Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging
Objectives, Rules, and Awards
2022 Hybrid Contest

The 2022 Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging area contests will be conducted using a hybrid format. The Cotton Boll Commercials/Advertisements will be recorded and submitted online. The Consumer Judging portion of the event will take place in-person. Additional information about recording and submitting cotton presentations can be found in the Cotton Boll Virtual Guide.

Objectives:

- To understand the importance of cotton as an agricultural commodity
- To promote cotton in communities
- To make knowledgeable, rational decisions when purchasing goods and services
- To select, use, maintain and dispose of goods and services in ways that maximize resources
- To obtain clothing, goods and services to meet needs and reflect lifestyles, personal values and goals
- To act as responsible consumer-citizen with an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of the consumer, business and government
- To learn to communicate reasons for choices made

Competition Guidelines:

1. All participants must participate in a county 4-H Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging program.
2. The Junior Competition is for 4th – 8th grade youth. The Senior Competition is for 9th – 12th grade youth. A county may compete with a maximum of 20 youth for each competition level. The top four scoring participants in each competition level will be considered a team, with the top 3 scores counting, unless teams are designated prior to the contest. Counties have the option of competing with up to 2 teams per competition level. If a county has less than three contestants, they may participate as individuals.
3. The Consumer Judging portion of the contest will occur live and in-person at designated area contest locations. The Cotton Boll (Cotton Commercials/Advertisements) portion of the contest will be pre-recorded.
4. Junior cotton presentations consist of a 30 second commercial and a poster that promotes cotton and its use. Juniors will prepare the poster to be no larger than 14" x 22" – half of a large size poster board. Junior Commercials are judged on appearance (5%), delivery (20%), creativity (20%), overall quality (20%), poster (30%) and length (5%). Use of notes is discouraged.
5. Senior cotton presentations consist of a 90 second advertisement about cotton. Seniors are not graded on posters, but limited props and costumes may be used. Seniors are judged on appearance (5%), delivery (20%), creativity (20%), accuracy of information (20%) organization of contents (15%), overall quality (15%), and length (5%).
6. Junior and Senior Cotton presentations will be filmed. Videos should not be edited (This includes using features in apps like TikTok and SnapChat or adding music. Zoom backgrounds are acceptable but should not be distracting). Juniors will also submit a photo of their poster so that the judges can view it clearly. PowerPoint (or other presentation

software) should not be used. Use of notes (including cue cards or other prompts) is discouraged.

7. Teams will judge 4 classes of consumer items and give oral reasons on one class. Use of notes is discouraged, and a penalty will be given if notes are used. Youth will have a maximum of 5 minutes for each class and a minimum of 7 minutes for reasons preparation.
8. Youth are judged based on 4 judging classes (50 points each for 200 points total), oral reasons (50 points), and a cotton presentation (100 points).
9. While blank paper is allowed as well as pre-printed blank product comparison forms. Notes and reasons template forms are prohibited during the consumer judging portion of the contest. Use of presentation notes, including cue cards and other prompts, are discouraged in the Cotton Boll portion of the contest.
10. The top 4 participants in a county in each competition level will be named the winning team, with the top three scores counting.
11. Ties will be broken using: Judging Total (1st), Oral Reasons (2nd), and Class 3 (3rd).
12. Cell phones should not be used during the contest.

Awards & Recognition:

- Each participant will receive an award pin.
- Award Certificates may be printed by the county and will be available in event registration downloads.
- The district winning team will be the county team with the highest total team score (sum of the 3 highest individual scores per county).
- The district winning team will consist of the 3 highest scoring individuals and the 4th place alternate.
- The highest scoring Junior and Senior team at each contest will be recognized. Each team member (total of 4) will receive a prize.
- The 2 Senior teams with the highest score at each contest will be eligible to compete in the State 4-H Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging Contest.
- The high overall individual in the Senior Division (9th – 12th grade) at each contest will be invited to compete at the State Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging Contest for the High Overall Individual Award. This individual may also be a member of the 1st or 2nd place Senior team or may just compete as an individual.
- Special recognition will be awarded to the high individuals at each area contest. We will continue to recognize individuals in the categories of overall, individual, high judging score, and high advertisement/commercial in the age divisions of Cloverleaf (4th-6th), Junior (7th and 8th), and Senior (9th-12th). However, for the purposes of team recognition, 4th-6th graders will still be included in the Junior division. The purpose of this is to encourage some of our youngest participants in the program!

State Contest Awards & Recognition:

- The 2 Senior teams with the highest score at each contest will be eligible to compete in the State 4-H Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging Contest.
- Both the cotton advertisements and the consumer judging portion of the contest will be live and in-person at the state contest.
- The high overall individual in the Senior Division (9th – 12th grade) at each contest will be invited to compete at the State Cotton Boll and Consumer Judging Contest for the High Overall Individual Award. This individual may also be a member of the 1st or 2nd place Senior team or may just compete as an individual.

For more information, contact your local UGA Extension office at 1-800-ASK-UGA1.

- The State Winning Senior Team will be the county team with the highest total team score (sum of the 3 highest individual scores per county). The winning team will consist of the 3 highest scoring individuals and the 4th place alternate.
- The High Overall Individual Winner is the Senior 4-H'er with the highest total score at the state contest.
- The State Winning Senior Team and High Overall Senior Individual will be eligible for Master 4-H'er status; will receive a medal; and will participate in the recognition of Special Events Winners at State 4-H Congress. The banquet meal and lodging expenses will be paid for the team and coach; however, travel costs are not covered.
- The State Winning Senior Team of four members will be invited to participate in the Western National RoundUp in Denver, Colorado in the National Consumer Decision Making Contest. Registration fees will be paid for 4 members and one team coach.
- State Winning Team Members may compete in future years as individuals. State Winning Team Members cannot compete again as a team. State High Individuals may compete in future years and if placing first, gain Master status until Georgia 4-H eligibility is completed.
- The Second Place State Winning Team of four members will be invited to participate in the Western National RoundUp in Denver Colorado in either the National FCS Skill-A-Thon or the National FCS Bowl. Travel costs will not be provided. This team will not receive Master 4-H'er status and may compete in the state competition again.

State Contact: Courtney Brown, courtms@uga.edu

If an individual with a disability may require assistance or accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact us at least two weeks prior to the event.