

Livestock Skillathon Contest

Revised Fall 2018

I. Objectives:

- A. Learn basic animal science knowledge, and answer questions on Beef Cattle, Sheep, Meat Goats, and Swine.
- B. Learn to identify and understand the proper use of tools and equipment that are related to animal husbandry.
- C. Learn to identify feed stuffs and how they contribute to a balanced ration.
- D. Learn to identify breeds of livestock and understand their origin.
- E. Learn to identify meat cuts, along with the correct specie.
- E. Teach youth to work together in problem solving techniques.

II. Eligibility:

- A. Each contestant must have reached his/her 8th birthday on or before January 1 of the current year and must not have reached his/her 19th birthday prior to January 1 of the current year.
- B. Junior division is open only to those youths who have not reached their 11th birthday before January 1 of the current year. This division is for individuals only no teams. If an agent would like to move a youth up to the intermediate division to participate on a team that is allowed.
- C. Intermediate division is open only to those youths who have not reached their 14th birthday before January 1 of the current year.
- D. Senior Division is open only to those youth who have reached their 14th birthday as of January 1 of the current year and who have not reached their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current year.
- E. Individuals who have participated in the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest, as team members, **are not eligible** to compete in 4-H Livestock Skillathon activities in North Carolina.

Age Divisions

Junior	8-10 (Individuals Only)
Intermediate	11-13
Senior	14-18

III. **Rules & Regulations:**

- A. Each County may enter an unlimited number of senior and/or intermediate teams and individuals. Counties must designate teams and individuals by age categories -- Senior or Intermediate Divisions. Those agents that are responsible for more than one county and are working with youth in those respective counties may enter those youth as a county team. However, the team name must list the counties in which the youth represented on the team reside.
- B. The entry form must be completed in its **entirety and postmarked by the deadline date** before it will be accepted for registration purposes.
- C. A team will consist of 3 or 4 club members. The team score will be a total of the 3 high individual scores of the designated team.
- D. Contestants will be divided into 4-6 groups for the contest. They will remain in these groups throughout the entirety of the contest.
- E. The **no-talking** rule will be strictly enforced. Contestants may not talk to each other. Questions for information or clarification of instructions should be directed to group leaders or officials. If contestants are caught talking or cheating, they will be removed from the contest.
- F. The format will be as follows:
Skillathon contests include but are not limited to:
- Written test of 15 to 30 questions
 - Breed identification 10 to 20 breeds
 - Feed identification 10 to 20 feeds
 - Equipment / Tool identification 10 to 20 items
 - Meat identification 10 to 20 meats
 - Meat Judging
 - Wool Judging
 - Hay Judging
 - Quality Assurance (Understanding medication labels, usage, dosage, withdraw, etc....)
 - Team exercise
- Examples: Keep/Cull class; proper handling of animals; show how to drench, tag, trim hooves, etc.; breeding scenario; marketing scenario
- F. Contestants will have 25 minutes to complete the written exam, and 15 minutes per station. Team activities will have 30 minutes per exercise.
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**Junior, Intermediate and Senior Divisions for the North Carolina
4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest**

Classes completed as an individual

Written Test

Complete a 30 question multiple choice quiz concerning the total livestock industry.

Livestock Equipment Identification

Identify the proper name and use for pieces of equipment used in livestock production.

Livestock Breed Identification

Identify from photographs or pictures livestock (beef cattle, swine, sheep, and goat) breeds.

Meat Cut Identification/Judging

Identify cuts of meat from beef, pork, and lamb retail cuts on display including the species, and or possibly the wholesale cut from which each retail cut originates and the retail cut name.

Feed Identification

Identify the proper names for feeds and identify each corresponding nutrient group.

Evaluation

This can include, but not limited to hay, meat, wool, etc...

Quality Assurance

Understanding medication labels, usage, dosage, withdraw, etc....

Classes completed as a team

Quality Assurance Exercise

Demonstrate how to read an animal health product label, calculate dosage rates and withdrawal times, complete a treatment record, be familiar with administration routes, animal identification and restraint methods, and make responsible management decisions regarding quality assurance.

Animal Breeding Scenario & Exercise

Team members will evaluate a breeding/marketing scenario and make animal selection/marketing decisions based upon performance/visual data to rank breeding animals or market them for use within the situation.

Evaluation of performance & Marketing Information

Evaluate performance information on a group of livestock and then use the information given to make the best marketing decisions.

Livestock Feeding

Identify proper feed names and identify each corresponding nutrient group.
Utilizing these feed ingredients formulate a ration for a group of livestock.

IV. **Awards:**

- A. The North Carolina State 4-H Livestock Skillathon Team will be selected from the high senior team and the top 10 senior individuals. These finalists will be invited to participate in 1 or more regional contests and the national contest. The coach of the high scoring senior county team will serve as the assistant coach of the State Team. The county team is expected to work out a minimum of two times per week in preparation for the National Contest. Partial funding will be available to help finance expenses obtained for the trips.
- B. The high scoring senior county team will receive a wall plaque which will hang in the County Cooperative Extension Office. Each team member will receive a plaque.
- C. The high scoring intermediate team will receive wall plaque and individual plaques.
- D. We will give awards for three divisions and then overall. The divisions are listed below.
 - i. Evaluation (Wool Judging, Hay Judging, Meat Judging, etc..)
 - ii. Quality Assurance (Medication Label, Usage, Dosage, etc..)
 - iii. Identification / Written Test (Meat, Breed, Tool, Feed Identification)
- E. The following properly inscribed plaques will be presented:

High Individual and Team -----Overall -----Intermediate & Senior
Top 10 Individuals----- Overall-----Junior, Intermediate & Senior

V. **Contact:**

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