

Grade Eligibility for Eastern Region Judging Teams

2026

TEAM	REGION	GRADE as of January 1, 2026			STATE	GRADE as of January 1, 2026
		Junior	Jr. High	Sr. High		
Spring Judging Contests						
Horse Bowl/Hippology	January 2026	4, 5	6, 7, 8	9, 10, 11, 12	February 2026	4th - 12th
Livestock	March 2026	4, 5	6, 7, 8	9, 10, 11, 12	June 2026	9, 10, 11, 12
Horse Judging	April 2026	4, 5	6, 7, 8	9, 10, 11, 12	June 2026	9, 10, 11, 12
Wildlife	May 2026	4, 5	6, 7, 8	9, 10, 11, 12	June 2026	9, 10, 11, 12
Meats	April 2026	4, 5	6, 7, 8	9, 10, 11, 12	June 2026	9, 10, 11, 12
Fall Judging Contests						
Forestry	August 2026	3, 4, 5	6, 7	8, 9, 10, 11	October 2026	8, 9, 10, 11
Poultry	August 2026	3, 4, 5	6, 7, 8	9, 10, 11, 12	October 2026	9, 10, 11, 12
Dairy**	September 2026	3, 4, 5	6, 7, 8	9, 10, 11, 12	August 2026	9, 10, 11, 12
Consumer Decision Making	September 2026	3, 4, 5	6, 7, 8	9, 10, 11, 12*	October 2026	9, 10, 11, 12
FCS Skill-a-thon	September 2026	3, 4, 5	6, 7, 8	9, 10, 11, 12	October 2026	9, 10, 11, 12
4-H Grill Master Challenge	September 2026	3, 4, 5	6, 7, 8	9, 10, 11, 12*	October 2026	9, 10, 11, 12
Land	October 2026	3, 4, 5	6, 7	8, 9, 10, 11	November 2026	8, 9, 10, 11

Junior participants can move up to Jr. High to form team. Jr. High participants must stay in that division. Junior participants that move up to Jr. High division will compete as Individuals at Jr. High level.

12*: We leave it up to the discretion of the agent to allow a 12th grader to compete. A 12th grader may be in college, making it difficult to attend state and national competitions.

Dairy:** Does not qualify teams for state competition; state contest is an open competition.