

Official Rules  
**\*Online\* Jackpot Judging Series**

2020 - 2021

Presented by First Place Florida

Poultry Judging and Meats Judging – Fall 2020

Livestock Skillathon and Veterinary Science – Spring 2021



## Online Jackpot Judging Series

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October 1, 2020

### **It Was So Much Fun, Let's Do It Again.**

Quarantine itself wasn't very fun, but hopefully the excitement and suspense of some new competitions made it a little better for those who took part in them, through the first edition of the series back in the spring, and once again, First Place Florida is proud to present an exciting lineup of online events within the 2020-2021 season.

While we hope that all of our favorite events and activities can fully return soon, life isn't completely back to normal, yet, and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue into the new season. No matter what, after seeing the immense resilience and determination displayed around the state, we are confident that our state's youth organizations will continue to deliver quality agricultural youth programs whether in-person or online.

No matter what happens with rules and restrictions, the state contests will still come, and new sets of state champions will be named. Never step off your judging grind.

Based on the success of the first series, and the desire to increase the opportunities available to youth in Florida, we are proud to host the second Online Jackpot Judging Series, consisting of four competitions within four different contest areas throughout the 2020-2021 season.

This season, the series will start with poultry judging in October, meats judging in late November or early December, livestock skillathon in January, and veterinary science in March. We also are continuing the "Online in the Sunshine" Livestock Judging Event, with the fall event that took place in September, and a spring event scheduled for April.

We have heard your feedback – specifically fixing some of the technology and delivery issues and more prizes for the contests – and are excited to debut these changes.

Participation will begin with an online registration process, that will open approximately two weeks prior to each event. Registration this season will be \$6.00 per contestant, or \$20.00 per team of four, paid online via the new system that will allow for multiple youth to register at once. All fees go towards supplies, ribbons, prizes and shipping.

Each contest will be open for a period of 3-4 days. The day each contest opens, an email will be sent to the address provided for each registered contestant that will contain a unique link to the contest, which will be completed through multiple choice and sequence questions, text boxes and placings (as applicable for each event) – no more attachments, answer sheets or non-working dropdown boxes!

Contestants are asked to judge and complete each class/practicum on their own before the contest closes as if they were at an actual contest, it is wise to not wait until the last minute to start. The contests will need to be completed in one sitting, and will be submitted completely through one system, contestants will likely be timed for each question/practicum, but will NOT need to download or save ANYTHING. (Promise.)

Winners, in junior and senior divisions, will be announced as soon as possible after each event, and full results with scores will also be provided. A copy of the contest will also be distributed as a document to check answers, that is yours to keep to use in the future and see what you know and what you should study. The goal is to award a prize – past awards have included tumbler cups, embroidered blankets, glass trophies and other cool stuff – by mail to the top FIVE youth in each division, as long as registration numbers are there, and ribbons to the top 10 in each division.

The series is open to ALL youth in Florida, no memberships are required, and an out of state division may also be offered. Classes and practicums will either be original for the contest, or selected from past national-caliber events for great practice. More information can be found on the following pages, and hopefully, you and your teams will find these opportunities valuable this season. Hope to see you or your youth in the top 10 very soon!

Best,

*Abby Marion*

Owner/Publisher, First Place Florida

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### General Rules –

Contests in the series are open to ALL youth who have not yet graduated high school. These are aimed at Florida youth, but if there is interest, an out-of-state division may be offered.

Membership in 4-H or FFA is NOT required, however, if a youth is a member of one or both, please list the name of the FFA chapter or name/county of your 4-H club at registration and during the contest.

Individual contests only, no team placings will be provided.

Registration fee for each contest is \$6.00 per contestant, or a discounted rate of \$20.00 for a team of four, per contest, completed online. Links will be provided on our website, newsletter and on social media. Please check your email for a registration confirmation, and a list of registered participants will also be posted.

You will be required to list the YOUTH's email address (or the email address of an adult who will assist them in getting started when they complete the contest) and age division during sign up. This is very important, as it is where the link to participate will be sent. You may also include a phone number (optional) if you would like to receive text message updates with reminders for the event.

Each youth is limited to ONE entry, per contest. If more than one submission is received from a youth in one contest, to preserve integrity, the earliest submission will be used in tabulations, unless other arrangements have been made before the contest closes.

