TEXAS A&M
**AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**

March 29, 2018

NEW VERSION

MEMO TO: County Extension Agents – Rolling Plains 3

SUBJECT: 2018 DISTRICT 3 4-H JUDGING CONTESTS

Events:	Mohair Judging & Evaluation Range & Pasture Grass Identification Range Evaluation Wool Judging & Evaluation
Event Date:	Friday, April 20, 2018
Location:	Tarleton State University Agricultural Center *Ag Mechanics Building (NEW Building!) County Road 518 Stephenville, TX 76401 The GPS coordinates you can use are 32.237415, -98.201903. https://goo.gl/maps/GKnfyxjCZBt
Entries:	$5 per member per event All entries will be completed on 4-H Connect https://texas.4honline.com Opens: Thursday, March 29, 2018 Closes: Monday, April 9, 2018 Teams will be designated the morning of contest at check-in. Youth will NOT be able to register or pay the day of the contest.
Late Entries:	$25 per member per event plus original fee Opens: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 Closes: Friday, April 11, 2018
Payment:	Only enrolled 4-H members may participate in practices and judging contests. When enrolling, paying by credit card speeds up the process to almost instantly. Counties sending checks for event registration must include a copy of registration receipt. Fees must be received by the State 4-H office by the contest date. You will mail your county check along with transmittal to: Texas A&M Extension / 4-H Connect 2473 TAMU College Station, TX 77843-2473

Age Divisions:	There will be three (2) age divisions (Junior and Senior) in all contests. Age divisions are determined by a participant's grade as of August 31, 2017 as follows: Grades 3-8 (Junior) Grades 9-12 (Senior) No one may move up to the Senior age division. No individual may move down to a younger age division. Counties may bring as many teams as they wish.
Teams:	These are team events; therefore, entrants are encouraged to be part of a team. Each team will have at least three (3) and no more than four (4) members. Individual entries will be allowed, only if there are not enough individuals in the county to make up a team. Note: A County can only have a maximum of 2 individual entries per age division. If there are 3 individuals wanting to judge in the same age division, they must be considered a team entry. All team members must be from the same county and within the same age division.
State Qualifying:	Only Senior 4-H members are eligible to advance to state in qualifying contests. The top three high placing Senior teams will advance to State Roundup even if they are from the same county. The top three high placing Senior individuals will also advance even if they are not members of a team.
Volunteers:	Each county is requested to provide a minimum of one adult leader per team to help conduct the contest. Each team will be responsible for their transportation to and from the site. Each county will be responsible for their judging supplies.
Auxiliary Aids or Special Accommodations:	If you have any participants requiring auxiliary aids or special accommodations, please let us know at the time entry materials are due.
Multiple Entries:	4-H members may participate in multiple events. The schedule is built to allow youth to participate in multiple contests on the same day. Lunch will be on your own, so youth will need to be prepared if planning to compete in contests that are around lunch time.

Schedule:

Registration will be at the New Ag Mechanics Building at the Tarleton Agricultural Center.

	CHECK-IN	CONTEST ORIENTATION
Mohair Judging & Evaluation	8:45 am	9:00 am
Range & Pasture Grass Identification (Plant ID)	8:45 am	9:00 am
Range Evaluation	9:45 am	10:00 am
Wool Judging & Evaluation	11:15 am	11:30 am
Awards Ceremony	Approximately 1:00 pm or immediately following completion of tabulation for Mohair, Wool, Range Evaluation, and Range & Pasture Grass (Plant ID) contests	

Range & Pasture Grass Identification (Plant ID)

1.   **Description of the contest**
        You will learn to identify all of the 74 native and introduced grasses which are listed on the
        Master Plant List for 4-H. The grasses in the grass contest are important for their value in making
        decisions about the Texas forage resources, their health, and help to determine the change that has
        occurred on our land base in Texas. You will learn how plants grow, grazing impacts on land,
        grass and plant identification and examination.

2.   **Number of Grasses to be Identified**
        Junior - 40 plants from the Master Plant List
        Senior - 40 plants from the Master Plant List

3.   **Display of the plants**
        The plants and grasses for the contest will be from the Master Plant List. They may be live or
        mounted. Individuals will have 45 seconds per plant for identification.

4.   **Scan Sheet**
        Plant Identification, Form #707-4 will be used.
        https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/707-4.pdf

5.   **Contest Study Resources**
        The Master Plant list, rules, description of plants and more can be found on the Range Science &
        Management Project Resources page on the Texas 4-H website at the following link:
        http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/range-science/

Range Evaluation

1. **Description of the contest**
This is the next step after you have learned the grass and plant types! The 4-H judging program concentrates on making decisions about the rangeland resource including ecological site health determination, stocking rate, and the use of management tools to benefit the forage, soil, water, and livestock/wildlife resources. You will learn about grazing distribution, season of forage use, kinds and classes of livestock and stocking rate. And then actually calculate a current stocking rate for the given situation. The key to success in this contest relies on your ability to identify plants and have knowledge of their ecological and economic value. The 4-H Range Evaluation Contest is conducted totally outdoors.

