



## 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest July 12, 2013

### Audience

104 contestants competed in the 2013 Michigan 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging Contest for youth ages 8 to 21. Three separate divisions exist consisting of 4-H, FFA, and Michigan Livestock Expo (MLE) Individuals. Within the 4-H division, 18 4-H members competed in the Junior 4-H Division consisting of contestants ages 8-13. 41 4-H members competed in the Senior 4-H Division consisting of members ages 14-18. 4-H members were also allowed to compete against FFA members in the FFA Division. In 2013, there were no contestants in the MLE Individual Division ages 19-21. No youth were turned away from competing in the contest.

### Funding

Each contestant paid \$12 to participate in the state livestock judging contest. Officials donated their time to help teach youth about livestock and evaluation.

### Objectives

This youth contest is designed to:

- Educate youth on Michigan's current issues and trends in livestock production within the Midwest.
- Develop problem solving and critical thinking skills through evaluation of livestock.
- Enhance livestock evaluation and selection skills.
- Improve communication and decision making skills.

### Description

Participants had 6 contact hours with 7 MSU faculty along with 16 industry leaders and other volunteer resource people.

Contestants judged seven classes including Market Steers, Performance Hereford Heifers, Dorset Ewes, Performance Suffolk Rams, Boer Does, Market Hogs, and Commercial Gilts.

Each contestant then answered one set of ten questions about the steer class. The contestants either answered 10 questions about each specie or gave one set of reasons about each specie. The junior participants then answered three sets of questions or gave three sets of oral reasons to defend their placing on a designated class within each specie. All senior participants communicated one set of oral reasons for each of the three species.

Participants had the opportunity to score up to 500 points during the day long event. Once all contestants had concluded their reasons, the officials described each class in detail and announced the proper placing of the class. At that point, contestants were able to calculate their own score based on the information presented.

Official results were given for the top 10 individuals in the 4-H Junior and Senior division for oral reasons as well as overall including placings, questions and reasons. The top overall teams in each division were also announced for the two 4-H divisions.

### Impacts

- 88.5% of participants competed in oral reasons to defend their placing on three of the seven classes.
- 99.7% of the cards were turned in correctly to allow students to receive a score and therefore feedback on their placing, reasons or questions.

Three first time exhibitors that competed in the questions division, when asked, were excited about the contest and are looking forward to competing in it again next year.

### Contact Information

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