

Maryland 4-H Animal Science Program Guidebook

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION



State 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest General Rules

Objectives:

The primary objective of the Maryland 4-H 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.

General:

- 1) Contest date and time: **Saturday, March 2, 2019, Registration: 8-8:30 a.m. Contest Begins: 9:00 a.m. Awards: 2:00 p.m.** Contest location: **Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 501 Perry Pkwy, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.**
- 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.
- 3) There is no limit to the number of individuals that each UME unit may enter in this contest. Individual members participating in this contest must be enrolled in Maryland 4-H and registered for this event in 4-H Online by their 4-H Extension Educator **by Wednesday, February 20, 2019.**
- 4) **LUNCH will be on your own.** Contestants will be released for lunch on their own immediately following completion of all stations of their respective age division. Counties/groups may have lunch delivered to the Fairgrounds or they may leave to eat at one of the many nearby restaurants. **Awards will be presented at 2:00pm.**
- 5) 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 Youth Development Specialist, Animal Science within 24 hours of the contest.**
- 6) Each participating county is requested to provide contest helpers as follows:
 - a. an adult to serve as a station monitor or group leader.

Contestants and Eligibility:

- 1) Contestants must be enrolled in the Maryland 4-H program by the contest registration deadline and approved by the 4-H Extension Educator of their respective UME office/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) Contestants must not have previously competed in Skill-a-thon at the National 4-H Skill-a-thon (Louisville, Kentucky).
- 4) Senior contestants receiving college or vocational training beyond high school (university, college, junior college or technical school) in areas relative to animal sciences are not eligible to compete in the Maryland 4-H Skill-a-thon Contest.
- 5) Attire: Clothing that identifies the contestant's 4-H county/city may not be worn.
- 6) 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 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.
- 7) If any contestants have special needs, it must be indicated on the contest registration form.

Judges:

Official judges shall place the classes while the contestants are judging. They will make the official placing, indicate the cuts to be made, and file the official card with the Contest Superintendents.

Contest Phases:

- 1) Quiz phase of the contest may include questions about the total livestock industry.
 - a. Juniors – 10 questions
 - b. Intermediates and Seniors – 25 questions
- 2) Quality Assurance Exercise for Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors
- 3) 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. Breed Identification
 - b. Equipment Identification
 - c. Retail Meats Identification
 - d. Meats Judging
 - e. Hay Judging with Questions
 - f. Wool Judging with Questions
 - g. Feeds Identification
 - h. Parts for Juniors (Sheep-2019, Beef-2020, Swine-2021)
 - i. Anatomy for Intermediates/Seniors, includes external parts, skeletal, internal organs, parts of gastrointestinal tract, male/female reproductive organs.

Scoring:

- 1) The maximum score for each station of the contest is 50 points.
- 2) The maximum score for the quiz and quality assurance exercise 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; if still tied then,
 - c) Highest score in the Quality Assurance Exercise.
- 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/judging 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 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) The top ten (10) highest scoring Senior contestants will be invited to participate in 3 additional Skillathon Events to qualify for the Maryland 4-H State Skill-a-thon Team that will compete at the National 4-H Skill-a-thon Contest in Louisville, KY in November 2019. Once the team has been selected, there will be additional practices to prepare for the nationals. There will be additional requirements for those selected for the State Team. Members not meeting these requirements will be substituted with a qualified individual at the sole discretion of the 4-H Skill-a-thon Team Coach and the Extension Animal Science Specialist. The three additional Skillathon Events to be used (in conjunction with the State Skillathon Contest) to determine the State Team includes:
 - 1) Beef Skillathon - Date and location tba
 - 2) Swine Skillathon – Date and location tba
 - 3) Sheep and Goat Skillathon - Date and location tba

NOTE: 4-H members may represent Maryland 4-H on only ONE State competition team in a calendar year. If a 4-H'er qualifies for more than one State team in the same year, s/he must choose which team s/he will participate on. Once a 4-H'er commits to a State competition team, s/he may not withdraw in order to accept a spot on a different State team.

Livestock Skillathon References

See next page.

Livestock Skillathon References:

Junior References:

- a. References for all stations: Quiz, Quality Assurance, Breed Identification, Retail Meats Identification, Meats Judging, Hay Judging with Questions, Wool Judging with Questions, Feeds Identification, and Parts for Juniors.
 - The Ohio State University Swine Resource Handbook
 - The Ohio State University Sheep Resource Handbook
 - The Ohio State University Beef Resource Handbook
- b. Additional Reference for Retail Meats Identification and Meats Judging
 - American Royal National 4-H Retail Meat Identification Codes - 2017
<http://54.173.5.58/students/meat-judging-program/national-4-h-meat-judging>

Intermediate and Senior 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 Swine Resource Handbook
- The Ohio State University Sheep Resource Handbook
- The Ohio State University Beef Resource Handbook
- Maryland Small Ruminants website: <http://www.sheepandgoat.com/>
- Oklahoma State Univ. Breeds of Livestock website:
<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/>
- Auburn Univ. Breeds of Livestock website:
http://www.ag.auburn.edu/users/sschmidt/breed_id2/
- Nasco Farm & Ranch Catalog, <http://www.enasco.com/farmandranch/>
- Oklahoma State University publication "Hay Judging" (F-2588).
<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Rendition-3528/unknown>
- University of Kentucky publication "Quality Hay Production" (AGR-62).
<http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/agr/agr62/agr62.pdf>
- American Royal National 4-H Retail Meat Identification Codes - 2017
<http://54.173.5.58/students/meat-judging-program/national-4-h-meat-judging>
- Youth Pork Quality Assurance Program of the National Pork Board:
<http://www.pork.org/youth-pqa-plus/>