Hello, I’m Brady Jensen, the 2018 Livestock Judging Team Coach/Instructor at South Dakota State University. My wife, Allison, and I moved to Brookings in August, 2017, and have absolutely enjoyed getting settled and starting our lives here. I grew up in North Central Kansas in the rural community of Courtland. My parents, Kevin and Sheila Jensen, raised me and my two younger siblings on a family owned Hereford ranch, Jensen Bros. 4-H, FFA, and beef breed organizations were a big part of my siblings, Allison’s, and my childhood. Through 4-H and FFA, my summers were filled with exhibiting beef, sheep, and hogs at the county and state fair. I was involved in multiple junior beef breed organizations, however my primary focus was the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA). At the end of my junior show career, I served as chairman on the NJHA board of directors.

Livestock Judging has been a long-standing tradition in my family. My mother, who is originally from Canada, judged Meats and Livestock at North Dakota State University and my father judged livestock at Cloud County College in Kansas. Witnessing my parent’s judging of state and national events as a child ignited my interest in the sport. 4-H and FFA livestock judging success allowed me the opportunity to travel to multiple national contests and instilled within me the desire to judge in college. I attended Butler Community College and Kansas State University (KSU), majoring in Animal Science. At both institutions, I was on the Livestock Judging Team, receiving All-American Status at both levels. After the completion of my undergraduate degree at KSU, I served as the Assistant Livestock Judging Team Coach under Chris Mullinix for two years. During my time as assistant, I completed a master’s degree in Animal Science focusing on Animal Breeding and Genetics with advisors Dr. Jennifer Borrman and Dr. Bob Weaber.

I hope to meet many of you soon. If you see me around the state, please greet me, as I would enjoy visiting and interacting with all of you. My goals are set high for this program as there is an immense amount of talented students in the Animal Science Department at SDSU. The amount of support from alumni and stakeholders is unprecedented and will play into our success. Go JACKS!

Brady Jensen
Currently, the 2018 Livestock Judging Team is in the middle of their judging season. The team has competed at the National Western, Sioux Empire, Iowa Beef Expo, San Antonio Livestock Show, and Houston Livestock Show. The team witnessed many highlights as they advanced to new levels throughout the spring. It has been an absolute pleasure working with this talented group of 10 individuals. We have set our goals high and I am extremely eager to get started on our final run as we work toward the National Contest.

The team would like to send a big THANK YOU to everyone who has wished us well, hosted a work out, or supported us financially on our travels throughout the year. We appreciate all your support! It takes an enormous amount of time, money, and effort to field a competitive team. Keep up with our group on FACEBOOK on the SDSU Livestock Judging Team page where final contest results will be posted.
A YEAR IN REVIEW
Grady Ruble, 2017 SDSU Livestock Judging Team Coach

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all who have been involved with the success this past year of the Livestock Judging Team at South Dakota State University. When I stepped into the role of head coach in the fall of 2016, I experienced a certain amount of intimidation realizing the time, dedication and travel needed to mold a team of young adults, not much younger than me, into livestock evaluators capable of competing at the highest possible level. However, I committed myself to the team’s success and we experienced definite highs throughout the year. Of course, the highs were accompanied by setbacks, which ultimately made us a better team.

I feel extremely fortunate to have coached in a state where the quality of livestock is surpassed only by the producers who take the time to allow us to work out on the livestock they have raised. For that, I am very grateful. It’s important for me to note, however, that I could not have accomplished everything on my own. I had the support of a department who understands the impact that being on a livestock judging team has on its students – not only from the
standpoint of being competitive, but also from the impact it has on their future successes through better understanding of the livestock industry as a whole. My assistant coach, Wyatt Smith, played an important role in the team’s success through offering his opinion on classes, listening to reasons, and ensuring that we arrived at our destination on time. Last but not least, I want to thank Josh Cribbs and his wife, Abbie who allowed us to use their home for reasons practice, team meals, and other social gatherings. As time allowed, Josh would attend practice and was always willing to offer advice and answer questions. Josh’s guidance was extremely helpful throughout the year and was one of the reasons the team was so successful.

During the time I coached at SDSU, I also worked on completing my Master’s Degree in Ruminant Nutrition with advisor Dr. Robbi Pritchard. He was extremely understanding of my commitments to the team. I truly appreciate both the experience I received coaching the Livestock Judging Team as well as providing assistance with research at the Ruminant Nutrition Center to further my education.

Once again, I would like to say thank you for trusting me with this extremely talented group of young people; it was an experience I will never forget.

Grady Ruble

A YEAR IN REVIEW: 2017 TEAM RESULTS

The year concluded at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY. We received a variety of team and individual awards, and ended with the best finish South Dakota State University has seen in nearly 20 years. Here’s a glimpse into the successes we had as Jackrabbits this fall.

