

COLLEGIATE WOOL JUDGING CONTEST

Superintendent - Eric Wellman, Hamilton, CO

Deadlines and Fees:

Online entries can be made at nationalwestern.com/livestock-shows/livestock-exhibitors/.

Online Entries: *Must be completed prior to entries closing to be eligible.*

- Online Entries Open: October 1st
- Online Entries Close: December 10th, 11:59 PM

Entry Rules & Regulations:

1. The Wool Judging Contest will be conducted Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. Contestants report to the Adams County Fairgrounds between 7:30 and 7:45 a.m.
2. Each College may enter a maximum of two Wool Judging Teams comprised of a maximum of four (4) members and a minimum of three (3) members. The scores of the three (3) high scoring individuals on each team will be totaled for the team score. The low scoring individual will be eligible for individual awards, but will not be eligible to compete in future National Western Wool Judging Contests.
3. Each College may enter an unlimited number of alternates not designated as part of that college's team(s). Alternates will not be eligible for individual or team awards except in the alternates contest. These students will also not be eligible for competition in future National Western Wool Judging Contests.
4. Any agricultural college undergraduate student may compete in the Wool Judging Contest provided they have never participated in an Interstate or International Collegiate Wool Judging Contest.

Eligibility:

5. No contestant is eligible to compete if they have at any time served as an official instructor at any agricultural college, as a regular Extension Agent, as a regular vocational agricultural teacher, as an official representative of a breed association, or officiated as a wool judge in a state, regional or national show.
6. Each contestant must be presently enrolled at the institution they represent or must have previously competed in a livestock/wool evaluation, selection and/or judging course at the institution they represent.
7. Each collegiate livestock coach and institution shall be representing that institution.
8. Wool judging contestants cannot be responsible for certifying the eligibility of the students representing that institution.
9. Wool judging contestants cannot enter the floor of the judging area prior to the contest.
10. Only officials of the contest will be allowed on the floor area of the contest. All others are required to have the permission of the Superintendent to enter the contest area.
11. Each contestant must have an accumulative minimum grade point average of C (2.0/4-point system), or its equivalent, for all college courses taken prior to the time they compete in this contest. No contestant is eligible to compete in a contest if they have been ruled ineligible by their coach and/or institution represented. This rule applies to both social and scholastic probation.
12. Those students which meet the criteria described in items 4, 5 and 6 (above) but graduate in December of the year preceding the National Western Wool Judging Contest shall be considered eligible for competition in the current contest.

The contest will be judged as follows:

13. Classes: Six (6) classes of commercial or breed fleeces. Fleeces to be placed on the basis of commercial or breed requirements. Fifteen (15) minutes will be allowed for the placing of each class of four (4) fleeces. Contestants will be asked to stand back one minute at the beginning and one minute at the end of the class to observe.
14. Reasons: Three (3) sets of oral reasons will be given from 3 of the classes listed above; each set is worth up to 50 points.
15. Grading Rail: Fifteen (15) fleeces will be scored for grade (spinning counts), length, character, purity and yield. A maximum of forty-five (45) minutes will be allowed: (2) minutes per fleece and eight (8) minutes to re-examine any or all of the fifteen (15) fleeces. Contestants will submit their findings on an official grading sheet at the end of the rail. The Grading Rail is worth up to

300 points.

16. A tie or ties for High Team or High Individual (overall) will be broken on the fifteen (15) fleece grading rail. Placing ties will be broken by reasons and total scores will break grading ties. Reasons will be broken on the lowest placing score, then on grading and hand-spinning will be broken by the high score of a class decided on by the officials.

Wool Quality Grades			Staple Lengths		
Blood Grade	Spin Count Grade	Fiber Diameter (microns)	Staple Lengths	French Combing	Clothing
Fine	64s, 70s, 80s	≤ 22.04	> 3.00"	2.00" - 3.00"	< 2.00"
Half	60s and 62s	22.05 - 24.94	> 3.25"	2.25" - 3.25"	< 2.25"
3/8	56s and 58s	24.95 - 27.84	> 3.50"		< 2.50"
1/4	50s and 54s	27.85 - 30.99	> 4.00"		< 4.00"
Low 1/4	48s and lower	≥ 31.00	> 4.00"		< 4.00"

17. Value Class: A value class of 4 fleeces will be judged based on the value of each fleece. Students will be given a worksheet and the following information on each fleece: grease fleece weight, micron, price per pound clean, and discounts. Students must rank the fleeces from highest to lowest value. This class is a separate contest and will receive awards, but is not part of the overall contest.
18. Hand-spinning Contest: Three classes of hand-spinning wool will be judged. These scores will not be included as part of the overall wool contest. However, the top five individuals in the hand-spinning contest will receive awards along with the top team.
19. Fleeces will be placed according to their hand-spinning value. Fifteen (15) minutes will be allowed for the placing of each class of four (4) fleeces.
20. Supplies: The National Western Stock Show will provide scan sheets and calculators. Students should have a clipboard (with no measurement/rulers), pencils and blank paper.
21. Cheating will not be tolerated; contestants may be disqualified for cheating. From the time the Contest begins to the time the Contest is officially complete, there will be no conferring between contestants. Cell phones and electronic watches and other devices are prohibited. All supplies the student brings must be blank.
22. Contestants are warned against rough handling of contest fleeces. Any contestant who violates this rule will be asked to place the remainder of the classes without handling. No warning will be given.
23. Coaches will not be allowed to see the classes until the designated time.
24. Coach's Meeting: The coach's meeting will be held Wednesday, January 15 at 4:00pm at the Adams County Fairgrounds. Packets with parking passes, rosters and final contest instructions will be distributed. Final team members and alternates must be turned in at this time. Traveling trophies should be returned. VERY IMPORTANT: Final attendees for awards banquet MUST be confirmed at this meeting, we will not be able to accommodate extra guests unless they are confirmed and paid.
25. Awards Banquet: The Awards Banquet will be held Thursday, January 16 at 7:00 p.m. Location TBD. Each coach (maximum of 2 per school) will receive admittance to the awards banquet. Those individuals competing in more than one (1) division will receive only one (1) pass. No admittance will be allowed without confirmation with the contest superintendent. No exceptions. Additional tickets must be purchased with entry form for administrators, alternates, spouses or other guests.