cooney.*
- The High Intermediate Individual will receive an award sponsored by: *Kyle Cooney.*
- The High Junior Individual will receive an award sponsored by: *Kyle Cooney.*
- The High Senior Team Overall will receive an award sponsored by: *Konnar Miller Pruett.*
- The High Intermediate Team Overall will receive an award sponsored by: *Matthew and Mark Chaney.*
- The High Junior Team Overall will receive an award sponsored by: *Paul, Jamie Hester and Family.*

#### **SENIOR HIGH INDIVIDUAL**

- The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is presenting a \$1000 scholarship to the Senior High Individual in the contest. The award will be given upon acceptance and enrollment in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Maryland 4-H Foundation will match the \$1000 scholarship upon acceptance into the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland.

#### **STATE TEAM AWARDS**

- Jackets will be presented prior to travel to members selected for the State Livestock "A" Team that will represent Maryland at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, by the *Maryland 4-H Foundation.*

## SECTION 3—HORTICULTURAL JUDGING

Superintendent: Amanda Wahle

Phone: (301) 314-7363

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### Section Rules & Regulations:

1. There is a \$5.00 participant fee required for this event.
2. The contest will begin at 8:00am Saturday, September 5, 2026 in the Vista Room of the Administration Building.
3. Contestants must be enrolled in a 4-H Horticulture related project which includes the Commercial Horticulture Project, Entomology, Weed Control and Identification or one of the projects in Plan and Plant for Beauty series for the current year. All entries must be pre-entered by the local 4-H Extension Educator. (See 4-H Judging Contest Division Rules and Regulations for additional information.)
4. FFA Members and Individuals who have previously participated in any division of the national level NJHA Judging Program may participate in the contest as an open class contestant.
5. The following areas will be included in the contest:
  - a. Plant Identification; Vegetables; Fruits and Nuts; Flowers and Indoor Plants; Ornamentals and Grasses.
  - b. Horticultural Pest Identification: Insects, Diseases and Defects; Weeds.
  - c. Quality Judging: Vegetables; Fruits and Nuts; Flowers and Indoor Plants; Ornamentals.
  - d. Written Exam. (Seniors Only).

6. The Intermediate Contest will include the Senior Contest without the written exam
7. The Junior Contest will be a shortened version of the Intermediate and Senior Contest without a written exam.
8. Four (4) of the High Senior Individuals may be eligible to represent Maryland 4-H at the national contest (National Junior Horticulture Association Convention in October). Visit: <https://www.njha.org/contests.html> for additional information about the national contest. Additional training in preparation for participation in the national contest will be provided from mid-September to October. The practice schedule will be provided by team coaches. All team members are required to attend practices and a trip orientation.
9. Please refer to the Maryland 4-H website for the complete list of rules and regulations for the Maryland 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest.

#### **SPECIAL AWARDS**

- A trophy will be presented to the High Individual in each age division, *sponsored by the Maryland State Fair*.
- Trophies will be presented to the members of the High Team in each age division, *sponsored by the Maryland State Fair*.
- Ribbons will be presented to the top 3 individuals in each category. 1st-20th place will be awarded for the Overall score category. Special Awards will be presented to the Top Individuals in each age division for each contest area (i.e. Nuts, Flowers, etc.) sponsored by MD State Fair.
- The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is presenting a \$1000 scholarship to the Senior High Individual in the contest. Award will be given upon acceptance and enrollment in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Maryland 4-H Foundation will match the \$1000 scholarship upon acceptance into the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland.

#### **SECTION 4 - POULTRY AND EGG JUDGING**

Superintendent: Angelique Livezey

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Assistant Superintendent: Jennifer Reynolds

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#### **Section Rules & Regulations:**

1. There is a \$5.00 participant fee required for this event.
2. The contest will begin at 9:00am on Saturday, September 5, 2026 in the Horse Sales Pavilion.
3. **The following areas will be included in the contest:**
  - a. **Past Egg Production Evaluation (3 classes) (EVALUATION CHANGES effective 2022)**
  - b. **Past Egg Production Oral Reasons (2 classes)**
  - c. **Market Poultry: Grading ready-to-cook carcasses (GRADING CHANGES effective 2022)**
  - d. **Market Poultry: Grading ready-to-cook parts (NEW effective 2022)**
  - e. **Market Poultry: Parts identification (NEW PARTS ADDED effective 2022)**
  - f. **Market Poultry: Further processed products evaluation (NEW effective 2022)**
  - g. **Market Eggs: Exterior egg quality (ALL EGG COLORS NOW POSSIBLE effective 2022)**
  - h. **Market Eggs: Interior egg quality - Candling**
  - i. **Market Eggs: Interior egg quality - Broken Out**
4. The Junior Contest will be a modified version of the Intermediate and Senior Contest. Oral Reasons for one class of production birds will be a part of the individual's total score. The Intermediate and Senior Contests will include all the areas listed above for the contest.
5. **The National 4-H Poultry Judging Manual previously sold by the University of Nebraska is no longer applicable to the State and National Poultry Judging Contests. The NEW National 4-H Poultry Judging Manual is only available online at <https://national4hpoultry.ca.uky.edu/poultry-judging-manual> (Most recent revision 2/24/2021). The new manual may be downloaded at no cost.**
6. The four (4) High Senior Individuals may be eligible to represent Maryland 4-H at the national contest. Additional training in preparation for participation in the national contest will be provided. All team members are required to attend practices and a trip orientation.
7. Please refer to the Maryland 4-H website for the complete list of rules and regulations for the Maryland 4-H Poultry Judging Contest.

