

# Youth Livestock Re-Cap

Dylan Davis

*Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences*

## Georgia National Fair

Each year, in conjunction with the Georgia National Fair in Perry, Animal and Dairy Science along with Georgia 4-H and FFA host the state market lamb and market goat shows. Our numbers continue to grow and as hundreds of students take part in the most popular youth livestock activity available in our state. Over 500 youth from all over our great state showed off their hard work by exhibiting over 800 head of sheep and goats. While only a few champions were selected that weekend, the number of lessons learned and memories made that weekend are immeasurable.

## The Southeastern 3 Livestock Judging Contest

Along with the University of Florida, we host a regional livestock judging competition each year in Perry around the first weekend of December. I am amazed each year as the number of participants continue to grow and new states are represented. This year over 400 students traveled from seven states to participate in what we call the SE3. Teams traveled from as far as Arkansas and Virginia (and everywhere in between) to evaluate 19 classes of high-quality livestock assembled from our very generous friends and producers in Georgia and Florida.

## Georgia Junior National Livestock Shows

The Georgia youth livestock community spent February 21st – 24th in Perry at the Georgia National Fairgrounds for the 2024 Georgia Junior National Livestock Show. A years' worth of early mornings and late nights all came down to one last trip to Perry, Georgia. Countless hours, hard-work, and sweat equity went into preparing these livestock projects for the last show of the season. Over four days 1,825 exhibitors brought over 2,750 beef cattle, dairy cattle, ewes, does, and hogs to Perry, GA.

**Table 1. Number of animals and exhibitors at the 2024 GJNLS.**

2024	Beef Heifer	Comm Dairy	Breeding Ewes	Market Hogs	Market Beef	Breeding Does
Animals	466	209	247	1339	151	335
Exhibitors	307	179	142	905	102	190

From the outside, showing livestock might look like just another sport, but as a product of the Georgia Youth Livestock Program, I know that there is much more to it than meets the eye. Most people witness the time in the showring, but few realize the hours and work required at home to make walking into the ring at the top of your game possible. Not only are the hours youth spend in the barn used to prepare their livestock for show, but they are also used to develop themselves into passionate and hard-working adults.



### **Top Hand Stockmanship and Stewardship Contest**

The Top Hand Stockmanship and Stewardship contest is an impactful youth cattle handling and Beef Quality Assurance education program that offers hand-on, team competitions. In this contest, teams of 3 students compete by processing three head of cattle while following a protocol prescribed by contest administration in administering multiple pharmaceuticals and forms of identification. As a result of this program, students receive training and hands-on experience in working as a team to handle and administer vaccines, apply appropriate identification, keep important records, and follow Beef Quality Assurance Guidelines. In 2024 an additional regional contest was started in Summerville, which added to the contest already hosted in Carrollton, Tifton, and Athens. The top teams from each regional contest were invited to compete in the state contest hosted by Andy Dunn at the Alapaha Beef Unit in Berrien County. Similar to past years, this contest was extremely close and competitive. Actually, there was a tie for first place between the "Crisp County Girls" and the "Chattooga County Senior Citizens". The tie was broken on a tough Stockman's quiz that required students to identify equipment, feeds, breeds, and answer several animal health questions. After the dust settled, the team called "Chattooga County Senior Citizens" was named the 2024 Top Hands.

We are thankful for all the interest and participation in the Top Hand Stockmanship and Stewardship contest and look forward to this program growing in the years to come. Follow us on Facebook at "Top Hand Stockmanship and Stewardship Contest" and stay tuned at [ugabeef.com](http://ugabeef.com) for our 2025 contest coming next Spring.

If you or anyone you know are interested in participating in any of these youth events, feel free to contact me at [dylan.davis@uga.edu](mailto:dylan.davis@uga.edu) or reach out to your local county extension office.