
LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON



State 4-H O-Rama

Senior 4-H'ers



OBJECTIVES

Targeted Life Skills: self-esteem, decision making, problem solving, critical thinking, communication, cooperation, and teamwork

This activity will train 4-H members in production practices and management of livestock. 4-H members should learn to make their own and team decisions based upon the best available information.

ACTIVITY

The State 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest will be held during the Arkansas 4-H O-Rama. **All teams must be preregistered.**

Note: Only contest officials, agents, and leaders assigned to the contest will be allowed on the arena floor, in the barn, or in the classrooms during the livestock skillathon contest. Classes may be reviewed after the contest is completed.

The following is a list of common skillathon classes. Please note that actual classes may deviate from this list in an effort to keep current with a rapidly changing livestock industry.

Individual Classes

- 1. Livestock Breed Identification** – Identify from photographs livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, and hogs) breeds. Contestants must also match the breed with the most appropriate description supplied for each breed.
- 2. Livestock Equipment Identification** – Identify the proper name for pieces of equipment used in livestock production. (A list of equipment will be provided.)
- 3. Retail Meat Cut Identification** – Identify beef, lamb, and pork retail cuts from the National 4-H Meat Judging Retail ID List (<http://www.meatscience.org/students/meat-judging-program/national-4-h-meat-judging>). Contestants will identify the retail cut specie, primal cut, and retail cut name.
- 4. Hay and Wool Judging** – Rank a class of four hay and four wool samples with analysis information. Answer questions about the classes.

5. **Quality Assurance Exercise** – Demonstrate how to read a medicine label, calculate withdrawal times, complete a treatment record, and make responsible management decisions regarding quality assurance.

6. **Quiz** – Complete a 30 question multiple choice quiz concerning the total livestock industry.

Team Classes

1. **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. (This may involve live animals depending on availability.)

2. **Meat & Carcass Evaluation** – May include ranking one (1) class of four similar retail cuts, evaluate photos of a carcass and also price carcasses using a grid. May include an oral presentation.

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

4. **Management, Performance & Marketing Problem** – Determine best options for management and marketing of livestock (i.e. should producers sell calves at weaning, retain ownership through feedlot, combination), when provided with information on markets and performance to evaluate. Verbally defend decisions. Verbally defend decisions.

5. **Livestock Feeding** – Identify the proper name for livestock feeds and identify each corresponding nutrient group. Feed samples and lists of feed names and nutrient groups will be provided. Utilizing feed ingredients given, formulate a ration for a group of livestock.

ELIGIBILITY

The contest is limited to senior 4-H members. The contestant must be 14 years old on January 1 of the current year but not have had his or her 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current year. Any 4-H member whose name is entered by his or her county Extension agent will be eligible to enter this contest and compete as an individual. Individuals will be placed on a mixed county team as geographically close as possible. The mixed county team(s) will be eligible for team awards. However, for a county to be eligible for team competition, it will have to have at least three entries. A county may enter four individuals, but only the top three scores will count toward the winning team.

AWARDS

Individual and team awards will be given as follows:

- Top 3 Teams Overall
- Top 3 Teams in Quality Assurance
- Top 3 Teams in Identification
- Top 3 Teams in Evaluation
- Top 3 Individuals Overall
- Top 3 Individuals in Quality Assurance
- Top 3 Individuals in Identification
- Top 3 Individuals in Evaluation

The winning team will be eligible to attend the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest in Louisville, Kentucky. A stipend will be provided by the Animal Science Department to help with trip expenses.

PREPARED BY

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