Official Rules

Online
Jackpot Judging Series

March – May 2020
Presented by First Place Florida

(Updated April 13 to Include Skillathon, Vet Science and Jackpot Livestock Contests)
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March 29, 2020

You're Going to Like This Announcement.

The first online contest for First Place Florida, the “Online in the Sunshine” Livestock Judging Contest, was a hit success earlier this month, with participants from all across Florida, and more from around the country who asked if they could take part in the event, nearly 25,000 impressions across social media, some great classes, and some even more amazing youth who had a chance to practice their skills and win an awesome prize that’s on the way, too.

I am not sure anyone knows when life will return to normal, if at all before this season (in Florida at least, as our season runs from September to April, or school year for folks out of state) is over, and while it probably isn't feasible right now to have practices after school, live workouts on the weekend, or even for state organizations to host their state contests as we are facing in Florida, it is no reason to step off the judging grind, even if you are unsure of when your next or state contest will be.

By popular demand for additional events added, feedback received from the first online event and the desire to give more opportunities for youth to practice their skills with no travel necessary, First Place Florida will be hosting the first-ever Online Jackpot Judging Series that begins today with registration open for the first contest, that will continue throughout the next several weeks.

The Online Jackpot Judging Series will start with meats judging the week of April 2, followed by poultry judging the week of April 9, and livestock skillathon, the week of April 17. Contests for veterinary science, the week of April 24, and a jackpot livestock judging contest, the week of May 1, have also been added since the original announcement.

These contests will be conducted a little bit differently than the first online event. Signups will be taken during the registration period, along with a $5.00 entry fee per contestant, paid online. (I hate to do this, really, with everything that is going on, but all entry fees collected will go towards the ribbons, prizes and shipping to the winners.)

The day each contest will take place, an email will be sent to all registered contestants containing access to the contest materials, an answer sheet and a link to submit your completed answer sheet before the deadline. Contestants are asked to judge and complete each class on their own as if they were at an actual contest.

Winners will be announced as soon as possible, and full results with scores will also be provided. The contest materials are yours to keep after the event, and you can use your answer sheet for future teams and with the key to see exactly what you know and what you should study. Plans are to provide ribbons by mail to the top 10 in each division by mail after the contest. Top placing youth may also receive additional recognition.

These contests are open to ALL 4-H and FFA members in Florida AND across the U.S. All contestants will judge the same classes, but each contest will have a junior (grades K through 8) and senior (grades 9 through 12) division. Classes and specimens will be selected from past national-caliber events for the best practice.

More information can be found on the following pages, and hopefully, you and your teams will find these opportunities valuable and a way to help you make the best of the rest of the season. If you have any questions, please send an email to firstplaceflorida@yahoo.com or send us a message on social media.

Hope to see you in the top 10 very soon!

Best,

Abby Marion
Owner/Publisher
First Place Florida
General Rules –

These contests are open to all youth who have not yet graduated high school, from anywhere across the U.S. Entry is not limited to just Florida.

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 county of the 4-H club at sign up and on your answer sheet.

Individual contests only, no team placings will be provided.

There is a $5.00 entry fee per contestant, per contest, done completely online. Registration begins by filling out the form on our website and payment via PayPal. The email receipt from PayPal will serve as your registration confirmation, and a list of registered participants will also be posted online.

The YOUTH’s email address (or the email address of an adult who will help them the day of the event) and age division will need to be provided at sign up. Counties, chapter/club names and mailing address will be collected when you submit your answer sheet. These will only be used to mail prizes, send contest materials and contact you if there are any questions, contact information will not be published or shared.

Each youth is limited to ONE entry, per contest. If more than one answer sheet 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 grades kindergarten through eight.
➢ Senior Division: Youth currently in grades nine through twelve.

How It Works –

Each contest will open at 9 a.m. EST on the day that it is held and close at 9 p.m. EST. If there are any changes, they will be communicated as soon as possible. Visit www.firstplaceflorida.com/jackpotseries for exact dates for each contest.

➢ The day of the contest, each registered contestant will receive an email containing an answer sheet, access to the contest materials and link to submit your answers prior to 9 p.m. EST.

PLEASE make sure the email you provide is the CONTESTANT's that they have access to. No extensions to the submission deadline will be given 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 know that it is YOUR responsibility to provide the materials that will be sent out to your contestant to use.
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➢ Use the answer sheet to record your answers and placings for the classes provided. More information on specifics for this will be provided with each contest.

Tip: It may be helpful to have a steno or scratch paper handy to use as you judge. No time limits will be enforced, you have from when you receive the materials until the submission deadline.

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.

➢ Once you have finished all of the classes, follow the instructions for saving your answer sheet and click the link in the email to open the submission form. Input your information, upload your answer sheet as an attachment file and submit.

➢ You will receive an email confirmation automatically afterwards, please hold on to this in the event it is needed and as a copy of your submission.

Tip: 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, for identification classes, you can use your answer sheet to see specifics on what you got correct and what you got incorrect.

➢ The files with classes are yours to keep after the contest is over to use for further practice.

Tiebreakers –

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

Poultry: Ties will first be broken on the exam covering judging class information, and then by score from carcasses, and then by score from parts identification.

Skillathon: Ties will first be broken on the quality assurance exercise, and then by the performance class, and then by score from feed identification.

Veterinary Science: Ties will first be broken on the exam covering the topics for the year as announced by Florida FFA, and then by the score from the first practicum, and then by the score from the second.

Jackpot Livestock Judging: Ties will first be broken on the first performance class, and then by the score from the second, and then by the highest average placing score through averaging scores from each class.
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Awards –

These events are conducted “jackpot style,” where exact awards will depend upon the number of participants registered in each division, i.e. the more participants, the more awards given out.

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.

The second and third place individuals are also guaranteed prizes, and additional individuals within the top five may also be recognized if entry numbers permit.

Ribbons will be awarded to the remainder of the top 10 individuals in each division with at least 20 participants registered, otherwise the top five will receive ribbons.

All entry fees are used to fund the prizes for each contest.

Final Notes –

These events are NOT sponsored by or endorsed by any 4-H or FFA program.

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 are paying to enter, and treat this as you would any other contest: no talking or conferencing with others about the classes before you submit your placings, no adult assistance in forming your answers, and no use of outside resources other than scratch paper.

These events are not in-person judging contests, but the classes and specimens have been selected from national-caliber (or in some cases, actual past national-level events) in-person events. 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 an answer sheet 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!)