

## NATIONAL 4-H LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON CONTEST

Monday, November 15, 2021

Superintendent – Rosie Nold  
Animal Science Department  
PO Box 2170  
South Dakota State University  
Brookings, SD 57007

Contest Committee

Aaron Fisher, Dan Jennings, Chelsey Kimbrough, Rich Knipe, Paul Kuber,  
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### RULES AND REGULATIONS

#### ENTRY

Each state is invited to enter one (1) team of up to four (4) contestants. Teams consist of three or four members. In teams in which there are four members, all will compete, but the member receiving the lowest overall score will be automatically declared the alternate. The scores of the alternate will not be included in any of the team totals, but will be considered in making all individual awards. Teams consisting of three members will have no alternate and all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards.

**Contest entries and fees are due by October 15<sup>th</sup>.** The team may be selected by any procedure that the state deems to be appropriate. Team members must be enrolled in 4-H in the state they represent during the current year. Contestants must be certified by the State 4-H Program Leader. **NO LATE OR INCOMPLETE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.** A completed National 4-H Livestock Contests Code of Ethics and relevant college transcripts must also be submitted. Entries are deemed submitted when all required entry materials have been submitted prior to the deadline and have all information completed. See list of required materials at end of this document.

An entry fee of \$150.00 **must be paid. Teams should bring checks payable to NAILE to the coach's meeting on Sunday night.** .

The team entry form should be sent to the contest superintendent (Rosie Nold, Animal Science Department, P.O. Box 2170, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD 57006; or email to [rosemarie.nold@sdstate.edu](mailto:rosemarie.nold@sdstate.edu)).

Each state that enters a team is responsible for medical/accident insurance for all members of their team while traveling to and from the NAILE and during the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest and other events associated with NAILE.

### CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Contestants must be bona fide 4-H members approved by the 4-H Program Leaders of their respective states. State 4-H Program Leaders are responsible for determining the eligibility of participants, particularly those that have completed high school prior to the contest.
2. Contestants must be at least 14 years of age on January 1 of the current calendar year and not have had their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday before January 1 of the current calendar year.

3. To be eligible to participate as a contestant in the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon contest at the North American International Livestock Exposition, an individual:
  - a. shall not have completed a collegiate level animal science course while enrolled at a post-secondary institution;
  - b. neither shall a contestant have competed previously in any official post-secondary (collegiate) livestock quiz bowl or livestock quadrathlon contest.
  - c. any contestant enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution must submit a transcript of completed and/or enrolled coursework with entry materials.
4. Participants are allowed to compete in more than one national 4-H livestock-related contest at NAILE, including livestock judging, livestock skillathon, and/or livestock quiz bowl. After competing in the National 4-H skillathon contest, they are ineligible to compete in the National 4-H skillathon contest again.

### **CONTEST METHOD OF CONDUCT**

1. A coaches' meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 14 at the Crowne Plaza, Louisville Airport Hotel, Meeting Room. Contest instructions will be given at this time. Coaches should be prepared to check names, addresses and ages of contestants.
2. All contestants and coaches will report to the Kentucky Exposition Center on Monday, November 15 at 1:00 p.m. At this time, contestants will receive final instructions regarding the contest and will be sorted into groups.
3. No contestant shall wear any clothing, pins, or badges that will in any way reveal his identity or the state, which s/he represents. The contest will be held inside, some stations may involve a minimal amount of animal handling. No hats are to be worn.
4. Contestants may use a blank steno pad or a clipboard and blank paper. The contestants may bring no books, notes, pamphlets, or other reference material into the contest area. Contest officials reserve the right to check all contestant's notepads or clipboards to make sure they are blank just prior to the contest. All electronic communication devices of any kind are prohibited. Simple calculators will be provided at stations where they have been deemed helpful/necessary by the officials. Violators are subject to contest dismissal.
5. Contestants are not to pick up or touch any item that is being identified or evaluated in the individual competition classes, unless otherwise directed by contest officials.
6. The contest will be divided into two rounds. In the first round of the contest, one group will participate in the team oriented classes while the other group will complete the individual competitor classes of the contest. In the second round, the two large groups will switch areas of competition. Rotations and/or group assignments may be changed due to participant numbers and/or NAILE schedules.
7. During the individual competition round of the contest, contestants will be further divided into groups and will remain with that assigned group throughout that contest round of classes. While completing the individual competition classes, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by contest officials. Contestants will be allowed 15 minutes to complete each individual competition class.

