

# ANIMAL SCIENCE



District and State 4-H O-Rama  
Junior and Senior 4-H'ers



## OBJECTIVES

**Targeted Life Skills:** self-esteem, responsibility, self-motivation, communication, using resources, planning, organizing, goal setting, critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, learning to learn.

This activity will allow 4-H members to develop public speaking and critical thinking skills. Cooperation, sportsmanship, and integrity are also exercised in this activity. 4-H'ers will have the opportunity to display their knowledge of animal production, genetics, nutrition, management, reproduction and/or marketing. Participants are encouraged to become familiar with scientific research and its influence on animal industries.

## ELIGIBILITY

**District 4-H O-Rama:** Each county may enter two junior (ages 9-13) and two senior (ages 14-19) members to participate in this activity.

**State 4-H O-Rama:** The Top 7 senior members from each of the district contests will be eligible to compete at the state contest.

## ACTIVITY

Participants should be prepared to present an illustrated talk or method demonstration in an area of animal science such as animal production, genetics, nutrition, management, reproduction and/or marketing. This presentation should deal with animal species such as cattle (beef or dairy), swine, goats (meat or dairy), sheep, poultry, rabbits, and other livestock. (Method demonstrations and illustrated talks related to horses must be presented in the "4-H Horse Activity"; talks related to animal health must be presented in the "4-H Veterinary Science Activity".)

Illustrated talks should make full use of visuals and experience. Visuals such as PowerPoints, posters, livestock equipment, etc. are permitted. Live animals are not to be used for illustrated talks or method demonstrations.

Junior 4-H'ers will give two-to-five-minute talks. Senior 4-H'ers will give five-to-eight-minute talks. Time penalties will be assessed for talks under or over the time limits. The judges reserve the right to ask questions related to the topic following the completion of the illustrated talk or method demonstration.

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## APPROVED TOPICS

Participants should select a topic that is objective in nature. *Choosing topics that are subjective is highly discouraged.* Topics should be supported by factual information. Seniors should conduct scholarly research to obtain scientific, relevant information regarding their topic of choice.

Suggested topics for senior 4-H'ers include:

- Grain-finishing versus grass-finishing
- Using EPDs for selection
- Advanced reproductive technologies
- Hormones in meat production
- Livestock management practices
- Grazing management strategies
- Creating a budget for a livestock project
- Preconditioning calves
- Marketing an animal product (goat soaps, meat products, etc.)
- Egg embryology
- Laboratory procedures (pregnancy diagnosis, nutritional quality of a feed, etc.)
- Import/export of animal products
- Animal industry segments (poultry/swine integration, feedlots, etc.)

Suggested topics for junior 4-H'ers include:

- Beef versus dairy cattle
- Breeds of livestock
- Animal products or byproducts
- Animal care
- Handling facilities

## SCORING

This activity will be judged on the standard scoresheet for method demonstrations and illustrated talks (CES-663).

Participants will be evaluated by three qualified judges. Judges' feedback will be provided to participants after the contest is concluded.

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## AWARDS

**District 4-H O-Rama:** One trophy will be awarded to the high-scoring junior participant and one trophy to the high-scoring senior participant. Second through fifth place winners in the junior and senior divisions will receive ribbons.

**State 4-H O-Rama:** One trophy will be awarded to the high-scoring senior. Second through fifth place winners will receive ribbons.

## CONTEST ADMINISTRATION

Allison Harman – Instructor, 4-H Youth Livestock

Andrew Bolton – Instructor, Youth Poultry

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