

Los Alamos County 4-H Contest Descriptions and Summary

4-H Age Group	Contest Description	Contest Requirements	Level
<p>** Note: not all contests are offered with the Los Alamos 4-H Program or with the northern district contests. Please check with your agent. Individuals may participate in any contest that is not a bowl contest, unless otherwise stated in contest rules.</p>			
<p>Agronomy – Senior Only</p>	<p>The contest consists of three sections: identify 20 plant specimens, 20 seed specimens and 8 farm equipment specimens; placing 3 classes with 4 samples; and insect identification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * May compete as an individual or a team. * Teams consist of 3 or 4 members. 	<p>County State</p>
<p>Consumer Decision Making – Novice, junior, senior</p>	<p>The contest teaches how to observe, compare and make decisions based on standards of quality and facts collected, then tell why one item is better than another, and to assist in the decision making process by formulating reasons for their decisions and expressing them orally. Novices and juniors will evaluate a total of 4 classes; seniors will evaluate 6 classes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team consists of 3 to 4 members. • Oral reasons are given on one class for novices, 2 classes for juniors and seniors. • Two minutes will be given for oral reason presentations. 	<p>County District State</p>
<p>Dairy Judging Contest – Senior</p>	<p>The contest consists of evaluating 5 classes, with each class showing a total of 4 animals. Oral reasons will be given on at least 2 classes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team of 3 or 4 members • Participants will be given 15 minutes to place each class, 2 teams per county allowed. 	<p>County State</p>
<p>Entomology – Novice, junior, senior</p>	<p>Members will demonstrate their knowledge of entomology, the study of insects. Novices identify 25 insects by their common name. Juniors identify 25 insects by their common name and give type of mouthparts. Seniors will be given 25 specimens and answer 5 questions per specimen, in addition to a 50 question multiple choice test or true and false test.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams of 3 or 4 members, 2 teams per county allowed, per age group. 	<p>County District State</p>
<p>Family and Consumer Sciences Bowl – Senior only</p>	<p>This bowl contest involves matching wits with the opposing team to see who can answer the most questions. The contest covers materials from all areas of home economics – cooking, baking, money management, crafts, clothing, nutrition, and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each county may send 1 or 2 teams. • Each team must have 4 members. 	<p>County State</p>

	consumerism. Contest includes written exam, head-to-head competition and toss up.		
Family and Consumer Sciences Skill-A-Thon – Novice, junior, senior	This contest provides an opportunity for members to develop specific home economics and life skills by demonstrating the breadth of their knowledge and understanding of home economics practices and principles. Members will complete food and cooking identification; sewing and clothing identification; juniors and seniors will also complete food and nutrition judging and housing and interior design identification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classes judged by 3 or 4 member teams as individuals, and as a team. • Team competition involves responding to a set of situations – seniors. 	County District State
Fashion Revue – Novice, junior, senior	Contest is to provide the opportunity to gain additional poise and confidence personal presentation of self, learn modeling techniques, and improve sewing skills. Members enrolled in the Fashion Magic project series learn about clothing selection, coordination, accessorizing, and care. Project requirements include selecting and coordinating an outfit, keeping a notebook of their project activities. The contest involves completing and submitting the notebook for judging, and modeling their coordinated outfit. They may be constructed, purchased or recycled into a new outfit. Member must be enrolled in one category to participate – Sewing 1; sewing II; Mix and Match I; Mix and Match II; Senior Clothing Construction I; Senior Clothing Construction II; Sew and Go; Clothing Self-Determined; Serger Sewing; Creative Touches; Quilting; or Clothing You Buy – Fashion Magic. Revue is a combination of oral presentation, modeling of garment or sewing exhibit and response to judges questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counties may enter 3 participants per category 	County District State
Favorite Food Show – Novice, junior, senior	Members prepare a favorite food that is nutritious and displays along with a meal or day's menu, the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favorite food recipe must be selected from one of the following: 	County District

	<p>recipe, and appropriate table setting with centerpiece. Recipes should be from a reliable cookbook or Extension publication. Should be prepared in approximately 1 hour. Members will be asked recipe preparation, nutrition and table setting information with judge. Juniors and seniors will need number of servings, cost per serving and calorie content of their favorite food. Seniors will also be judged on food safety and kitchen practices, including cooperation and self-sufficiency.</p>	<p>snack, beverage, bread, sandwich, main dish, salad, fruit or vegetable</p>	<p>State</p>
<p>Hippology – Senior only</p>	<p>Members exhibit their knowledge and understanding of equine science and husbandry in a friendly but competitive setting. This contest has 3 different phases: Examination, station and judging.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counties may enter 2 teams of 3 to 4 members • Contestants may not have participated in an official, postsecondary hippology, horse bowl, or horse judging contest. 	<p>County State</p>
<p>Horse Bowl – Novice, junior, senior</p>	<p>Provides an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H horse projects to demonstrate their knowledge of equine-related subject matter in a competitive setting. All contestants will take the written examination used in the Hippology Contest. This is taken individually. The sum score of team members will be used to rank the teams from highest to lowest. Questions will come from official sources. There will be one-on-one, toss up and bonus questions asked.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams consist of 4 to 5 members • Only 4 contestants shall be seated at the panel at any time. 	<p>County District State</p>
<p>Horse Judging – novice, junior, senior</p>	<p>This contest assists members in learning the basic insights of equine evaluation. Horse judging is the evaluation of a classes of 4 horses. The contest may consist of up to 8 classes for novice and juniors and up to 10 classes for seniors. Contest includes halter and performance classes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors may send 2 teams per county • Novices and juniors will be given 12 minutes to place each class; seniors will be given 15 minutes per class for placing. All members will be given 2 minutes for giving oral reasons. 	<p>County District State</p>