2. **Contest Components to be Judged**
- Part I Youth will identify 20-40 plants from the Master Plant List.
- Part II Youth will evaluate a marked range site.
- Part III Youth will judge 4 marked range plots evaluating plot range health and answering questions.

3. **Contest Study Resources**
The Master Plant list, rules, description of plants and more can be found on the Range Science & Management Project Resources page on the Texas 4-H website at the following link:
http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/range-science/

Wool Judging & Evaluation

OBJECTIVE
The Wool Contest tests a 4-H member's knowledge and ability to determine the grade, rank, and categorize wool. The contest provides an opportunity for youth to compete and develop skills that can be used on a sheep ranching operation, within the wool industry, or agricultural teaching field.

CONTEST METHOD OF CONDUCT

1. The contest will be divided into two areas: fleece evaluation of grading rail and wool class placing and reasons.

2. The contest will be conducted using a scan sheet or evaluation sheet that will be provided for contestants on the day of the contest. Wool scan sheet, #528-5 will be used. https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/528-5-Wool.pdf

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 scan sheet 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 scan sheet 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 be 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.

6. In the event of a team score tie, the team with the highest rail score will be declared the winner.

FLEECE EVALUATION OF GRADING RAIL

1. The fleece rail may consist of 15-30 fleeces for a total of 150-300 points. The rail may be divided into two rails with approximately 1-2 minutes per fleece.

2. The grading rail consists of three wool quality characteristics: wool quality, staple length, and clean fleece yield.

3. Contestants must determine the quality grade of each fleece. Each row in Table 1 contains a wool quality grade and this is defined by three different systems (blood grade, spin count, and fiber diameter). For this contest, grades are categories by the blood grade system. Contestants will receive 4 points for full credit for each correct wool blood grade selected. If contestants select a blood grade that is one grade above or below the correct grade, they will receive 2 points.

4. Contestants must determine the staple length category that each fleece would be classified into. Within each wool quality grade, there are length specifications that determine the fleece staple length classification. Contestants will receive 2 points for each staple length category correctly answered. No points will be awarded for incorrect answers.

PLACING CLASSES AND REASONS

1. Contestants will place four fleeces within a class based on the amount of clean fibers present. Each placing class is worth 50 points.

2. There will be two to four classes.

3. Contestants will have 10-15 minutes per class.

CONTEST RESOURCES
- Judging Wool & Mohair
  http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Judging-Wool-and-Mohair.pdf
- Texas 4-H Wool Judging Contest General Rules & Information
- http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/4H-Wool-Judging-Round-Up-Information.pdf

Mohair Judging & Evaluation

OBJECTIVE
The Mohair Contest tests a 4-H member's knowledge and ability to determine the grade, rank, and categorize mohair. The contest provides an opportunity for youth to compete and develop skills that can be used on an angora ranching operation, within the mohair industry, or agricultural teaching field.

CONTEST METHOD OF CONDUCT

1.   The contest will be divided into two areas: fleece evaluation of grading rail and mohair placing and reason classes.

2.   The contest will be conducted using a scan sheet or evaluation sheet that will be provided for contestants on the day of the contest. Mohair scan sheet, #528-5 will be used. https://agrilife.org/d84h/files/2018/02/528-5-Mohair.pdf

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 scan sheet 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 scan sheet 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.

6.   In the event of a team score tie, the team with the highest rail score will be declared the winner.

FLEECE EVALUATION OF GRADING RAIL

1.   The sample rail may consist of 10-30 mohair samples for a total score of 100-300 points. The rail may be divided into two rails with approximately 1-2 minutes per fleece.

2.   The contest will consist of a 30-mohair sample rail for a total score of 300 points. The rail will be divided into two 15-mohair sample rails. Contestants will have 30 minutes for each 15-mohair sample rail.

3.   The grading rail consists of six quality grades that are worth 10 points each. If the contestants are one box off from the official grade than the contestant is awarded 5 points.

4.   Contestants must determine the quality grade of each sample. Each row in Table 1 contains a mohair quality grade. For this contest, grades are categories 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. Contestants will place four fleeces within a class based weighting the following characteristics: Fineness and Uniformity (40%), Length (20%), Character (10%), Purity (10%), Condition and Yield (10%), Softness (5%), and Luster (5%). 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

2. Each placing class is worth 50 points.

3. There will be two to four classes.

4. Contestants will have 10-15 minutes per class.

CONTEST RESOURCES
- Judging Wool & Mohair
  http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Judging-Wool-and-Mohair.pdf
- Texas 4-H Mohair Judging Contest General Rules & Information
  http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017-4H-Mohair-Judging-Roundup.pdf