

# **WYOMING STATE 4-H WOOL JUDGING CONTEST**

This Contest is held at the Albany County Fairground, Laramie Wyoming.

The contest committee will be chaired by Whit Stewart, UW Sheep Specialist and Wool Judging Team Coordinator.

The contest Coordinators will be the WY State 4-H Office. All questions regarding registration should be sent to Rylie Ogden and rules questions should be sent to Amber Comer.

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

- 12:00 p.m. Check-in
- 12:30 p.m. Orientation
- 1:00 p.m. Wool Judging Contest begins
- 4:30 p.m. Food will be available for youth who are registered.
- 6:00 p.m. Awards Presentations (approximate time)

## **CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY**

Youth entries are submitted by either the family or County 4-H Educator and will be verified using zSuites.

Youth will compete as individuals. Counties can enter an unlimited number of youth in each age.

Counties will designate the individuals that will make up teams consisting of 3-4 contestants. Junior team designations can be from junior and/or intermediate age divisions, while senior teams must be in the senior age division. The top three scoring members of a team shall constitute the official team for each division and total contest. The fourth-ranking member in each division and total contest shall automatically become the alternate in that division or total contest.

Youth will compete in the appropriate age division based on their 4-H age eligibility:

Seniors: age 14 – 18 (as of January 1 of current year)

Intermediates: age 11 – 13 (as of January 1 of current year)

Juniors: age 8 – 10 (as of January 1 of current year)

## **CONTEST CLASSES & JUDGING**

Contestants will be allowed 12 minutes for each judging class and 25 minutes for the Fleece Grading Line. Judging classes for the contest will consist of the following categories:

6 Wool Classes

6 Sets of Questions for each of Placing Classes

Reasons:

- Juniors and Intermediates → will give reasons on 1 class with use of notes

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- Seniors → will give reasons on 2 classes
  - An automatic 5-point penalty will be assigned for senior contestants who elect to use their notes for oral reasons. This penalty will be assigned to each class where notes are used.
- Reasons classes will be determined by the Official Committee and announced at the beginning of the contest.

Grading Line (15 fleeces)

### **CONTEST MATERIALS**

Contestants may only bring blank pieces of paper, a blank clipboard (no measurements or rulers), and writing utensil(s) into the contest. Notes will not be permitted.

Members may use a blank rubber band (no writing on it) to hold the fleece.

Official scantrons will be provided at check-in.

### **SCORING**

The contest will be scored by scantron. Please see the example scantron that is posted to the WY 4-H Meat Judging website for an example. [https://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/opportunities/state-contests/\\_files/meat-judging/528-5-wool-scantron-example-sheet.pdf](https://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/opportunities/state-contests/_files/meat-judging/528-5-wool-scantron-example-sheet.pdf)

### **General Rules:**

- Cheating will not be tolerated; contestants may be disqualified for cheating. From the time the contest begins to the time the contest is officially complete, there will be no conferring between contestants. Cell phones, smart watches, and other smart devices are prohibited. All supplies the student brings must be blank.
- Contestants are warned against rough handling of contest fleeces. Any contestant who violates this rule will be asked to place the remainder of the classes without handling. No warning will be given.
- Coaches will not be allowed to see the classes until official judges begin to hear contestant's reasons.

### **CONTEST AWARDS**

Awards will be provided for the following categories for individuals and teams:

- Total Placings
- Total Reasons/ questions
- Grading Rail
- Overalls

A tie(s) for High Team or High Individual (overall) will be broken on the fifteen (15) fleece grading rail. Placing ties will be broken by reasons and total scores will break grading ties. Reasons will be broken on the lowest placing score, then on grading.

Revised 12/2025

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1<sup>st</sup> place Senior Team – Choice of the following trips:

- National Western Stock Show Wool Judging Contest in Denver, CO (January 2027)
- Wool Judging National Contest at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas (October 2026)

2<sup>nd</sup> place Senior Team will win the remaining trip if eligible.

Various items will be awarded for Junior and Senior teams and individuals.

\*\*\* If you are interested in supporting the Wyoming 4-H Program, please contact:

**Steve Mack, Director**

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