

Dr. George Heersche, Jr. Invitational Youth (4-H & FFA)

Dairy Judging Contest Rules

- James Umphrey, Co-Superintendent
ABS Global Inc., Eastern US Udder Care Product Manger
Marianna, FL
- Dr. Douglas Waterman, Co-Superintendent
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- Larissa Tucker, Co-Superintendent
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Schedule

Friday, November 7, 2025

6:00 PM: Coaches Social, VIP Suite, Kentucky Exposition Center

6:30 PM: Coaches Banquet, VIP Suite, Kentucky Exposition Center

Saturday, November 8, 2025

7:30 AM: Contestants and Coaches report to Freedom Hall, Kentucky Exposition Center

Sunday, November 9, 2025

7:00-7:45 AM: Breakfast Buffet, Kentucky Exposition Center

8:00 AM: Presentation of Results and Awards, Kentucky Exposition Center

Teams and Entries

1. Each state is invited to enter one 4-H dairy judging team and one FFA dairy judging team consisting of four members. The lowest scoring individual will be declared the alternate. Alternates will be eligible for individual awards.
2. A fee of \$250.00 per team must accompany the entry form. The fee is to be used to help defray the expenses of the contest. This will include 6 admission and breakfast tickets. Additional tickets will need to be purchased.
3. Payment must be mailed or sent electronically to Expositions Director, North American International Livestock Exposition, P. O. Box 37130, Louisville, KY 40233, by October 10. The names of contestants, State Leader Form and Code of conduct forms, however, must be sent to Larissa Tucker by October 10. Changes and substitutions may be made at the coaches meeting on Friday, November 7.

Eligibility of Contestants

1. A contestant who celebrates their 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th or 19th birthday during the year of the contest is age eligible for this contest.
2. 4-H contestants must be bona fide 4-H members. They must not have participated previously in the youth division of this contest. 4-H contestants may participate in the NAILE contest after they have participated in the National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest or National FFA Dairy Cattle Career Development Event, but not during the same calendar year.
3. FFA contestants must be enrolled in Vo-Ag and be members of FFA from the same chapter. They must not have participated previously in the youth division of this contest FFA contestants may participate in the NAILE Contest after they have participated in the National FFA Dairy Cattle Career Development Event or National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest, but not during the same calendar year.
4. If the eligibility of any member is protested, such protest may be made in writing at the arena side the day of the contest, before the contest begins. The protest must be accompanied by a check for \$25.00, which will be returned if the protest is sustained. In case the protest is not sustained, the \$25.00 shall be forfeited.

Contest Superintendents

1. The superintendents of the contest, in cooperation with the Exposition management and the contest committee, will be in charge of the contest and conduct it in compliance with these rules and regulations. They shall have the authority for the interpretation of the rules.
2. The superintendents shall have a sufficient number of assistants to conduct the contest and tabulate the results.

Judging System

1. Competent judges shall place all classes while contestants are placing the classes. They shall hear and score all reasons. Judges will file their official placings and cuts with the superintendents.

Method of Conduct

1. No member of any team, nor their coach, shall be allowed in the cattle barns nor have the privilege of inspecting any cattle at the North American International Livestock Exposition previous to the contest, unless they have written permission from the superintendents.
2. All contestants and coaches will report to the superintendent in Freedom Hall at 7:30 AM on Saturday, November 8, 2025. Final instructions will be given and questions answered at this time.
3. The superintendents shall supply contestants with scantron sheets cards and any other necessary forms. No contestant shall be allowed to take any books, notes or writing paper into the ring or reasons preparation area except materials furnished by the superintendents. This includes all electronic communication devices.
4. Fifteen minutes will be allowed for placing all classes.
5. Oral reasons, to be given on the afternoon of the day of the contest, should not exceed two minutes in length. Contestants will not be allowed to use notes during oral reasons.

6. Reasons classes will be designated prior to the contest.
7. Youth contestants shall give oral reasons on four cow classes.
8. While the classes are being placed and reasons are being studied and given, there shall be no communication among the contestants and anyone else except as directed by the superintendents or their assistants.
9. Designated cards/scantron with the contestants desired placing marked clearly will be collected or marked at the end of each class by the designated group leader and filed with the Superintendent of tabulation at the end of the placing classes.

Classes

1. Classes will be selected, by a competent committee, from animals entered in the North American International Livestock Exposition.
2. Ten classes of four individuals each shall be judged. A cow class and a heifer class (yearling or calves) will be selected from the following breeds: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, and Jersey.
3. Animals will be designated by numbers on the showmen of the animals and lines up consecutively 1, 2, 3, and 4 from right to left as viewed from the rear. It will be the responsibility of each contestant to see that their placing conforms to the animal's correct number.
4. Animals will be shown in a careful manner so that all contestants will have a fair chance to observe them. Animals will be paraded, held head to tail and stood side by side. Contestants shall not, at any time, place their hands on any animal.

Ring Activity	Minutes
Circle the ring clockwise	2
Head to tail	3
Circle the ring counterclockwise	2
Side by Side	3
Circle the ring clockwise	1
Head to tail	4
Total Time	15

Determination of Ratings

1. Ratings shall be based upon a possible score of 50 points for each class placed and 50 points for each set of reasons.
2. The final rank for each contestant in each breed shall be determined by totaling scores on placings and reasons (if any) for that breed. The overall individual ranking shall be determined by adding scores for each of the five breeds.
3. The overall team ranking shall be determined by totaling all scores of the three highest scoring team members. The team ranking for each breed shall be determined by totaling the scores and reasons (if any) for each of the three highest scoring members.
4. The procedures used to break tied scores are listed below.
Breed ties

- A. Higher Total reasons in breed.
- B. High total reasons.
- C. Higher total overall.
 - Reasons Ties
 - A. Lower total placings in reasons classes.
 - B. Higher total overall
 - Overall Ties
 - A. Higher total reasons
 - B. Lower total placings in reasons classes.

5. The superintendent's announcement of all individual and team placings will be final.

Awards

The George Heersche, Jr. Award will be awarded to the High Individual Overall in the youth division. Those winners will have their names engraved on a perpetual plaque. The High Individual in oral reasons award will be the Davenport Award sponsored by Susan Davenport Squires (some sort of wording here).

We want to thank the following breed associations and organizations for their support and contribution to the contest.

- North American International Livestock Exposition
- U. S. Ayrshire Breeders Association
- The Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Association of the USA
- The American Guernsey Association
- Holstein Association USA, Inc.
- American Jersey Cattle Association
- Farm Credit Mid America