Objectives:
The primary objective of the Maryland 4-H Dairy Skillathon Contest is to provide an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to demonstrate the breadth of their knowledge and understanding of animal science and management in a competitive setting where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail. The practical application of the contestants’ knowledge and skills is emphasized. The contest’s coordinators strive to provide an educational experience for participants and spectators as well as an opportunity for the creation of new friendships.

The Skillathon offers age-appropriate quizzes and stations that are designed to test youth knowledge of the dairy industry; youth move from station to station. Some stations may include visual diagrams or equipment, or hands on activities to demonstrate a dairy related technique. The contest’s coordinators strive to provide an educational experience for participants and spectators.

General:
1) Contest date and time: Saturday, February 8, 2020, Carroll County Extension Office, Westminster. Check in begins at 9:30 AM and the Contest starts at 10 AM.
2) This is a contest in which individuals compete. There will be NO team entries. There will be a $5.00 entry fee for each contestant. 4-H members wishing to participate should contact their county/city 4-H office. Official registration for the contest is submitted by the county/city 4-H office via the 4-H Online registration system.
3) There is no limit to the number of individuals that each UME unit may register for this contest. Individuals participating in the statewide contest must be enrolled as a Maryland 4-H member for 2020 in 4-H Online by January 31, 2020. Contest registration must be submitted by the county/city 4-H office via the 4-H Online registration system by January 31, 2020. Counties will be invoiced for entry fees based on the total number of participants from their programs.
4) Statewide competition will be governed by the prescribed procedures and regulations. Additional rules may be added for specific purposes. Contestants not complying with the rules will be disqualified. Coaches and/or spectators not complying with the applicable Procedures and Regulations will be dismissed from the contest area. All challenges to the contest, including stations, official’s decisions and results, must be submitted in writing to the State 4-H Animal Science Specialist within 24 hours of the contest.
5) Each participating county is requested to provide contest helpers as follows:
   a. an adult to help score the contest,
   b. an adult to serve as a station monitor or group leader.
Contestants and Eligibility:
1) All Contestants must be enrolled in 4-H online by the contest entry deadline and approved by the 4-H Extension Educator of their respective UME unit.
2) Maryland 4-H members must be between the ages of 8 - 18 as of January 1 of the current year. Juniors are ages 8 - 10; Intermediates are ages 11 - 13; and Seniors are ages 14 - 18.
3) Senior contestants receiving college or vocational training beyond high school (university, college, junior college or technical school) in areas relative to animal or dairy sciences are not eligible to compete in the Maryland 4-H Skill-a-thon Contest.
4) Attire: Clothing that identifies the contestant’s 4-H county/city may not be worn.
5) All electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, PDA’s, calculators, etc.) are prohibited. Contestants are advised to leave these devices either in their car or with their parents/coaches prior to the start of the contest. If a contestant’s phone should ring, or if they are discovered using such electronic devices during the contest, the contestant will be disqualified.
6) Contestants requesting special accommodations must indicate the need on the contest registration form.

Contest Phases:
1) Quiz phase of the contest may include questions about the total dairy industry.
   a. Juniors – 20 questions (multiple choice)
   b. Intermediates and Seniors – 25 questions
2) Stations phase of the contest will consist of a series of stations or tables where contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. Examples of stations which may be used include, but are not limited to:
   a. Breeds-Dairy Breed Identification
   b. Dairy Equipment-General & Milking Equipment Identification
   c. Feeding & Nutrition-Feed Identification & Reading a Feed Tag
   d. Genetics & Selection-Sire Selection & Reading a Pedigree-Genetic Terms & Values
   e. Animal Care-Disease & Parasite Identification & Quality Assurance
   f. Dairy Products-Product Identification (This station may include tasting of dairy products - communication with members and parents prior to each contest will help determine if this option will be utilized.)
   g. Anatomy & Physiology-External parts identification, Skeletal system parts identification, Digestive system parts identification, Reproductive system parts identification, and Mammary system parts identification.

Scoring:
1) The maximum score for each station of the contest is 50 points.
2) The maximum score for the quiz is 100 points each.
3) Ties in the overall contest will be broken in the following order:
   a) Highest score in the Quiz Phase; if still tied then,
   b) Highest score in the Station Phase;
4) Ties within any phase of the contest are to be broken using the overall score first and then the same sequence as above. If further tie breaking is needed, the scores at each station, in order, may be used.
5) Contest score cards/answer cards will not be returned to participants following the contest. Contest stations will be available for viewing for a limited time following the contest and official keys will be displayed at each station.
Awards:
1) A trophy/award will be awarded to the highest placing individual in each age division.
2) The top ten (10) individuals in each age division will be awarded ribbons.
3) A ribbon will be awarded to the highest placing individual for the Quiz and Stations phases in each age division.

Dairy Skillathon References:
Information covered in this contest may be found in one or more of, but not limited to, the following references:

- The Ohio State University Dairy Resource Handbook (127R)
- The Ohio State University Dairy Learning Lab Kit
- Holstein Foundation’s Showring Ready Workbook (2/2017)
- Holstein Foundation’s Milking & Lactation Workbook (11/2017)
- Holstein Foundation’s World of Dairy Cattle Dairy Cattle Nutrition Workbook (5/2015)
- Holstein Foundation’s Understanding Genetics and the Sire Summaries Workbook (3/2018)
- Holstein Foundation’s Pedigree Questions and Answers Workbook (6/2018)
- Holstein Foundation’s Dairy Cattle Reproduction Workbook (7/2017)
- Holstein Foundation’s Connecting with Dairy Consumers (11/18)
- Nasco Farm & Ranch Catalog-www.enasco.com
- Oklahoma State University Breeds of Livestock Website-Cattle
- Maryland 4-H Livestock Skillathon Kit-Feed & Hay Samples (12/18)
- Additional study resources can be found online at: https://extension.umd.edu/cecil-county/4-h-youth/dairy-skillathon

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