

4-H LIVESTOCK SKILL-A-THON CONTEST
GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION
Big Time in D9

OBJECTIVE

The Livestock Skill-a-thon contest tests a 4-H member's knowledge and comprehension of animal science and livestock management practices. The contest provides an opportunity for youth to gain and develop production livestock skills and life skills through a competitive environment.

TEAM AND CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY

1. The contest is an Invitational (non-qualifying) Contest open to any eligible 4-H member in 3-12 grade.
2. This contest will be an individual contest in a come and go format with a limited number of participants in the room at a time.
3. Contest will be divided into Junior, Intermediate, and Senior age division.

CONTEST METHOD OF CONDUCT

1. The contest will be divided into four areas: breed identification and description, meat and equipment judging, and a livestock industry quiz. Contestants will possibly be limited to groups and have time limits for each station.
2. The contest will be conducted using a combination of scantron and paper quiz sheets.
3. During the contest, there will be no conferring between contestants except to or as directed by contest officials.
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 prior to the contest. 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 due to sanitation guidelines.
6. Coaches are invited to review contest material in the contest area after the conclusion of the contest.

CONTEST CLASSES

The following is a list of common skill-a-thon classes. Please note that actual classes may deviate from the list to keep current with a rapidly changing livestock industry. All pictures, equipment items, retail meat cuts, feed samples, judging classes, and quizzes will be developed using resources obtained from Texas A&M University and West Texas A&M University.

CLASSES

1. **Livestock equipment identification:** Identify the proper name and use for pieces of equipment used in livestock production.
2. **Livestock breed identification:** Identify from pictures/photos of livestock (beef cattle, swine, sheep, and goats) breeds. Contestants must also match the breed with the most appropriate description supplied for each breed.
3. **Retail meet cut identification:** Identify beef, lamb, and pork retail cuts. Contestants will identify the retail cut species, primal cut, and retail cut name.
4. **Hay and Wool judging class:** Rank a class of four hay and/or 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.
7. **Feed sample identification:** Identify various samples of feed.

Updated: February 2025