8. Team members will complete one official answer sheet for each team effort class representing the combined effort of all team members. Teams will be allowed 18 minutes to complete the group assignment for each class and turn in their answer sheet. During the team competition round of the contest, contestants will be allowed to confer only with team members during the time period allowed for each class.
9. Coaches are invited to review contest materials in the contest area at the conclusion of the contest at approximately 5:00 p.m.
10. The contest awards will be presented in conjunction during the joint awards breakfast of the National 4-H Livestock Judging, Quiz Bowl and Skillathon Contests. The awards breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, November 17 at the North American International Livestock Exposition in the South Wing. It is advised to arrive at least a half-hour to one-hour early to get team photos taken and get a table.

## **CONTEST CLASSES**

**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. The contest is not limited to the following classes therefore point totals may vary as well.**

### **Classes completed as an individual:**

1. **Livestock Equipment Identification:** (60 possible points) Identify the proper name for pieces of equipment used in livestock production.
2. **Livestock Breed Identification:** (60 possible points) Identify from photographs or pictures livestock (beef cattle, swine, sheep and goat (non-dairy)) breeds. Contestants must also match the breed with the most appropriate description supplied for each breed.
3. **Retail meat cut identification:** (60 possible points) Identify beef, lamb, and pork retail cuts from the National 4-H Meat Judging Retail ID List. Contestants will identify the retail cut specie, primal cut, and retail cut name.
4. **Wool Judging Class:** Rank a class of four wool samples with analysis information (40 possible points). Answer up to 10 questions about the class (20 possible points).
5. **Hay Judging Class:** Rank a class of four hay samples with analysis information (40 possible points). Answer up to 10 questions about the class (20 possible points).
6. **Quality Assurance Exercise:** (60 possible points) Example tasks include: demonstrate how to read a medicine label, calculate withdrawal times, complete a treatment record, and make responsible management decisions regarding quality assurance.
7. **Quiz:** (60 possible points) Complete a 30 question multiple choice quiz concerning the total livestock industry.

**Total possible individual points = 400-600**

### **Classes completed as a team:**

1. **Quality Assurance Exercise:** (100 possible points) 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 & Marketing:** (100 possible points) May include ranking one (1) class of four similar retail cuts, evaluate photos of carcasses and also price carcasses using a grid. May include an oral presentation.
3. **Animal Breeding Scenario and Exercise:** (100 possible points) Team members will evaluate a breeding 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. May include questions on adjusted weaning weights or other common measures of breeding livestock performance.
4. **Management, Performance & Marketing Problem(s):** (100 possible points) Determine best options for management and marketing of livestock (e.g. should producers sell calves at weaning, retain ownership through feedlot, combination), when provided with information on markets and performance to evaluate. Verbally defend decisions.
5. **Livestock Feeding:** (100 possible points) 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.
6. **Reproduction:** (100 possible points) Identify reproductive tract organs and functions and/or reproductive management equipment for livestock species. Demonstrate common reproductive management techniques such as artificial insemination or use of CIDRs.

**Possible point total for team classes = 400-600**

Total team scores will be determined by adding the highest three team member individual competition class totals with the total accumulated from the team competition classes. (Possible team total = 1,600-2,000 points)

**AWARDS:** Individual and team awards will be given in divisions of Evaluation, Identification, Quality Assurance and Overall.

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Entry materials due by October 15<sup>th</sup> to Rosie Nold, Committee Chair. Send materials to [rosemarie.nold@sdstate.edu](mailto:rosemarie.nold@sdstate.edu) or Animal Science Department, P.O. Box 2170, SDSU, Brookings, SD 57007.

1. State Entry Form- Submit the state entry form by October 15 with all required signatures, youth and coaches information.
2. College transcripts – for any youth currently or previously enrolled in a post-secondary institution, regardless of major.
3. Signed National 4-H Livestock Contests Code of Ethics for coaches.
4. \$150.00 fee must be paid on-line at NAILE website.

#### **WEBSITE FOR CONTEST INFORMATION**

<https://extension.umd.edu/locations/charles-county/4-h-youth-development/animal-projects>