March 3, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: District 8 County Extension Agents

FROM: Donald W. Kelm
District Extension Administrator

Laura A. Huebinger
Extension Program Specialist
4-H Youth Development

SUBJECT: 2017 DISTRICT 8 4-H TARLETON SPRING JUDGING CONTESTS

Events:
- Range Evaluation
- Range & Pasture Grass Identification
- Wool Judging & Evaluation
- Mohair Judging & Evaluation
- Entomology Identification
- Ag Product Identification

Event Date: Friday, April 21, 2017

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

Entry Deadline: All entries will be completed on 4-H Connect at https://texas.4honline.com/.
Opens: Monday, March 13, 2017
Closes: Friday, March 31, 2017

County Approvals: County offices need to approve registrations on 4-H Connect by Monday, April 3, 2017.

Entry Fee: $10 per member per event
Late Entries:

Late entries will be permitted with an additional:

- $20 late fee per 4-H member up to 48 hours after the regular contest deadline.
- $50 late fee per 4-H member after 48 hours and up to the time of check-in on-site at an event.

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.
Schedule

Registration opens at 7:30 am and will be open all day. Registration will be at the New Ag Mechanics Building at the Tarleton Agricultural Center.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Check-in by</th>
<th>Orientation/Contest Starts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entomology Identification</td>
<td>7:45 am</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohair Judging &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range &amp; Pasture Grass Identification (Plant ID)</td>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range Evaluation</td>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool Judging &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>11:45 am</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ag Product Identification</td>
<td>1:45 pm</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td></td>
<td>Approximately 3:30 pm or immediately following completion of tabulation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Livestock Skillathon

There will also be a Livestock Skillathon offered.

- Specific rules and times will be forth coming.
- Live animal evaluation or handling may be included.
- Times
  - It will be flexible to allow contestants to participate in other contests.
  - Most likely times will be in the morning between 8 am and 12 noon.
  - It will most likely be a “come and go” contest where there is not a specific time that all contestants will be required to report.
  - All contestants that are designated as a team will have to enter the contest at the same time.
1. **Rules and Guidelines**
   All District contests will be conducted by the rules printed in the District 8 General Rules and Guidelines and in the 2017 Texas 4-H Roundup Guide. If an inconsistency exists, the Texas 4-H Roundup Guide rules will always supersede District policies, rules, and guidelines. All contests listed in the Texas 4-H Roundup Guide will be included in District Contest provided there are sufficient entries.

2. **Membership**
   Participants must be a bona fide 4-H member, currently enrolled in their respective county program.

3. **Age Divisions**
   There will be three (3) age divisions (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior) in all contests.

   Age divisions are determined by a participant’s grade as of **August 31, 2016** as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Division</th>
<th>Grades</th>
<th><em>Must be at least 8 years old</em></th>
<th><em>Must not be older than 18 years old</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>3*, 4, or 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>6, 7, or 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>9, 10, 11, or 12*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   Only Senior aged members may advance to the state qualifying competition at Texas 4-H Roundup.

4. **Participation/Entries**
   4-H members must be certified by the County Extension Agent to participate at any District 4-H event.

5. **Team per county**
   A county may enter a maximum of three (3) teams per age division in the district contest.

6. **Members per team**
   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. Exception: Juniors may move up to the Intermediate age division when participating on a team that has true Intermediates (based upon grades listed above) on it. No one may move up to the Senior age division. No individual may move down to a younger age division.

7. **Multiple Entries at Tarleton Spring Judging Contests**
   4-H members may participate in multiple events. The schedule is built to allow youth 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.
8. **Academic Eligibility of Participants**

   According to the Texas Education Code, a 4-H member must be deemed “eligible” to compete in an event that takes place on a weekday or weekend. All 4-H youth, including youth in public, private, and/or home school must adhere to the following guidelines regarding extracurricular activities and academic eligibility:
   - Complete a “Declaration of Eligibility Form”
     (available at: [http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/txeducodeltr/](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/txeducodeltr/) - page 17)
   OR
   - Name of 4-H member must appear on a list of eligible students to participate in a specific extracurricular activity signed by the school principal or designee.