North American International Livestock Judging Contest
- 3rd Team Swine
- 3rd Team Performance Swine
- 5th Team Swine Reasons
- 4th Team Beef
- 7th Team Performance Beef
- 6th Team Beef Reasons
- 8th Team Sheep
- 4th Team Sheep Reasons
- 5th Team Performance
- 5th Team Reasons
- 5th Team Overall
- Nolan Hohenstein: 2nd Individual Performance Swine
- Nolan Hohenstein 8th Individual Swine
- Riley Ruble: 5th Individual Beef
- Riley Ruble 8th Individual Performance Beef
- Carlie Jackson: 10th Individual Swine

American Royal Livestock Judging Contest
- 5th Team Beef
- 8th Team Swine
- 10th Team Sheep
- 5th Team Reasons
- 8th Team Overall
- Maria Weber: 2nd Individual Beef, 7th Individual Reasons
- Sterling Kappes 4th Individual Beef, 9th Individual Reasons
2018 YOUTH LIVESTOCK JUDGING CAMP
South Dakota State University Campus, Brookings, SD

The South Dakota State University Livestock Judging Team will host two youth livestock judging camps in Brookings, S.D. on June 7 - 9 and June 10 - 12.

The camp is recommended for fourth grade students through seniors in high school. Younger ages are also welcome to attend with a chaperone. Students will be divided based on their ages and judging levels at the camp. Introductory to advanced-level skills related to placings and reasons for judging swine, beef, goats and sheep will be taught.

“We are really going to focus on each individual at the camp, so there will be significant one-on-one time between attendees and SDSU Livestock Judging Team members and coaches,” SDSU Livestock Judging Team Coach Brady Jensen explains.

Cost to attend the camp is $250. The registration fee includes two night's lodging in SDSU dorms, six meals plus refreshments, recreational activities each evening, a livestock judging manual, and a camp t-shirt. Registrations are due by May 24th. Contact Brady Jensen at brady.jensen@sdstate.edu or telephone.

From SDSU iGrow
2018 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Home of Tradition
YOUTH LIVESTOCK JUDGING CAMP

CAMP 1: JUNE 7 - 9
CAMP 2: JUNE 10 - 12

DAY 1
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  Check-in
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  Welcome
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm  Beef Cattle Judging
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  Supper
8:30 pm - 9:30 pm  Beef Cattle Review
8:30 pm - 10:00 pm Social Activity
10:30 pm   Lights Out

DAY 2
7:30 am - 8:00 am  Breakfast
8:00 am - 12:00 pm Quiz Quiz Plague
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm Lunch
12:30 pm - 4:00 pm  Sheep Production
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  Rasans
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm  Supper
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm  Reasons Practice
8:30 pm - 10:00 pm Social Activity
10:30 pm   Lights Out

DAY 3
7:00 am - 7:20 am  Breakfast
7:30 am - 8:00 am  Prepare for Contest
8:00 am - 1:00 pm  Contest
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  Lunch & Awards
2:00 pm   Safe Travels

COST TO ATTEND: $250.00
Please make checks payable to SDSU Livestock Judging Team. All registrations are due May 24, 2018.
Registration fee includes two nights lodging in SDSU dorms, six meals, plus refreshments, recreational activities, livestock judging manual, and camp t-shirt

PLEASE RETURN CAMP REGISTRATION TO:
SDSU Livestock Judging – Attn: Brady Jensen
ASC Box 2170 – Brookings SD 57007

ANY QUESTIONS
Contact Brady Jensen at 605-688-5165 or via email at brady.jensen@ SDSU.edu
A NOTE FROM THE SDSU FOUNDATION
Mike Barber, Development Director, College of Ag & Bio

On January 9th, 2012, I began my work at the SDSU Foundation. Within days, I was educated on an effort called “the Kohler-Gee Endowment”. Over the course of the last six plus years, I have had the pleasure of getting to know those of you who care about, and deeply appreciate, the importance of the livestock judging experience to a young person’s development. To say it has been my pleasure would be an understatement.

I reflect for a very specific reason; that is what you do when you reach your goal. Thanks to all of you, that is exactly what we have done. As of today, the Kohler-Gee endowment has reached its $1 million goal. I simply want to say THANK YOU!

It is important to note that the goal is reached under the assumption that pledges that have been made are fulfilled over the next few years, so please be sure to continue those installments if you have a pending pledge - we are counting on them. Also, if you decide you’d like to continue giving to this cause, those gifts would only reinforce the value of the endowment and provide additional support, so please know that your additional gift would still impact this cause. You may also want to talk to Coach Jensen about other needs the program has if you want to continue making a difference for the team.

Congratulations to you all! Raising a million dollars is a difficult thing to do, but together, that is exactly what you have done. Once again, thank you.

Mike Barber

IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS VIA MAIL IN HARD COPY FORM,
YOU MUST SEND YOUR EMAIL TO JUDY.CARLSON@SDSTATE.EDU
TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER

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