2023 TEXAS 4-H ROUNDUP
WOOL & MOHAIR JUDGING CONTEST

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023	WOOL: 8:00 AM MOHAIR: 10:30 AM	LOCATION: HILDEBRAND EQUINE COMPLEX

The Texas 4-H Wool Judging and Texas 4-H Mohair Judging Contests are combined into one contest opportunity. Texas 4-H members will be able to earn awards as high point in wool, mohair and a combined overall of both contests. Contestants may participate in all components of the contest or select only wool or mohair.

OBJECTIVE

The Texas 4-H Wool & Mohair Contest tests a 4-H member's knowledge and ability to determine the grade, rank, and categorize wool and mohair. The contest provides an opportunity for youth to compete and develop skills that can be used on a sheep and/or angora ranching operation within the wool and mohair industries, or agricultural teaching field through a competitive environment.

TEAM AND CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY

1. The Texas 4-H Wool & Mohair Judging Contest is a senior only (high school age 4-H members as of 9/1/2022) invitational contest. There is not a limit on the number of teams a county may enter.
2. There is not a District-Level Qualification requirement, however, we encourage areas with heavy participation in Wool & Mohair Judging to consider offering contest opportunities.
3. Teams consist of three or four members. In teams in which there are four members, all will compete, but the member receiving the lowest score will be declared 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.
4. In the event of a team/individual tie, the following procedures will be used as tie breakers:
   I. The team/individual with the highest score on the grading rail will be the higher placing team/individual.
   II. The team/individual with the highest score in reasons will be the higher placing team/individual.
   III. The team/individual with the highest score in class placings will be the higher placing team/individual.
   IV. The team/individual with the highest score in reasons for the toughest to easiest placing class will be the higher placing team/individual.
5. The top four teams in the Wool Judging Contest will be eligible for the National Contest. If a top four ranking team chooses not to compete in the National 4-H Wool Judging Contest, the next ranking team can move up.
6. Teams/individuals who have won the State 4-H Wool Judging Contest and participate in the National 4-H Wool Judging Contest are not eligible to compete in future State 4-H and/or National 4-H Wool Judging Contests.
7. Teams/individuals who have won the National 4-H Wool Judging Contest are not eligible to compete in future State 4-H and/or National 4-H Wool Judging Contests.

Revised 05/01/2023

Texas 4-H Wool & Mohair Judging Contest Components:

4-H WOOL JUDGING COMPONENT

CONTEST METHOD OF CONDUCT

1. The contest will be divided into two areas: fleece evaluation of a grading rail and wool classes with placing and reasons.
2. The contest will be conducted using a scantron or evaluation sheet.
3. While completing the competition, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by contest officials.
4. Contestants may use an unmarked clipboard and blank scantron or evaluation sheet. Contestants may bring no books, notes, measuring devices or other reference material into the contest area. Contest officials reserve the right to check contestant's clipboard and scantron to make sure they are blank. Violators are subject to contest dismissal.
5. Contestants should handle the fleeces with care and respect for fellow contestants. Fleeces should not be rough handled in any manner. Wool locks should pulled with care and only the minimum amount needed to complete reasons. Contestants will be warned for inappropriate wool handling and contestants can lose their privilege to handle fleeces or take samples.

WOOL GRADING RAIL

1. The contest grading rail will consist of a twenty (20) or thirty (30) fleece rail for a total score of 200 or 300 points, respectively (10 points per fleece). The rail will be divided into two ten (10) or fifteen (15) fleece rails. Contestants will have 15 minutes for each rail for a total of 30 minutes on the grading rail. Contestants may be timed and rotated through the rail.
2. The grading rail consists of three wool quality characteristics: wool grade (fineness), staple length, and clean fleece yield.
3. Contestants must determine the grade of each fleece. Each row in Table 1 contains a wool grade and is defined by three different systems (blood grade, spin count, and fiber diameter). For this contest, wool grades will be categorized by the blood grade system. Contestants will receive 4 points for full credit for each correct wool grade selected. If contestants select a wool grade that is one grade above or below the correct grade, they will receive 2 points. If a contestant is two or more grades off, no points will be awarded.
4. Contestants must determine the staple length category that each fleece would be classified into. Within each wool grade, there are length specifications that determine the fleece staple length classification. Cards with sample locks will be used on the rail for contestants to determine staple length. If a break in the fiber is encountered, the longest part will be used to determine staple length. Contestants will receive 2 points for each staple length category correctly answered. No points will be awarded for incorrect answers.
5. Contestants must estimate the percent clean fibers based on raw fleece weight. 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 contestant is within 8 points above or 8 points below the percentage yield, they receive partial credit of 2 points. If the contestant is 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 GRADE AND LENGTH STANDARDS

Wool Grades			Staple Lengths		
Blood Grade	Spin Count	Fiber Diameter (Microns)	Staple	French Combing	Clothing
Fine	64s, 70s, and 80s	≤ 22.04	>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	>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 ¼
Average (%)	50	55	60	65	65
Normal Range (%)	40-60	45-65	50-70	55-75	55-75

VALUE DETERMINATION RAIL

Contestants will determine the actual monetary value of ten (10) fleeces on the rail. The fleeces will be identified to the contestants prior to evaluating the grading rail and contestants will record their evaluations on a separate paper for use in determining an actual monetary value of each fleece. Contestants will be provided fleece weights and necessary economic values needed to make their calculations. Time will be provided for contestants to complete their evaluations. This contest will be scored separately from the wool contest and will have its own awards.

