

Livestock Skillathon Contest

Revised Feb. 2022

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 feeds 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 species.
- F. Teach youth to work together in problem solving techniques.
- G. Learn public speaking skills

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 and 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 youths 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 30 questions, contestants will have
 - 20 basic knowledge questions concerning the total livestock industry.
 - 10 Quality Assurance questions
 - Understanding medication labels, usage, dosage, withdrawal, etc...
 - Identification, Contestants will have 15 minutes per station
 - Feed identification
 - 10 feeds
 - Senior and Intermediate contestants must match the feed with its respective categorization.
 - Breed identification
 - 10 breeds
 - Seniors and Intermediate contestants must also match the correct breed characteristics from a provided list to each breed
 - Equipment / Tool identification

- 10 items
 - Senior and Intermediate contestants must also match the usage of the tool to its respective tool
 - Meat identification 10-20 meats
 - Senior and Intermediate contestants
- Evaluation, **please note that for senior contestants, choices will not be given for placings, senior contestants must write in their placings**
 - Meat Judging
 - Wool Judging
 - Hay Judging
 - **Senior contestants will be given a scenario with this class.**
- Team exercise, each team will be given three of the following team problems. Teams will be given problems **one at a time and will have 15 minutes to complete them. If the problem has an asterisk by, it will or could be a hands-on component of the contest.**
 - Keep/Cull class*
 - Breeding scenario
 - Marketing scenario
 - Feed Rationing
 - Quality Assurance*
 - Reproduction*

IV. Classes completed as an individual

Written Test

20 basic knowledge questions concerning the total livestock industry.
10 Quality Assurance questions

Livestock Equipment Identification

Identify the proper name and use for pieces of equipment used in livestock production. Seniors and Intermediates contestants must also match the usage of the tool to its respective tool.

Livestock Breed Identification

Identify from photographs or pictures livestock (beef cattle, swine, sheep, and goat) breeds. Seniors and Intermediates contestants must also match the correct breed characteristics from a provided list to each breed.

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. Seniors and Intermediates contestants must match the feed with its respective categorization. Seniors must also be able to match the feed's usage to the feed.

Evaluation

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

Quality Assurance

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

VI. 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.

Hands-On Components*

The hands on component will be one of the following, in a rotation from year to year. This is only for **Senior teams only**. teams will work in pairs, each having a total of 20 minutes to examine the scenario and five minutes to give their reasoning for their answer.

- Quality Assurance
 - Teams will demonstrate how to properly do the following
 - Dock lambs
 - Drench
 - Weigh stock
 - Tattoo
 - Ear Tag
 - Removal and application
 - Etc...
- Reproduction
 - Students will be given a scenario where they will need to properly demonstrate
 - How to artificially inseminate
 - How to properly correct dystocia
 - Identify Reproductive organs and functions.
- Performance and Evaluation
 - Students will be presented with a class of livestock to examine and place given a certain scenario.

VII. 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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