The Old West Regional Range Judging Contest is open to youth and adults from Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. The contest rotates among the five states and this year is sponsored by the Nebraska Section - Society for Range Management in cooperation with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, North Platte Natural Resources District, and University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension.

Registration will be at the North Platte NRD building. The NRD is located at 100547 Airport Road in Scottsbluff, NE. We are asking you to preregister your team(s) by October 1. Details are at the end of this letter for where registrations should be sent.

Once you arrive in Scottsbluff, you will be able to check in your team(s) on Friday October 5th from noon until 8:00 p.m. MDT. Maps to the practice site can be obtained at the registration area. Those who pre-register by emailing or faxing their individual and team entries can pay the $5 per person entry fee at registration.

The final registration period before the contest will be from 8:00-8:30 a.m. on Saturday October 6th. All participants must be at the NRD building on Saturday morning by 8:30 to receive their judging cards and instructions. After contest instructions are given, the participants’ vans, busses, etc. will be led in a convoy to the contest site. The contest is expected to begin by 9:30 and conclude around noon MDT, after which the contest officials will review the answers on site.

All meals the day of the contest will be “on your own”. Everyone is encouraged to return to the North Platte NRD building around 1:30 p.m. for a brief educational program. The awards ceremony will follow. We plan to have the results at 2 p.m. or immediately following the conclusion of the educational program.

The University of Nebraska will be providing a supper for all registered contestants on Friday, October 5th. This meal will be held at the North Platte NRD building at 7:30 p.m. If you plan to attend this meal, please indicate so on your registration form.

Divisions

Teams: A team can consist of 3 or 4 members. The 3 highest individual scores will be combined for the team score. A contestant may compete in only one Team Division.

Individuals: Team members automatically compete as individuals, though individuals do not have to compete in the Team Division.

FFA Teams: Any FFA/Vo-Ag Chapter can enter as many teams as desired as long as all members are presently enrolled in the program.

4-H Teams: Teams can be made up of enrolled members from the same club, county or state, with no limit on number of teams. Team members cannot already be graduated from high school.

Senior Division: Students currently enrolled in the 11th or 12th grade.

Junior Division: Students currently enrolled in the 10th grade or a lower grade.

Professional: This is the “adult” division for those beyond high school. These adults compete only as individuals and not in teams.

Awards

One team plaque and medallions for each member will be given for first through third place in both Junior and Senior Team Divisions of FFA, as well as for the the overall 4-H Teams.
Plaques will also be presented to the first through third place individuals in the Junior, Senior and Professional Divisions, and medallions will be given to the top 10 individuals in each of those three Divisions.

**Contest Guide**
The contest will consist of 24 plants, 3 range sites, 1 ranch problem and 10 questions. The Range Judging Handbook and Contest Guide for Nebraska (revised 2009) is the primary resource to use for contest preparation. This guide can be obtained electronically at: [http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/epublic/pages/index.jsp?what=publicationD&publicationId=1174](http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/epublic/pages/index.jsp?what=publicationD&publicationId=1174)

If you have specific technical questions related to information found in this Handbook, or have questions about how the contest operates, please contact Dave Cook at 308-772-3953.

**Practice Site**
The site to help prepare for the contest will be available from noon until dark (~ 7 MDT) on October 5. To get a map of the site, come to the registration area at the North Platte NRD that day starting at noon. Check with contest officials if you also wish to practice early Friday morning.

**Lodging**
There are various accommodations in the Scottsbluff area. For a list of them, please visit the following link found on the Scottsbluff/Gering Chamber of Commerce website. [http://visitscottsbluff.com/lodging](http://visitscottsbluff.com/lodging)

**Places to See**
A good listing of area sites and attractions you might check out if you have time before or after the contest are also listed on the Chamber website. [http://visitscottsbluff.com/attractions](http://visitscottsbluff.com/attractions)

**Contact Information**
If you have specific technical questions related to information found in the Handbook, or have questions about how the contest operates, please contact Dave Cook at 308-772-3953.

If you have registration questions or concerns, please contact Jackie Bishop at 308-632-2749.

**Send Registrations By October 1**
(please indicate “OWR” in the subject line)
Jackie Bishop  
North Platte NRD  
PO Box 280  
Scottsbluff NE 69363  
jbishop@npnrd.org  
308-632-4346 (fax)  
308-632-2749 (phone)