

RANGE MANAGEMENT CONTEST

I. Eligibility

- A. Read general rules.
- B. Any 4-H member who meets the general eligibility rules can participate.
- C. Two (2) teams or a maximum of eight (8) participants.
- D. 4-H members who have enrolled in college range plant identification activities prior to the contest are not eligible to compete.

II. Procedures

- A. Scoring the contest.

The contestant's score will be the total of:

- 1. The range plant identification.
- 2. Range utilization, sites and practices.
- 3. Range placings portions.

The range plant identification portion shall be scored 10 points per plant. Six points will be given for each correctly identified plant and one point for each correctly checked characteristic. Characteristics include growing season, life span, origin and grazing value. If the plant is not correctly identified, no credit will be given for the characteristics. Each misspelled plant name will deduct one point from the score. Twenty-five or more of the range plants from the state master plant list will be used for identification phase.

The range utilization, sites and practices portion shall be scored as follows: Correct utilization category - 25 points; correct range site - 25 points; recommended practices - 10 points for each correctly checked practice. However, judges are permitted to alter the scoring of the "practices" section and use weighted scoring (e.g. allow more points for the more important practices and fewer points for the less important practices).

- B. Contestants will have 30 minutes to complete each part of the contest. Additional time may be allowed for the plant identification portion if the contest superintendent feels that it is necessary.

- C. While judging, the contestants will confer with no one except the group leader of their section or the superintendent of the contest.
- D. The contest superintendent shall give each contestant a number. The contestants will be divided into groups so that no more than one contestant from each team will be in the same group. The group leader will be responsible for distributing and collecting the score sheets.

III. References

- A. New Mexico Range Judging Handbook, 200 M-4
- B. New Mexico Range Plants, Circular 374

IV. Awards

First through fifth place ribbons will be awarded to team members and high point individuals. Medals will go to the first place team members. A plaque will go to the high point individual.

- A. The winning team may participate in the International Range and Pasture Contest.
- B. Age requirements: Contestant must be at least 14 years old on the date of the contest and must not have graduated from high school prior to the current year.
- C. The Society for Range Management will present a \$50 bond to the high point individual. Each first place team member will receive \$25. The Society for Range Management retains the option of renewing these awards each year.

April 2000