

Official Rules

“Online in the Sunshine” Livestock Judging

Fall Event – September 2020

Spring Event – April 2021

Presented by First Place Florida



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September 12, 2020

Introduction

The first edition was success in the spring of 2020, and although the effects of COVID-19 are beginning to wane, First Place Florida realizes that our youth have lost many of the valuable opportunities for practice in competition with other youth offered around the state each season.

While the Sunshine State Cup (SSC) has been suspended for 2020-2021, at least for the fall, after the cancellation of many of the events that usually take place from September-December, in addition to all that were canceled back in the spring, First Place Florida hopes to, at least in part, keep the spirit alive with a virtual livestock judging event to kick off the season.

We are proud to present the 2020-2021 “Online in the Sunshine” Livestock Judging Event, where youth around the state are invited to judge classes of livestock presented via photos and/or videos, including performance data, just as they would do at an in-person event, and submit their placings online for tabulations.

No, a virtual contest will never be overly spectacular or replace the opportunity to judge in person (and in the era of virtual schooling, requirements for meetings to be over Zoom or Microsoft Teams, and countless other things moving online, adds even more screen time), as the virtual way of life becomes more mainstream, online “invitational” contests in similar format to this one for livestock and other events take place in many other states such as Texas and California on a regular basis.

The goals are simple – to allow for another learning and practice opportunity in the spring season, and to give youth from anywhere in the state another opportunity to judge with no travel necessary.

There are NO entry fees for the Online in the Sunshine Events, and both will be FREE and open to ALL YOUTH in Florida, high school seniors and younger. Classes will be pulled from videos taken at national-caliber events from around the country, with the same officials used, and prizes will be presented to the top individuals in junior (eighth grade and younger) and senior (ninth through high school seniors) divisions.

More information can be found on the following pages, and hopefully, you and your team will find these opportunities to be valuable this season.

Hope to see you “Online in the Sunshine” very soon!

Best,

Abby Marion

Owner/Publisher
First Place Florida

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Rules –

Open to all youth in Florida who have not yet graduated high school. Individual contest only, no teams.

There are no entry fees for these events.

Youth will be asked to list their name, email address to send a confirmation, grade for the 2020-2021 school year to use for divisions, mailing address for prizes, and club or chapter, if applicable.

Membership in 4-H or FFA is NOT required, however, if a youth is a member of one or both, please list the county and/or chapter when submitting your entry form.

Each youth is limited to ONE entry. If more than one form is received for an entrant, to preserve integrity, the earliest submission will be the one used in tabulations.

Divisions –

- Junior Division: Youth currently in kindergarten through eighth grade.
- Senior Division: Youth currently in ninth through twelfth grade.

How It Works –

These events will open online at 5:00 p.m. EST on the opening day, and will close at 9:00 p.m. EST on the closing day, opening and closing days for each to be announced. All entry forms MUST be submitted within this timeframe, no late submissions will be accepted.

- To participate, visit www.firstplaceflorida.com/onlinecontest during the entry period listed above.
- Four to six video classes, that may include performance data, will be posted for each event. Watch each video and judge each class, making note of your placings.

Tip: It may be helpful to have a steno or scratch paper handy to use. No time limit will be enforced. For the best practice, treat this as if you were at a real contest: be mindful of your time, and no collaboration.

- Click the link at the bottom or top of the page to access the entry form. Input your name, email, grade, mailing address and club/chapter, if applicable.
- Input your placings for each class.

Tip: Make sure you are entering the right placing for the right class when you transfer from your paper to the entry form, and check before you submit.

- Submit once you are finished. You will receive an email confirmation afterwards.

PLEASE check for this email. It is YOUR responsibility to ensure that there are no issues with your submission.

If for some reason you notice that there are any issues with your entry form, such as missing or duplicate placings, please contact us as soon as possible with documentation. If received before the entry period closes, it is likely that these issues can be resolved so you can receive the correct scores.

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Please note that NO placings will be changed for inquiries received after the entry period closes, or after officials/cuts have been posted for any reason, NO exceptions.

- After the entry period closes, official placings and cuts will be uploaded to the contest webpage, and scoring will be done for both divisions.
- Official results will be announced as soon as possible on the First Place Florida website and shared on social media, at a time that will be announced after the event.

Tip: Copies of the scoresheets with scores from each class for each participant will also be posted. Use these to see how well your team did, or if there are areas to work on this season.

Awards –

Prizes will be awarded to the top 10 individuals in each division, junior and senior. Each youth placing in the top 10 will receive a ribbon by mail, after the contest.

Additional prizes may also be offered by industry or individual sponsors, watch for announcements...

(Tell your friends and fellow judging team members!)

TIEBREAKERS – Ties will first be broken on a designated performance class, and secondly by a designated second performance class. If there is still a tie, ties will be broken based on the number of scores of “50” received, followed by “48” “47” and so on.

Final Notes –

These events are NOT sponsored or endorsed by any 4-H, FFA or other youth organization.

These events are run on the honor system, and participants are expected to act accordingly – PLEASE be fair to others by treating this as you would any other contest: no discussion before you submit your placings, no adult influence while you are judging, and no use of outside resources other than scratch paper.

As of September 2020, these events are NOT eligible for the Sunshine State Cup (SSC) series for the 2020-2021 season, as the series is currently suspended. If this changes, it would likely only be for the spring edition, and will be communicated accordingly in advance of the event.

Finally, First Place Florida realizes that this is not an “ideal” livestock judging contest. If you do not like or agree with the way this event is set up, you or your youth are under no obligation to participate.

(Additionally – If there are any individuals or organizations out there who would like to support this event through support for prizes or other means, please send us a message, we would love to chat.)