

**LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**



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September 6, 2016

TO: All Vocational Agriculture Instructors

FROM: McKenzie Barry, Environmental Education Specialist *MB*
Lower Platte South NRD

The **2016 Nebraska State Range Judging Contest** will be held near **Lincoln** on **Wednesday, September 28, 2016**. Nebraska's NRDs, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the NE Section of the Society for Range Management are sponsors for the contest. A practice site will be available on Tuesday, September 27.

There will be 3 divisions – **JUNIOR DIVISION** (Sophomore class standing and under); **SENIOR DIVISION** (Junior & Senior class standing); **ADULT** (which will combine professional and adult into one group).

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

E-MAIL registrations to Connie Hansen at connie.hansen@ne.nacdnet.net by **NOON Friday, September 23 NOON.**

OR

MAIL them to the Lancaster County NRCS, Attn: Connie Hansen, 8000 S. 15th Street, Suite D, Lincoln, NE 68516.

PLEASE have the forms **TYPEWRITTEN** to cut down on confusion. Please try to keep changes to a minimum, but if you do need to make a change please send it by email. A large number of participants is expected, so making changes the morning of the contest is **discouraged**.



The practice site will be available to all schools starting at Noon eastern time on Tuesday, September 27 until dark. To get directions to the practice site instructors can either call or stop by the Lancaster County NRCS field office located at 8000 S. 15th Street, Suite D, in Lincoln (402-423-9683) between noon and 4:30 p.m. Key for the practice site will be available on site.

Check-in for the contest will be from **8:30 to 9:15** a.m. on Wednesday, September 28th at the Optimist Youth Sports Complex, 5300 S. Folsom Street, Lincoln. All schools will gather at this site, register for the contest and then be provided directions to the contest location.

There will be a **\$3.00 registration fee per contestant due at check-in time** that will be used to help defray the cost of the contest. Checks should be made payable to the "Lower Platte South NRD." Lunch after the contest will be on your own. The Lower Platte South NRD will provide a cold drink for everyone immediately following the conclusion of the contest.

Again this year, in an effort to make sure that you get students back to school in time for practice and other activities, we will not be having an awards ceremony. Area contest awards will be given to schools at registration and the state contest awards will be given at the State FFA conference in early April 2016. We will post results to the range judging website (www.nesrm.org/rangejudging) as soon as possible following the contest.

REFERENCE MANUALS: These may be obtained through your local county extension service.

- EC89-118 Nebraska Range and Pasture Forbs and Shrubs.
- EC86-113 A Guide for Planning and Analyzing a Year-Round Forage Program.
- EC91-123 Drought Management on Range and Pastureland.
- EC92-124E Nebraska Handbook of Range Management.

If you have any questions concerning this contest, feel free to contact Steve Grube at the Lancaster County NRCS at 402-423-9683 Extension 3, or at Steve.Grube@ne.usda.gov. Or I can also try to assist you and you can reach me at 402-476-2729 or mbarry@lpsnrd.org.

Day of event cell phone #'s – Steve (402-560-2095) or McKenzie (402-432-6840).