

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Area 1 Range Judging Contest 2026

Range judging is a high school competition that challenges students to better understand Nebraska rangelands which make up half of the state's land area. Range judging enables each participant to learn how to recognize range plants, range sites, and the need for proper grazing practices.

NRDs work with the Society for Range Management, NRCS, and UNL Extension to host Range Judging contests all over the state each September.

The South Platte NRD held the Area 1 Range Judging Contest on September 15th. The results are as follows for Junior and Senior Division team placing:

Junior:

1st Chadron High School

2nd Hay Springs

3rd Creek Valley

4th Chadron High School

Senior:

1st Sidney

2nd Hay Springs

3rd Mitchell High School

4th Banner County

The Senior Mitchell High School Team was represented by Josie Weiss, Thane Williams, Madie May, and Jarin Houk. The Senior Banner County team was represented by Makynna Boettcher, Jackson Onstott, Shawnie Mason, and Karyle Dittbenner.

The results are as follows for the individual placing:

Junior:

10th Luke Olsen

Banner County

16th Ryder Loomis

Bridgeport

Senior:

15th Josie Weiss

Mitchell High School

Other participants from Banner County include Bella Young, Kambrie Loutzenhiser, Kassie Loutzenhiser, Quincy Boettcher, and Tate Olsen.

Other participants from Mitchell included Corbyn Zaroba, Garrett Lebruska, Hadleigh Bolzer, and Jace Hendren.

The other participant from Bridgeport was Aubri Borges.

Gering was represented by Adam Engelhaupt, Bradley Rein, Eain Peterson, Dalton Stricker, Kipp Cochran, Kooper Wynne, Logan Yeager, and Noah Henkel.

The State Range Judging Contest is happening September 23rd in Lincoln County.