



4-H Livestock Skill-A-Thon Contest Rules

GENERAL INFORMATION

The 4-H 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 Livestock Skill-A-Thon is based on the collegiate Academic Quadrathlon contest and combines aspects of all of livestock judging, livestock quiz bowl, ag-demonstrations, and general livestock handling and knowledge. This contest allows junior aged exhibitors can get a taste of the contests. By experiencing a little bit of everything, by the time they are intermediates, these young 4-H members will have a head start and be able to choose which contest they like best.

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. Members will be allowed 2.5 minutes at each station and 30 minutes for the written exam. Stations and exams will include material from and related to the following topics:
 - Note - the four market species include cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats.
 - Breeds of market livestock
 - Basic care of market livestock
 - i. including principles of nutrition and health care
 - Parts of the market animal
 - i. Includes primal and sub-primal cuts
 - Tools and equipment used in raising and showing market livestock
 - Basics of Meats Judging including product ID, grading, etc.
2. Judging Phase -- 200 points -- contestants will be required to place four (4) classes consisting of market hogs, market steers, market lambs, and market goats. 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. Every effort will be made to use the same livestock as are being used in the judging contest, with the placing to be simultaneous with contestants in the judging contest, with the same official placings and cuts as apply to the judging contest. 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 may choose to give 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 agriculture

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FOR JUNIOR CONTESTANTS

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.

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 horse 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

- 4H 134R Swine Resource Handbook for Market & Breeding Projects – Ohio State University
- 4H 194R Sheep Resource Handbook for Market & Breeding Projects – Ohio State University
- 4H 117R Beef Resource Handbook for Market & Breeding Projects – Ohio State University
- 4H 135R Goat Resource Handbook for Marketing & Breeding Projects - Ohio State University