

2026 Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes

Coaches Guide & Contest Guidelines

- ❖ **Entries** – All contest entries must be made by **August 1, 2026**. Registration is **ONLINE** through Cvent. The link for registration is distributed to County Extension Agents via email and is to be filled out by agents. Youth need to be entered by their extension unit to be eligible to participate. Fees must be mailed to 201 Umberger Hall, KSU, Manhattan, KS 66506. No refunds are available. **If the county fair or deciding contest is not held until after the August 1 due date, extension units/coaches are still required to submit an official entry for the number of individuals/teams they plan to bring.** Coaches are allowed two business days after the conclusion of the local event to submit the specific names of participants to Lexie Hayes (adhayes@ksu.edu). Registration is non-refundable.

Contest Registration Fees:

- Livestock Judging - \$20/contestant
 - Meat Judging - \$15/contestant
 - Skillathon - \$15/contestant
 - Quiz Bowl - \$15/contestant (\$60/team) – *must register 4-member team to participate*
- ❖ ***Late Entries*** – *Late entries are only considered if an extension unit registers youth by the August 1 deadline. Additions can be made to the original registration until August 10. However, a late fee is required. The registration fee will be doubled for each contest in which a youth is added after the original entry deadline. An original registration must be on file for the extension unit by August 1 to be eligible to add participants. Only substitutions are allowed after August 10. **No on-site registration is allowed.***
 - ❖ **District Teams** – Districts who have multiple teams should email a list of the team members, designated by team (Southwind #1, Wildcat #2, Meadowlark #3, etc.), for each contest, to Lexie by August 7 to ensure contest team numbers are assigned appropriately. **Final teams and their specific team members must be designated by this date.**
 - ❖ **Max Number of Participants per Extension Unit** – Each team is only allowed ONE team of three or four members in the Livestock Judging Contest, Meats Judging Contest and Livestock Skillathon. **No alternates.** The top three scores of each competition will be counted toward the overall team score. The individual with the lowest score will still be eligible for individual awards. Quiz Bowl is a team-only contest, and a team must include four members for the entry to be accepted. Quiz Bowl teams may submit one alternate for each team, if they wish. Although team and overall individual sweepstakes participation is strongly encouraged, **extension units may enter 5 youth to compete as individuals (livestock judging, meats judging, skillathon) in addition to the designated team of 3 or 4 members. Therefore, counties may enter up to 9 total youth/contest.** The exception is quiz bowl in which only one team per county may be entered.
 - ❖ **Eligibility** – Members must be 9, but not yet 19, before January 1 of the current year. Contestants in National 4-H Competitive Events cannot have reached their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current

year. **If a team has one or more members who are under 14 years of age, that entire team will be ineligible and forfeit the opportunity to qualify for any national competition.**

- ❖ **T-shirts** – Each participant will receive an event T-shirt, which will be ordered at the time of registration. Shirts are available only in adult sizes S–3XL. Coaches and volunteers will also have the option to order additional T-shirts during registration. Extra shirts will be available for \$12 each.
- ❖ **Accommodations** – We request that extension staff share information regarding equal opportunity and disability accommodation request information at least 4 weeks prior to the contest with 4-H parents. To request a disability accommodation, complete the [Disabilities Accommodation Request Form](#). Those requesting accommodations for a local extension program, should work with the extension agent to complete this form. *Please let Lexie know if a coach, volunteer, or 4-H participant has any special (dietary, reading, medical etc.) needs at least two weeks prior to the event. This information needs to be included in the system at the time of registration. (adhayes@ksu.edu)
- ❖ **Parking & Move-in Weekend** – This event will be hosted during K-State move-in weekend. Look for **additional parking** behind Call Hall and Umberger Hall while on campus. No parking permits are required on weekends. However, given the significant amount of construction ongoing in or near the animal sciences buildings and facilities, ***the majority of the contests will likely be hosted at the Stanley Stout Center and livestock units.*** Due to the fall opening of K-State, teams are highly recommended to **reserve rooms** as soon as possible! Participants are invited to use any of the hotel accommodations in Manhattan. Most hotels in town will offer a more economical rate if you mention you need the K-State rate, or will be here for a K-State event.
- ❖ **Lunches** – Lunches will be served to Livestock Judging Contestants on Saturday as part of their contest fee. **Additional (non-participant) lunches may be purchased through the registration system for \$10/meal.** These meals will be distributed after all livestock contestants have been served. *No lunch will be served on Sunday in conjunction with the Meat Judging Contest.* Coaches and adult chaperones will need to make lunch arrangements for their teams. A list of food vendors who will deliver to University property is provided at the end of this guide. Teams will also be responsible for providing their own snacks. There will be a quick break and ice cream social between the livestock judging critique and skillathon for participants to get a snack before starting the next contest.
- ❖ **Cell Phone Use** – **Absolutely no cell phones** or other non-medical electronic devices (*smart watches*) may be carried by participants during any competitive event. If a student is seen with such a device during competition, it is grounds for immediate disqualification and dismissal.
- ❖ **Contest Volunteers** – Volunteers are welcome to assist with the weekend's activities. However, these individuals should not be directly involved with the coaching of any teams or 4-H'ers entered in a contest. Individuals who would like to be involved may contact Lexie Hayes to sign up at adhayes@ksu.edu. Previous participants who have aged out and are interested in volunteering for the event are welcome to do so, as long as they will not be directly coaching teams. Those interested should reach out to Lexie directly.
- ❖ **Contest Rules** – Please refer to individual contest rules for specific details and methods of conduct for each of the contests.