#### **SPECIAL AWARDS**

- A trophy will be presented to the High Individual in each age division, *sponsored by the Maryland State Fair*.
- Trophies will be presented to the members of the High Team in each age division, *sponsored by the Maryland State Fair*.
- Ribbons presented to High Individual & High Teams in each age division for contest areas (i.e. Production including Oral Reasons, Dressed Market, and Egg Quality).
- The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is presenting a \$1000 scholarship to the Senior High Individual in the contest. The award will be given upon acceptance and enrollment in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Maryland 4-H Foundation will match the \$1000 scholarship upon acceptance into the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland.

#### **SECTION 5 - RABBIT JUDGING AND SKILLATHON**

Superintendent: Anna Glenn

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#### **Section Rules & Regulations:**

1. There is a \$5.00 participant fee required for this event; there is no lunch fee as the contest will typically be finished by lunchtime.
2. The contest will begin at 9:00am on Saturday, September 5, 2026 in the Horse Sales Pavilion.
3. The following areas will be included in the contest:
  - Breed Rabbit Judging Classes -4 class,
  - Breed Rabbit Judging Class- 6 class (Juniors will not need to flip these rabbits over)
  - Breed Rabbit Judging- no reasons
  - Market Class
  - Oral Reasons (Intermediates and Seniors give 2 sets and Juniors give 1 set)
  - Rabbit Disqualifications
  - Breed Identification
  - Equipment Identification
  - Rabbit External Body Parts Identification
  - Rabbit Digestive System Identification
  - Rabbit Skeletal System Identification

- Written Test (material from ARBA's *Official Guide Book: Raising Better Rabbits and Cavies*- can be purchased online)

Note: The questions that are pulled for the **written test** (for all ages) and the diagrams that are used in the **digestive** system and **skeleton** system sections (for juniors and intermediates) are broken down by "A, B, and C" years so participants don't have to know everything each year. **The 2026 Test will pull from resources in the "B" year list of materials. Please refer to the "Maryland 4-H State Rabbit Judging & Skillathon Study Guide" for guidance on the specific materials that are included in the A, B, and C years.**

4. Contact the superintendent or your local 4-H Extension Educator for current resource and study materials.
5. Please refer to the Maryland 4-H website for the complete list of rules and regulations for the Maryland 4-H Rabbit Judging Contest.

#### SPECIAL AWARDS

- A trophy will be presented to the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Individuals in each age division and ribbons to 1<sup>st</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> places, *sponsored by the Maryland State Fair.*
- Trophies will be presented to the members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team in each age division and ribbons to 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams, *sponsored by the Maryland State Fair.*
- Ribbons and Trophies will be presented to the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Individuals in each age division and 1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> place ribbons given for the following contest areas: Live Section Division, Written Division and Oral Reasons Division, *sponsored by the Maryland State Fair.*
- A Special Scholarship will be awarded to the High Senior Individual.

The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is presenting a \$1000 scholarship to the Senior High Individual in the contest. The award will be given upon acceptance and enrollment in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Maryland 4-H Foundation will match the \$1000 scholarship upon acceptance into the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland.

#### **SECTION 7 - DAIRY GOAT JUDGING AND SKILLS EVENT**

Superintendent: April Hall Barczewski      Email: adhall@umd.edu      Office Phone: 410-996-8134 | Cell Phone: 410-920-1245  
Asst. Superintendent: Leann Sanders      Email: LMsanders37@gmail.com      Cell Phone: 908-208-8550

#### Section Rules & Regulations:

1. There is a \$5.00 participant fee required for this event.
2. The 4-H Dairy Goat Judging & Skills Event will consist of 2 parts: a Skillathon and Judging classes. The Contest will begin at 6pm on Friday, September 11th in the Sheep Ring. Awards will be presented on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> during the 4-H/FFFA Dairy Goat Show lunch break.
3. 4-H members may participate in the judging contest without exhibiting an animal.
4. Contestants will compete as individuals not on teams. There is not a limit on the number of individuals per County/City.
5. The Judging Contest classes will be announced at the beginning of the contest.
6. Participants are eligible to compete in other 4-H/FFFA competitive events held on Saturday, September 5, 2026
7. Please refer to the Maryland 4-H website for the complete list of rules and regulations for the Maryland 4-H Dairy Goat Judging and Skills Contest.

#### Contest Information:

- The written exam will be all multiple choice for Juniors and part multiple choice/short answer for Intermediates and Seniors.
- Questions for the skills event will be on the following topics: Feedstuff Identification, Equipment Identification, Quality Assurance, Breed Identification, Wholesale Meat Cuts, Parts Identification, Disease Identification, and other applicable topics.
- Participants will be judging 3-4 classes of dairy goats (at least 1 class of kids/yearlings and 1 class of milkers) and giving 1-2 sets of reasons or answering judging questions if time permits (Juniors- 1 set, Intermediates and Seniors 1-2 sets).
- **Dairy goat judging & skills resources can be accessed at:**  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1le1zFVn4DdIKWcmC\\_tOKROr5j1Hkk0?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1le1zFVn4DdIKWcmC_tOKROr5j1Hkk0?usp=drive_link)

#### SPECIAL AWARDS

- An Award will be presented to the High Individual in each age division, *sponsored by the Maryland State Fair.*
- An Award will be presented to the High Individual in the Skillathon portion and High Individual in the Judging portion in each age division, *sponsored by the Barczewski Family.*