

4-H Small Animal Livestock Skill-A-Thon Contest Rules

GENERAL INFORMATION

The 4-H Small Animal Livestock Skill-A-Thon contest makes learning fun for 4-H members, by letting them exhibit their knowledge and understanding of animal science and husbandry in a friendly but competitive setting. The Small Animal Livestock Skill-A-Thon is based on the collegiate Academic Quadrathlon contest and combines aspects of all small livestock judging contests, quiz bowl, ag-demonstrations, and general small livestock handling and knowledge.

The Skill-A-Thon Contest has four (4) different phases: Stations, Judging, Public Speaking, and Quiz Bowl

1. All contestants will compete and be scored individually.

CONTEST PHASES

1. Station Phase -- approximately 200 points -- this phase will consist of a series of stations or tables where all contestants will respond to the requirements of the station. Stations may include pictures from popular press sources, however the content within the stations will be taken from the approved sources listed at the end of this guide. During this phase, contestants will also take an exam. The exam may include projected slides for identification, a written test, or any combination. Stations and exams will include material from and related to the following topics:
 - Breeds
 - Basic care
 - i. Anatomy and physiology
 - ii. Principles of nutrition and health care
 - Tools and equipment used in raising and showing small livestock

Note – species included in Small Livestock are rabbits, cavies, poultry, and waterfowl.

2. Judging Phase -- 200 points -- contestants will be required to place four (4) classes consisting of any small livestock species. There will be **no prohibition** against contestant use of pre-printed materials during the judging portion, including but not limited to rule books, judging manuals, and score sheets. If needed, pictorial and/or video classes may be used, in which case they would be especially prepared for the event. Contestants will **not** give reasons or answer questions on the classes in this phase.
3. Public Speaking -- approximately 200 points – participants will declare if they are doing an impromptu speech or illustrated talk or preparing a 5- 8 minute pre-prepared public speech, illustrated talk, or demonstration on an agriculture related topic of their choice. The same rules and scorecards from the Utah 4-H Horse Public Speaking and Ag-Demonstrations contests will be used. (Please note – there are not rules specific for

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agriculture public speaking so the same rule card will apply with the stipulation of topic). Final scores will be multiplied by 2. This phase is open to the public and after the judges have asked any questions they have, the public may ask further questions if they choose. Answers to questions from the public should be weighted less than questions from the officials.

Contestants participating in impromptu speeches or illustrated talks will give a 3 - 5 minute presentation on a randomly assigned topic from the list below. Illustrated talks will be randomly assigned with materials and content found within the Station Phase.

- Breeds
- Basic care
 - i. Anatomy and physiology
 - ii. Principles of nutrition and health care
- Tools and equipment used in raising and showing small livestock

4. Quiz Bowl – up to 200 points – participants will participate in a quiz bowl style contest. Questions will come from the approved sources listed below. All questions are one-on-one, meaning only two players will respond to a question. Players may sit in any order with 8 players during standard game play. Participants will receive 1 point for correct answers and will lose 1 point for incorrect answers and will be ranked accordingly at the end of their round. The first place individual will earn 200 points. Each subsequently ranked player will receive 25 less points (second place will receive 175, third place receives 150, etc.) until all participants have received points. Participants will receive a minimum of 50 points regardless of points earned during play.

Order of go: Red 1 versus Green 1, Red 2 versus Green 2, Red 3 versus Green 3, Red 4 versus Green 4, Red 1 versus Green 2, Red 2 versus Green 1, etc. until every participant has gone head to head with every other contestant at least once. If time allows, contest officials may repeat the order of go a second time.

If contest numbers exceed 8 individuals, play may be divided into rounds. An example of how a contest with rounds might look:

Room A has 8 participants

Room B has 7 participants

Room A competes in a round. At the completion of the round, the top 4 participants compete against the top 4 participants in Room B. The remaining 4 individuals from Room A and the remaining 3 individuals from Room B compete against each other in round 2.

When rounds are used, participants are ranked using an average of points earned in each round.

All other rules will follow the Utah 4-H Livestock Bowl contest rules unless otherwise specified.

TIE-BREAKING

All ties overall, individual and team, will be broken using the following sequence:

1. Station scores
2. Judging scores
3. Public speaking scores
4. Quiz bowl rank

Ties within any phase are to be broken using the overall score first and then the same sequence as above.

AWARDS

1. Recognition will be presented to at least the top individuals in each phase and overall.
2. Ribbons will be given to individuals receiving a blue ribbon score (600 or above)

SUPPLIES

1. Individuals competing in the Small Animal Livestock Skill-a-thon contest should come prepared with a #2 pencil for all phases of the contest.
2. Individuals should have a notebook for the judging portion of the contest.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

- Rabbit and Cavy Resources
 - American Rabbit Breeders Association: www.arba.net
 - 4-H 228R Rabbit Resource Handbook, Ohio State University
 - Discover 4-H Rabbits, Utah 4-H Publication
 - Raising Better Rabbits & Cavies, American Rabbit Breeders Association Official Guide Book
- Poultry Resources
 - American Bantam Association: www.bantamclub.com
 - American Poultry Association: www.amerpoultryassn.com
 - USU Extension Poultry Resources: www.extension.usu.edu/poultry
 - How to Raise Poultry: Everything You Need to Know, Updated and Revised (FFA) by Christine Heinrichs (2014)