- ❖ **Reference List & Resources** – Extension Agents and Coaches are encouraged to use contest rules and the Kansas 4-H Livestock Reference List as a guide in preparing teams. This information is not all-encompassing but provides quality resources and a basis for educating youth about important knowledge competencies related to the various livestock industries.
- ❖ **Team Study/”Hangout” Space** – All available facilities will be used for the contests due to the significant amount of construction happening on campus property, specifically involving animal sciences buildings and units. Do **NOT** plan on study or “hangout” space being available for teams. All areas of facilities used will be considered official contest space and should not be occupied by youth or coaches without direct permission. Contestants and coaches will also be dismissed from each facility following each contest in preparation for the next event.
- ❖ **SPECIAL NOTE**: Please note in the registration system if an individual has competed in the **National 4-H Livestock Judging (NAILE in Louisville, KY), Skillathon (NAILE in Louisville, KY), Quiz Bowl (NAILE), and/or Meat Judging Contest (American Royal in Manhattan, KS)**. These individuals are not eligible to compete on a team in those respective areas, but may participate as an individual for the overall Sweepstakes competition. These members will not be eligible for awards in the contest, but their score will count toward individual Sweepstakes awards. For example, if a 4-H’er who participated in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville last year wants to compete in this year’s individual Sweepstakes contest, which includes the state 4-H livestock judging, they may participate in the livestock judging contest. However, they will not be recognized during the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest Awards; their score will only be used towards the individual Sweepstakes awards. If a member who has competed in a designated national 4-H contest does not wish to participate in the Sweepstakes competition, but still would like to participate in an individual contest, they may do so. However, they will not be eligible for awards for that specific contest. Also, coaches are asked to provide the 4-H age and grade for Fall 2026 for each 4-H member who registers.
- ❖ **NATIONAL 4-H CONTEST ELIGIBILITY**: 4-H members must have reached their 14th birthday, and not have reached their 19th birthday, before January 1, of the current program year, to meet the age requirement for all national contests. Additionally, members must not have completed post-secondary coursework in the subject area of the 4-H competition, nor has he or she participated in training for post-secondary competition in the subject area of the 4-H competition.

We hope your 4-H’ers will enjoy this opportunity! Please contact Lexie Hayes at adhayes@ksu.edu or 785-532-1264 with any questions.

Food Vendors

**No advertisement or endorsement is intended for any of the following businesses, and this list is not all-inclusive. It is simply provided as an optional resource for coaches interested in vendors that will deliver to the KSU campus. Uber Eats, DoorDash, and EZ Cater (www.ezcater.com) are also options. EZ Cater requires 24-hour notice, but will deliver from a variety of restaurants in Manhattan for smaller groups.*

Chick-fil-A – (785)537-2130

Dominos – (785)776-7788

Jimmy Johns – (785)539-7454

Mr. Goodcents – (785)539-1900

Papa Johns – (785)537-1400

Pizza Hut – (785)539-7447