


**62ND ANNUAL
NATIONAL 4-H
& 22ND ANNUAL
NATIONAL FFA
WOOL JUDGING
CONTESTS**

**STATE FAIR OF TEXAS
DALLAS, TEXAS
OCTOBER 7, 2023**

Officials

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Rules and Regulations

(Updated 05/01/2023)

1. A maximum of FOUR teams may enter from each state with selection of teams to be made by each 4-H/FFA office. The state office should submit the entries via email to the show superintendent(s) by August 1, 2023 at 5 pm. Entries should include the name of the qualifying county or chapter, names all team members, team members birthdays, and coach.
2. To compete at the national contest, the contestant(s) must have qualified in their respective 4-H or FFA state competitions that qualifying year. Students must not be enrolled in college prior to their local state contest. The substitute of one team member will be allowed to maintain the eligibility of a three-person team.
3. If an individual qualifies for the national competition in both the 4-H and FFA state contests on separate teams, the individual/team must choose which organization they wish to compete under due to the nature of the two contests being held in the same place, at the same time. Members of the National Champion team will be ineligible for future participation in National 4-H or FFA Wool Contests, within their respective organizations. Teams placing 2nd and lower can continue to participate at future National 4-H or FFA Wool Contests, if they are still eligible according to their respective state rules.
4. Teams may consist of four members, with the scores of the three highest members making the team score. The low scoring member of each team will automatically become the alternate. The scores of the alternate will not be included in any of the team totals but will be considered in making all individual awards. Teams consisting of three members will have no alternate and all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards.
5. Contestants will be provided with a clipboard and scantron. Contestants may use their own clipboard, pencils, and coversheets; however, the use of any marked measuring device will be prohibited. Possession of an unapproved device, cellphone, or mishandling of fleeces, could result in contestant and/or team disqualification.

6. Fleece Evaluation of Grading Rail

Twenty (20) or thirty (30) fleeces will be graded for fineness, yield, and length. Fifteen minutes will be allowed to classify two sets of ten (10) or fifteen (15) fleeces for a total of thirty minutes on the grading rail. Contestants will receive full credit of 4 points for each correct wool grade selected. If contestants select a wool grade that is one blood grade off, they will receive 2 points. If a contestant is two or more grades off, no points will be awarded. Contestants will receive 2 points for each correct staple length category selected. If a contestant misses the official, no points will be awarded. Cards with sample locks may be used on the rail for contestants to determine the staple length of the fiber; if a break in the fiber is encountered, it will be shown on the staple card. If a break in the fiber is encountered, the longest part will be used to determine staple length. The categories for wool grades and staple lengths are found in **Table 1**.

Contestants will be required to estimate an actual percentage yield. If a contestant is within 4 points above or 4 points below the official percentage yield, they will receive full credit of 4 points. If the constant is within 8 points above or 8 points below the percentage yield, they will receive 2 points. If they are more than 8 points above or below, no points will be awarded. **Table 2** defines the average and normal ranges of clean fleece yields for each grade.

Table 1: Wool Grades and Length Standards

Wool Grades			Staple Lengths		
Blood Grade	Spin Count	Fiber Diameter (Microns)	Staple	French Combing	Clothing
Fine	64s,70s,80s	22.04 and finer	>3.00"	3.00"-2.00"	<2.00"
Half	60s and 62s	22.05-24.94	>3.25"	3.25"-2.25"	<2.25"
3/8	56s and 58s	24.95-27.84	>3.50"		<3.50"
1/4	54s and 50s	27.85-30.99	>4.00"		<4.00"
Low 1/4	48s and lower	31.00 and courser	>4.00"		<4.00"

Table 2: Average and Normal Range of Clean Fleece Yields

	Clean Fleece Yield				
Wool Blood Grades	Fine	Half	3/8	1/4	Low 1/4
Average (%)	50	55	60	65	65
Normal Range (%)	40-60	45-65	50-70	55-75	55-75

7. Placing and Reasons

There will be a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of six (6) classes of wool and contestants will have 15 minutes for each class. Contestants will place the four fleeces within a class and fleece-quality questions will be asked for each class. For questions it is important that contestants record only one

number for each description. Cards with sample locks may be used to determine fiber length and uniformity. Officials have the option of giving credit for more than one answer if a particular description matches more than one fleece. The placing of the class is worth 50 points and the questions for each class are worth 50 points for a total of 100 points per class.

8. Tie Breakers

In the event of two or more teams results in a tie, the following procedures will be used as a tie breaker:

1. The team with the highest total score on the grading rail will be the higher placing team.
2. The team with the highest total reasons score will be the higher placing team.
3. The team with the highest total class placings score will be the higher placing team.
4. The team with the highest dropped score will be the higher placing team.

In the event of two or more individuals results in a tie, the following procedures will be used as a tie breaker:

1. The contestant with the highest grading rail score will be the higher placing individual.
2. The contestant with the highest reasons score will be the higher placing individual.
3. The contestant with the highest placings score will be the higher placing individual.
4. The contestant with the highest reasons score for the toughest placing class will be the higher placing individual.

2022 National Champions

Callahan County 4-H (TX)

Janna Arnold
Kasey Arnold
Kilye Winge
Avery Walton
Coach: Carl Winge

Hondo FFA (TX)

Caryn Jacobs
Coy Jacobs
Addison Williams
Amber Williams
Coach: Timbo Tatsch

2022 Reserve National Champions

Kimble County 4-H (TX)

Lila Pope
Pake Sanders
Brylee Stewart
Coach: Russell Kott

Junction FFA (TX)

Crue Levien
Ragan Levien
Baylee Plumley
Grant Simon
Coach: Russell Kott