



Hutchinson Community College

2026 Blue Dragon Classic

In Memory Of Ashley Austin

Coaches and Advisors:

Greetings and welcome to the 2026 Hutchinson Community College Blue Dragon Classic! We are appreciative of your interest in competing in this educational and high quality event. We were humbled by the success of our event the last couple years and are proud to bring it back in 2026. We will have access to quality livestock and are bringing in distinguished officials that are industry leaders to listen to your students' reasons. Our goal is to not only allow students to display their livestock evaluation abilities, but also allow this to serve as a great preparation for upcoming contests.

When: Monday April 13th, 2026

Where: Celebration Centre & Bar K Bar Arena – Lyons, KS

1145 E US 56 Hwy
Lyons, KS 67554

Please try to book your hotels in Lyons or Sterling. The county tourism board works with me every year to try and bring more business to the community. There are several really good options in Rice County, including the Celebration Centre Inn & Suites and Lyons Inn (both in Lyons) and the Country Inn Motel (Sterling). All very clean and affordable.

Time: Registration will be from 7 – 8 a.m. Final instructions at 8:15 a.m. Contest starts at 8:30 a.m.

Entries: Youth Entries due by April 1st. Late Entries due April 8th. No entries accepted after April 8th.

Entries can be made via the google forms link that should accompany this information.

<https://forms.gle/kDeoXsxGBDCchJPo6>

Cost: \$15 per contestant for all youth contestants, regardless of if they are in reasons or nonreasons. Late entry fee for youth \$30 per contestant. Lunch will be provided to reasons contestants only. Please make checks payable to HCC Livestock Judging Team – due the morning of the contest. *Any team not paid by the morning of the contest will be ineligible for awards.

Classes: 12 classes (minimum) will be judged. The species represented will be beef cattle, swine, sheep and goats with a mixture of breeding and market classes. Performance data and/or scenarios may be used on any of the breeding classes. The best classes will be used for reasons regardless of species. Contestants will be given 12 minutes per class.

Dress Code: Youth contestants can wear casual clothes; but are expected to not wear hats, and need to wear closed-toed shoes, jeans, nice shirts, etc. Contestants should not wear clothing or accessories that say where they are from. Please no dress coats or ties!

Youth Divisions and Scoring: There will be 2 divisions for youth giving reasons – Senior and Junior. Senior contestants (9th – 12th grade) will give 4 sets of reasons. Junior contestants (8th grade and younger) will give 2 sets of reasons. Contestants are allowed to move up an age division, but not down. For example, an 8th grader can move up to the Sr. division to fill a team or compete as an individual. For non-reasons contestants, all contestants will judge together. Students 12th grade and younger not wanting to give reasons will judge in the non-reasons division.

Teams can have up to 4 people per team, with the top 3 scores counting towards the overall team score. Each school or county may bring an unlimited number of contestants and teams, HOWEVER in the non-reasons division, the total number of contestants will be capped at 150 in this division on a first entered/first served basis! We welcome teams and individuals from any state to come and participate.

Results: Mike Roeber will once again be scoring the contest. We appreciate Mike for coming down and doing an accurate and efficient job as always. We anticipate having results ready for reasons contestants soon after the collegiate divisions are finished. For non-reasons contestants, we hope to have results 1-2 hours maximum after the completion of judging. If it is going to be longer, we will plan to do a Facebook Live announcement of the results.

Group Leaders: We will need coaches/advisors to serve as group leaders. Group leaders will be given a large manila envelope for contestants to drop cards in and that envelope will be collected by a contest representative at the conclusion of each class rotation to be taken to the scoring room.

Expectations: We expect there to be no talking amongst contestants during any portion of the contest, and no contestants are permitted to be on an electronic devices of any kind. All contestants will receive one warning before being broken into groups on contest morning. Any contestants caught talking to anyone other than asking their group leader a question, or on an electronic device will have their cards pulled and will be removed from the contest. Reasons contestants will not be permitted to talk to their teammates or other contestants at any point until after reasons are finished. If any contestant is caught talking during reasons or is on an electronic device, they will be removed from the contest. It is the responsibility of the coaches/advisors to relay the seriousness of the no-talking and no-electronics rules. There will be no wiggle room or gray area on this. Contestants will be removed from the contest if they are talking or on an electronic device; no questions asked.

I look forward to your participation in this event. Please contact me with any questions @ 618-231-3592 or austink@hutchcc.edu.

Sincerely,

Kane Austin
Ag Instructor/Livestock Judging Coach
Hutchinson Community College