### Divisions for Each Contest –

Junior Division: Youth currently in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Senior Division: Youth currently in ninth through twelfth grade.

### How It Works –

Each contest will open at 9:00 a.m. EST the day that it opens, and close at 9:00 p.m. EST the final day of the event. Any changes, will be communicated accordingly through email, text messaging and social media. Please visit [www.firstplaceflorida.com/jackpotseries](http://www.firstplaceflorida.com/jackpotseries) for exact dates for each contest.

- The day of the contest, each registered contestant will receive an email containing a unique link to an online system (similar to a Google Form) that they will use to complete the contest.

PLEASE make sure that the email you provide at sign up for the youth is the YOUTH's they will have access to. It is YOUR responsibility to contact us if for some reason you do not receive the link, and no extensions to the deadline will be granted for not following this. This is your warning.

This may be a parent or adult's email in certain cases (i.e. younger contestants) but it is YOUR responsibility to provide the materials that will be sent out to your contestant to use if this applies.

- When you are ready to start, click the link in your email to open the contest. Input your name, age division, club/chapter if applicable and mailing address on the first page, then click submit to be directed to the instructions page. Read them, and then click to start when you are ready.

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- Some parts of the contest may be timed, either overall or by question, and will be listed for each event if this applies. A copy of the event will be made available after it closes to check your answers.

Tip: For the best practice, treat this as if you were at a real contest: be mindful of your time, and no collaborating with others before you submit your answers.

- You will receive an email confirmation automatically after you submit, please hold on to this, in the event that there are any discrepancies with your submission.

Tip: For any placing classes or practicums, make sure you have checked your answers before you submit your answer sheet. If anything is left blank, the blank answer is a score of zero.

- Official results will be announced as soon as possible after each contest. Results will be posted as spreadsheets on the First Place Florida website, emailed to participants and posted to social media.
- Copies of scores for each participant will also be posted. These will be scores from each class/section, and a copy of the contest will be distributed afterwards to check your answers.
- The contest is yours to keep after the contest is over to use for further practice.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR EACH CONTEST (ex. time limits, format) WILL BE PROVIDED CLOSER TO EACH

Tiebreakers –

Poultry: Ties will first be broken on the exam, followed by total score from carcasses, and then by total score on parts identification, if needed.

Meats: Ties will first be broken on the total retail identification score, followed by the score from the carcass class, and then by the score from the wholesale class, if needed.

Skillathon: To be determined, as this event is being reformatted to match those found in Florida for 2021. The tiebreaker will be announced when information for the contest is made available.

Veterinary Science: Ties will first be broken on the exam, followed by the total score from the first practicum, followed by the score from the second practicum, if needed.

Awards –

While the goal is to provide a special prize to the top five individuals in each age division, these events are conducted “jackpot style,” where exact awards will depend upon the number of participants registered. This number will be set at 50, with one prize provided for each 10 individuals in each age division.

The high individual in each division is will be guaranteed to receive a special prize, that will differ to fit the theme of each contest.

Ribbons will be awarded to the remainder of the top 10 individuals in each division. All entry fees are used to fund the prizes for each contest.

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Final Notes –

These events are NOT sponsored by or endorsed by any 4-H or FFA program, and membership is NOT required in order to participate.

These events rely, in part, on the honor system – PLEASE be fair to others by respecting the fact that these are contests that other participants, like you, have paid to enter, and treat this as you would any other contest: no talking or conferencing with others about the contest before the close, no adult assistance in forming your answers, and no use of outside resources, other than scratch paper, if needed.

These events are not in-person judging contests, but the classes and specimens are either original for the events, or have been selected from national-caliber (or in some cases, actual past national events) events. They are NOT intended to replace any other opportunity, but rather to provide additional opportunities for youth to learn and practice, just as similar organizations do for youth in other states.

If you do not like or agree with the way these events are set up, you are under no obligation to participate.

By entering one or more of these events, you agree to follow the rules set forth here and included with the email communication you will receive before the event begins. You also give First Place Florida has the right to publish your name, state and club/chapter for publicity purposes/with results.

You also understand that in the event you register and pay for one or more of these events, and fail to submit before the deadline, you will be considered a “no show” and no refund will be provided, unless prior arrangements are made or an emergency situation arises.

(Additionally – If there are any individuals or organizations out there who would like to support these events through support for prizes or other means, please send us a message, we would love to talk about sponsorship opportunities!)