Horticulture – Novice, junior, senior	This contest develops knowledge of horticulture and practical aspects of everyday living. Participants will have 40 minutes to identify 40 horticulture specimens or horticulture products; given 30 minutes to place 4 classes of plants or products; and 30 minutes to answer 50 true false or multiple choice questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 teams per county 	County District State
Land Judging Contest – senior only	This contest provides an opportunity for members to develop their land evaluation skills. Information of field conditions will be given for each location, including deficiencies in soil, manure available, thickness or original topsoil, size of field and availability of irrigation water. At least 3, but no more than 4 pits will be judged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams of 3 or 4 members, 2 per county. 	County State
Livestock Judging – Novice, junior, senior	This contest develops basic skills of livestock evaluation. Participants will evaluate 4 animals in a class. Classes include breeding and market beef, sheep, swine and goats. Classes selected will depend on the availability of livestock. Novice or juniors will evaluate 4 or 5 classes; seniors will evaluate 8 or nine classes. Teams will participate in other exercises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time limit of 15 minutes per class for judging and 2 minutes for reciting oral reasons for novice and juniors. 12 minutes for seniors and 3 minutes for oral reasons. • Two teams per age group allowed 	County District State
Livestock Skill-A-Thon – novice, junior, senior	Members will have an opportunity to develop their livestock skills by demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of animal science and livestock management practices. Exercise topics include: quiz; livestock breed identification; meat cut identification (juniors and seniors); livestock feed identification; quality assurance exercise; livestock equipment identification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two teams per age group per county of 3-4 members allowed 	County District State
Meat Judging – senior only	Participants will identify retail cuts of beef, pork and lamb; place one class of retail cuts and one class of wholesale cuts. Oral reasons will be given on each class.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two teams per county per age group 	County State

<p>Presentations – novice, junior, senior Categories: Agriculture: animal science, horticulture and agronomy, or natural science project. Home Economics: clothing, foods, food preservation, housing, consumer or family life project. General: engineering, personal growth and development, creative arts or arts and crafts project.</p>	<p>Participants are given the opportunity to learn public speaking, teaching and expressing skills by speaking before a group. Demonstration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A demonstration is: doing, showing how or making and doing something. • Illustrated talk is talking or telling how to do something. Participants may show pictures, charts models, and equipment. Demonstrations and illustrated talks are judged against each other. 	<p>Contestant must be enrolled in a related project to participate, but does not need to be enrolled in public speaking. Novice time limit – 2 to 10 minutes. Junior time limit – 5 to 10 minutes. Senior time limit – 10 to 15 minutes. This contest may be an individual or a team of 2 members. Teams will be judged against individuals. Must be currently enrolled in project.</p>	<p>County District State</p>
<p>Public Speaking – Impromptu Novice, junior, senior</p>	<p>Members learn public speaking, teaching and expression skills. Teaches the ability to organize thoughts to present information in a logical manner. Members prepares speech at the contest site on a topic selected by the superintendent. Novice and junior participants are given 2-minutes to prepare a speech; senior participants are given 3 minutes to prepare a speech.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length of speech: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Novice 1-minute minimum - Junior 2-minute minimum - Senior 3-5 minute minimum • Each county may enter 4 members per age group (senior?) 	<p>County District State</p>
<p>Public Speaking – prepared – novice, junior, senior</p>	<p>This contest provides an opportunity for speaking, teaching and expression skills in front of a group. The topic is selected by the participants and the speech must be the original work of the presenter. Members are evaluated on knowledge of topic, organization and presentation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No visual aids or sound effects should be used. Notes may be used. • Each county may enter 4 members per age group (senior?) • Novice time limit – 2 to 4 minutes • Junior time limit – 4 to 6 minutes • Senior time limit - 6 to 8 minutes 	<p>County District State</p>

Public Speaking – Poetry – Novice, junior	Participants select topic. Poems may be original poems or obtained from a book. Participants are evaluated on interpretation and presentation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novice – 1-2 minutes • Junior – 2 -4 minute limit. • Memorized. Participants are not allowed to use notes. • Each county may enter 4 members per age group 	County District
Shooting Sports	See separate contest rules		
Talent Review Contest - Novice, junior, senior	This contest provides an opportunity to discover and develop talents, stimulate interest in 4-H recreation program and develop cooperation through working together. Categories include: comedian; vocal; musical; choreographed routines; drama; and celebrate 4-H.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two entries per age group per county • 4 minutes for set-up and breakdown and 6 minutes for presentation. 	County District State
Wildlife Habitat Evaluation – Novice junior, senior	Participants will learn how to identify wildlife species listed in the Wildlife Habitat Manual and demonstrate knowledge of wildlife species in the hot desert, urban and wetlands regions. Contest consists of 25 wildlife species identification questions and 25 general knowledge wildlife questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two, 4 member teams from novice and junior teams allowed per county 	County District State

Adapted and sourced from: *2020 Northern New Mexico 4-H District Contest Handbook; State 4-H Conference Contest Rules; Rio Arriba County Contest Description and Guidelines, 2019. Revised April 2020, April 2021.*