   If a 4-H member is ineligible for a 4-H competitive event, the agent must notify the 4-H member, his/her parents, and the district office, by letter, of this situation. If the parent has any questions, he/she should be referred to the school administrator.

9. **Entry Fee**

   There is a $10 entry fee per member per contest. All entries must be submitted through 4-H Connect by the entry due date.

10. **Late Fees**

    Late entries will be permitted with an additional $20 late fee per 4-H member 48 hours after the regular contest deadline. $50 late fee per member after 48 hours and up to the time of the check-in on-site at the event.

11. **Auxiliary Aids/Special Accommodations**

    If 4-H members that are participating in District 4-H events require auxiliary aids or special accommodations, please notify the District Office at the same time that entry materials are due.

12. **Qualifying for State**

    Only Senior 4-H members are eligible to advance to state.

    | • Entomology Identification | • First, second, and third place teams |
    | • Mohair Judging & Evaluation | • First, second, and third place individuals (if not already part of the qualifying team) |
    | • Range & Pasture Grass Identification | • Invitational contest; youth do not have to “qualify” |
    | • Range Evaluation | • Open to Intermediate and Senior 4-H members at state |
    | • Wool Judging & Evaluation | |
    | • Ag Product Identification | |
    | • Livestock Skillathon | |
Entomology Identification

1. **Description of contest**
   This contest provides an opportunity for 4-H members to explore the exciting world of insects and helps them become familiar with common insects in their area. It introduces members to the concept of classification and grouping objects or living organisms according to the physical characteristics they share. The additional bonus is that while learning the name of each insect, 4-H members gain an understanding of its biology and behavior.

2. **Contest Format**
   4-H members will identify selected insects and complete a written examination on insects. Questions will be selected primarily from “Study Materials for 4-H Entomology Contests.”

   The written exam may include question formats such as true/false, matching, short answer, or fill-in-the-blank.

   The identification portion will require a common name as well as the insect Order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Written Exam</th>
<th>Identification of Insects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>20 questions</td>
<td>5 insects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>30 questions</td>
<td>10 insects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>25 insects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Contest Study Materials**
   [http://entomology.tamu.edu/extension/youth/](http://entomology.tamu.edu/extension/youth/)
   [http://agrilife.org/4-hentomology/](http://agrilife.org/4-hentomology/)
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** 30 plants from the Master Plant List (Forbes, Legumes, Wood Plants, Grasses)
   - **Intermediate** 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. **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/](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/range-science/)
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/](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/range-science/)
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 an 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.  
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blood Grade</th>
<th>Spin Count</th>
<th>Fiber Diameter (Microns)</th>
<th>Staple</th>
<th>French Combing (&quot;&quot;&quot;)</th>
<th>Clothing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>64s, 70s, 80s</td>
<td>&lt; 22.04</td>
<td>&gt; 3.00&quot;</td>
<td>3.00”-2.00”</td>
<td>&lt; 2.00”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half</td>
<td>60s and 62s</td>
<td>22.05-24.94</td>
<td>&gt; 3.25&quot;</td>
<td>3.25’’-2.25’’</td>
<td>&lt; 2.25”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/8</td>
<td>56s and 58s</td>
<td>24.95-27.84</td>
<td>&gt; 3.50&quot;</td>
<td>&lt; 3.50”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>54s and 50s</td>
<td>27.85-30.99</td>
<td>&gt; 4.00&quot;</td>
<td>&lt; 4.00”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low 1/4</td>
<td>48s and lower</td>
<td>&gt;= 31.00</td>
<td>&gt; 4.00”</td>
<td>&lt; 4.00”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Contestants will 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 constant is within 8 points above or 8 points below the percentage yield, they receive partial credit of 2 points. Table 2 defines the average and normal range of clean fleece yields based on the different blood grade categories.

