

Maryland 4-H Animal Science Program Guidebook

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Animal Science Quiz Bowls

What is Quiz Bowl?

Quiz Bowl is similar to the game show jeopardy or “It’s Academic” except all of the questions relate to a specific project area. Points are given or lost by quickness and accuracy of responses. Quiz Bowl is not meant to be a memorization process, in that youth only study questions and know the answers to those questions, but they are to take the knowledge that they have to figure out the answers to the questions asked.

Purpose:

The purpose is to offer a positive opportunity for youth to enhance and demonstrate their knowledge and skills related to 4-H projects that interest them where attitudes of friendliness, cooperation and fairness prevail. Quiz Bowl should provide an educational experience for both participants and spectators. 4-H Quiz Bowl helps to improve and expand the quality of educational experiences that emphasize learning and it uses technology to maximize teaching and learning with youth. Quiz Bowl can be done when the weather prohibits outdoor activities. The main goal is to have FUN while learning.

Quiz Bowl teaches life skills to 4-Hers including:

- Enhancing project knowledge and develop marketable skills
- Enhancing self-motivation, self-esteem and self-responsibility skills
- Learning to manage feelings
- Developing reasoning and critical thinking skills
- Developing acute listening skills
- Developing goal setting and organization skills
- Developing teamwork, cooperation, sharing, and social skills among group members
- Developing character skills
- Contributing to a group effort
- Improving communications skills
- Improving leadership skills

Projects that Offer Quiz Bowl Competitions at the State Level:

- Avian
- Dairy (Cattle and Goats)
- Dog
- Horse and Ponies

General Information:

- Junior, Intermediate and Senior teams of three or four individuals and one alternate are determined by the county/city selection process. State contests are held in the spring (March-April).
- High scoring senior individuals from the state contest in the Dairy and Horse areas may earn a position on the state team where they compete at the National Competition in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Make sure you do not miss the entry deadline for the state competition and be sure to follow the rules and regulations.
- Each contest has a specified set of official references from which questions are derived.
- **Just because there is not a state competition in your project area does not mean that you can't have a county or club practice or competition.**

As a Leader when working with Quiz Bowl:

- Supply youth with study materials, Don't just supply them with questions that can be memorized, but actual materials youth can learn from
- Communicate with both youth and their parents
- Develop a practice schedule
- Always be honest and fair to everyone participating
- Teach youth that everyone is important and give them all equal opportunities to participate
- Don't exclude a member because you dislike them or their parent

What is needed to start up Quiz Bowl:

- Interested youth
- Help from volunteers
- Adequate facility
- Tables
- Chairs
- Buzzers (Spoons)
- Score sheets
- Questions
- Pens/Pencils for tabulating
- Awards
- Official references (Make sure you get the approved list)

Question Writing Hints:

- Be related to the subject matter
- Be clear and concise
- Use appropriate level vocabulary (age appropriate)
- Be grammatically correct and free of spelling/typing errors
- Be realistic and base on materials approved by contest guidelines
- Avoid slang/stereotyped language
- Avoid complex sentences/answers

Questions Can Relate to:

- General project knowledge
- History
- Breeds
- Management
- Showing and conformation
- Anatomy and physiology
- Health and Diseases
- Genetics
- Reproduction
- Industry and products
- Equipment
- Anything project related

Types of Questions:

- Written Exam: Dairy-Members individually take a 50 question written exam in advance which becomes part of the final team score.
- Team: Dairy-Members of the team work together to answer five questions of a higher degree of difficulty.
- One-on-One: Dog and Horse-One team member on each opposing side can answer the questions correctly. No discussion among team members is allowed.
- Toss Up/Open: Dairy, Dog and Horse-Any member on either team can respond. No discussion among team members is allowed.
- Bonuses: Dairy-Available to the team that has 3 different members that have answered 3 toss up questions correctly. Members work as a group to answer the bonus question. Dog/Horse-Available to the team whose member correctly answered a question with a bonus attached. Members work as a group to answer the bonus question. Horse-Team participation bonus if all four members correctly answer.
- Questions can be: direct, fill in the blank, multiple choice, true/false or visual identification. The best questions are direct questions.
- Depending on the situation and contest, penalties can occur and points be taken off for no-response, an incorrect answer, or answering without being recognized.

If you have any questions contact:

- Your Local Extension Office
- Dog Bowl /General - State 4-H Youth Development Specialist, Animal Sciences
- Horse Bowl - Horse Extension Specialist
- Dairy Bowl - Dairy and Beef Extension Activities Coordinator
- Avian Bowl - Poultry and Equine Extension Activities Coordinator

References:

- Maryland 4-H Quiz Bowl Rules and Regulations online at <http://www.maryland4h.org> (Under the Animal Science Link)
- Maryland 4-H Horse Bowl Rules and Regulations online at: <http://www.4horse.umd.edu/activities/horsebowl.html>
- Texas 4-H Quiz Bowl Guide online at http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/library/files/quiz_bowl_guide.pdf