PLACING CLASSES AND REASONS

1. There will be a minimum and four (4) and a maximum of six (6) classes. Classes will consist of both commercial and breed type classes. Contestants will place four fleeces within a commercial class based on the important economic parameters of wool production. Pounds of clean wool produced, fineness, staple length, and uniformity of length and grade, are all important when placing commercial fleeces. Contestants will place four fleeces within a breeding class based on the genetic merit of each fleece. Pounds of clean wool, character, staple length, and fineness are all highly heritable traits that will be considered when placing breeding fleeces. Possible breed classes include Rambouillet, Merino, Targhee, Corriedale, and Columbia. The placing of each class is worth 50 points.
2. Fleece-quality questions will be marked on the scan sheet for each class. For questions, it is important that the contestants record only one number for each description. Officials have the option of giving credit for more than one answer if a particular description matches more than one fleece. Questions for each class are worth 50 points.
3. Staple cards may be used in classes to determine fiber length and uniformity.
4. Fleeces that don't make staple for the grade should be penalized and placed accordingly.
5. Contestants will have 15 minutes per class to complete the evaluation and reasons.

4-H MOHAIR JUDGING COMPONENT

CONTEST METHOD OF CONDUCT

1. The contest will be divided into two areas: fleece evaluation of grading rail and mohair classes with placing and reasons.
2. The contest will be conducted using a scantron or evaluation sheet.
3. While completing the competition, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by contest officials.
4. Contestants may use an unmarked clipboard and blank scantron or evaluation sheet. Contestants may bring no books, notes, measuring devices or other reference material into the contest area. Contest officials reserve the right to check contestant's clipboard and scantron to make sure they are blank. Violators are subject to contest dismissal.
5. Contestants should handle the fleeces with care and respect for fellow contestants. Fleeces should not be rough handled in any manner. Mohair locks should be pulled with care and only the minimum amount needed to complete reasons. Contestants will be warned for inappropriate mohair handling and contestants can lose their privilege to handle fleeces or take samples.

FLEECE EVALUATION OF GRADING RAIL

1. The contest will consist of a twenty (20) or thirty (30) mohair sample rail for a total score of 200 or 300 points, respectively (10 points per sample). The rail will be divided into two ten (10) or fifteen (15) mohair sample rails. Contestants will have 15 minutes for each rail for a total of 30 minutes on the grading rail. Contestants may be timed and rotated through the rail.
2. The grading rail consists of six grades. Contestants will receive 10 points for full credit for each correct grade selected. If the contestants select a grade that is one grade above or below the correct grade, they will receive 5 points; **except for kempy.** Kempy loses 10 points if not correct, in addition to 10 points if selected and not correct.
3. Contestants must determine the grade of each sample. For this contest, grades are categorized by super kid, kid, yearling, fine adult, adult, and kempy. It is important that contestants do not remove a sample from the box that it is in.

PLACING CLASSES AND REASONS

1. There will be a minimum and four (4) and a maximum of six (6) classes. Contestants will place four fleeces within a class based on the following characteristics: Fineness and Uniformity (40%), Length (20%), Character (10%), Purity (10%), Condition and Yield (10%), Softness (5%), and Luster (5%). The placing of each class is worth 50 points.
2. Fleece-quality questions will be asked for each class. For questions, it is important that the contestants record only one number for each description. Officials have the option of giving credit for more than one answer if a particular description matches more than one fleece. Questions for each class are worth 50 points.
3. Contestants will have 15 minutes per class to complete the evaluation and reasons.
4. More detailed information is available within the Wool and Mohair Judging Manual (AS3-4.058). http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Judging-Wool-and-Mohair.pdf

AWARDS

Recognition will be given to Teams and Individuals in the Wool Judging and Mohair Judging portions of the contest.

The top 3 teams and top 3 individuals of each component of the contest will be recognized at the Wednesday Assembly. Awards will be given for placings beyond 3rd during the Wool & Mohair Award presentation following the contests.

An Overall Fiber Evaluation High Point Team will be announced at the Wednesday Assembly.

NATIONAL WOOL CONTEST

1. The 2023 National 4-H and FFA Wool Judging Contest is October 7, 2023, at the State Fair of Texas.
2. The National Wool Contest will follow similar guidelines as the state contest with the same class and rail format.
3. 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, coach.
   - Entries for the National Wool Contest should be submitted to:
        Dr. Shawn Ramsey via email at shawn.ramsey@ag.tamu.edu
4. 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.
5. Members of the National Champion team will be ineligible for future participation in National 4-H or FFA Wool Judging Contests, within their respective organizations. Teams placing 2nd and lower at the National Contest can continue to participate in future National 4-H or FFA Wool Contests.