### TABLE 2: AVERAGE AND NORMAL RANGE OF CLEAN FLEECE YIELDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clean Fleece Yield</th>
<th>Fine</th>
<th>Half</th>
<th>3/8</th>
<th>1/4</th>
<th>Low ¾</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average (%)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal Range (%)</td>
<td>40-60</td>
<td>45-65</td>
<td>50-70</td>
<td>55-75</td>
<td>55-75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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  

- Texas 4-H Wool Judging Contest General Rules & Information  
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.
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).
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

- Texas 4-H Mohair Judging Contest General Rules & Information
1. **Contest Format.**
   a. 20 Texas agricultural products are selected from the attached Texas Agriculture Products List and exhibited at separate stations.
   b. Contestants select the correct identification of each product from four possible answers.
   c. Each station also has one multiple choice question pertaining to the product on display.
      i. Questions are general to the industry that produced the product, (i.e. Texas’ national ranking, economic impact to Texas, general nutritional content, region of production) or specific to the individual product that is on display (i.e. cooking method, use, growing season, specific nutrition of the cut or variety).
   d. Contestants are given 40 seconds at each station to answer both questions.
   e. Contestants must advance from one exhibit to the next when instructed to do so.
   f. Contestants must evaluate each exhibit in sequence and will not be allowed to return to any exhibit after advancing.
   g. The contest will be open for all youth and adults present to walk-through the exhibits following the completion of the contest.

2. **Scoring.** Contestants will receive five points for each product that is correctly identified and five points for each question that is correctly answered. However, for points to be awarded on questions pertaining directly to the product displayed, the product must be correctly identified. (Total possible points: 200 per individual.)

3. **Team Scores.** Team scores will be determined by the combined score of the three (3) highest scoring individual team members. The contestant with the lowest score will be designated as alternate, but will still be eligible to receive individual awards. (Total possible points: 600 per team.)

4. **Ties:** Five stations will be selected as tie breakers in advance of the contest. Teams with the highest cumulative scores at these five stations will win any ties. If ties still remain, winners will be determined by the toss of a coin.

5. **Awards.** The top three (3) teams and the top five (5) individuals in each age division in each contest will receive awards.

6. **Study Guide.** The Ag Product Identification Study Guide can be found at the following link: [http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Ag-Product-ID-Information.pdf](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Ag-Product-ID-Information.pdf)

7. **Additional Resources.** The following websites are recommended references. Teams will also benefit from their own web searches and by visiting supermarkets to view products listed on the Texas Agriculture Product List.

   - Pork Cuts [https://texaspork.org/pork-facts/](https://texaspork.org/pork-facts/)
Agriculture Production Identification

Almond
Aloe Vera
Apple
Apricot
Artichoke
Asparagus
Avocado
Banana
Bean
Beet
Black-Eyed Peas
Blackberry
Blueberry
Bok Choy
Broccoli
Brussels Sprout
Cabbage
Cantaloupe
Carrot & Maroon Carrot
Cauliflower
Celery
Cherry
Cilantro
Coconut
Collard Greens
Cucumber
Dill
Eggplant
Fig
Ginger
Grapefruit
Green Bean
Guava
Honeydew Melon
Jalapeno
Jicama
Jujube
Kohlrabi
Leeks
Lemon
Lettuce
Lime

Loquat
Mandarin
Mango
Mayhaw
Muscadine
Mustard & Turnip Greens
Napa
Okra
Olive
Onion (Dry)
Onion (Green)
Orange
Papaya
Peach
Pear
Peas
Pecan
Pepper (Bell)
Pepper (Chile)
Persimmon
Pineapple
Plum
Pomegranate
Potato
Pumpkin
Radish
Rosemary
Serrano
Snap Peas
Spinach
Squash (Summer)
Squash (Winter)
Strawberry
Sweet Corn
Sweet Potato
Tangerine
Tomatillo
Tomato
Turnip
Walnut
Watermelon

* All beef and pork products are also subject to inclusion in this contest
### Agriculture Production Identification Contest Form

**Age Division:**  
- _____ Junior/Intermediate  
- _____ Senior

**County:**  
[Enter County Name]  
[Enter Team Number]

**4-H Member Name:**  
[Enter Name]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station #</th>
<th>Product ID</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Station #1</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #2</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #3</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #4</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #5</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #6</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #7</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #8</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #9</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #10</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #11</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #12</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #13</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #14</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #15</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #16</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #17</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #18</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #19</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station #20</td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>A B C D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>