**NATIONAL 4-H LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON CONTEST**

Monday, November 13, 2017

Superintendent – Rosie Nold

Animal Science Department

PO Box 2170

South Dakota State University

Brookings, SD 57007

Contest Committee

Ronnie Silcox, Rich Knipe, Aaron Fisher, Paul Kuber

Dwight Loveday, Dan Jennings, Bernie O’Rourke, Celina Phillips

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**TEAM AND CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY**

1. Each state is invited to enter one (1) team of up to four (4) contestants.
2. Teams consist of three or four members. In teams in which there are four members, all will compete, but the member receiving the lowest overall score will be automatically declared the alternate. The scores of the alternate will not be included in any of the team totals, but will be considered in making all individual awards. Teams consisting of three members will have no alternate and all members’ scores will count in determining individual and team awards.
3. The team may be selected by any procedure that the state deems to be appropriate. Team members must be enrolled in 4-H in the state they represent during the current year. Their eligibility must be certified by the state 4-H leader. Registration forms will be sent to state 4-H leaders and/ or Animal Science Department heads by August 15. **Completed entry forms should be returned by October 1.** A general list of resource materials that may help (not all encompassing) for this contest will be included with the registration packets.
4. Contestants must be at least 14 years of age on January 1 of the current calendar year and not have had their 19th birthday before January 1 of the current calendar year. 4-H members are ineligible if they have completed a collegiate level animal science course.
5. Judging team participants are allowed to compete in both livestock judging and the livestock skillathon. After competing in the National 4-H skillathon contest, they are ineligible to compete in the National 4-H skillathon contest again. Contestants must not have competed previously in any official post-secondary (collegial) livestock quiz bowl or livestock quadrathalon contests.
6. An entry fee of $100 per team will be due with the team entry. These funds are used to help defray the expenses of the contest.
7. A coaches’ meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 12 at the Crowne Plaza, Louisville Airport Hotel, Meeting Room. Contest instructions will be given at this time. Coaches should be prepared to check names, addresses and ages of contestants.

**CONTEST METHOD OF CONDUCT**

1. All contestants and coaches will report to the Kentucky Exposition Center on Monday, November 13 at 1:00 p.m. At this time, contestants will receive final instructions regarding the contest and will be sorted into groups.
2. The contest will be divided into two rounds. In the first round of the contest, one group will participate in the team oriented classes while the other group will complete the individual competitor classes of the contest. In the second round, the two large groups will switch areas of competition. Rotations and/or group assignments may be changed due to participants’ numbers and/or NAILE schedules.
3. During the individual competition round of the contest, contestants will be further divided into groups and will remain with that assigned group throughout that contest round of classes. While completing the individual competition classes, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by contest officials. Contestants will be allowed 15 minutes to complete each individual competition class.
4. Team members will complete one official answer sheet for each team effort class representing the combined effort of all team members. Teams will be allowed 20 minutes to complete the group assignment for each class and turn in their answer sheet. During the team competition round of the contest, contestants will be allowed to confer only with team members during the time period allowed for each class.
5. No contestant shall wear any clothing, pins, or badges that will in any way reveal his identity or the state, which he represents. The contest will be held inside, so dress accordingly. No hats are to be worn.
6. Contestants may use a blank steno pad or a clipboard and blank paper. Contestants may also use a small pocket calculator (programmable calculators will not be permitted). 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 just prior to the contest. Violators are subject to contest dismissal.
7. Contestants are not to pick up or touch any item that is being identified or evaluated in the individual competition classes, unless otherwise directed by contest officials.
8. Coaches are invited to review contest materials in the contest area at the conclusion of the contest at approximately 5:00 p.m.
9. Complete and return the Team Entry Form, 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest along with the entry fee to the contest Superintendent by **October 1**. A copy of the team entry form should be sent to the contest superintendent.
10. The contest awards will be presented in conjunction during the awards breakfast of the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest. The awards breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 15 at the North American International Livestock Exposition in the South Wing. It is advised to arrive at least a half-hour to one-hour early to get team photos taken and get a table.

**CONTEST CLASSES**

**The following is a list of common Skillathon classes. Please note that actual classes may deviate from this list in an effort to keep current with a rapidly changing livestock industry. The contest is not limited to the following classes therefore point totals may vary as well.**

**Classes competed as an individual**

1. **Livestock Equipment Identification:** (60 possible points) Identify the proper name for pieces of equipment used in livestock production.
2. **Livestock Breed Identification:** (60 possible points) Identify from photographs or pictures livestock (beef cattle, swine, sheep and goat) breeds. Contestants must also match the breed with the most appropriate description supplied for each breed.
3. **Retail meat cut identification:** (60 possible points) Identify beef, lamb, and pork retail cuts from the National 4-H Meat Judging Retail ID List. Contestants will identify the retail cut specie, primal cut, and retail cut name.
4. **Hay and Wool Judging Class**: Rank a class of four hay samples and a class of four wool samples with analysis information (70 possible points). Answer questions about the classes (50 possible points).
5. **Quality Assurance Exercise**: (60 possible points) Example tasks include: demonstrate how to read a medicine label, calculate withdrawal times, complete a treatment record, and make responsible management decisions regarding quality assurance.
6. **Quiz:** (60 possible points) Complete a 30 question multiple choice quiz concerning the total livestock industry.

**Total possible individual points = 400-600**

**Classes completed as a team**

1. **Quality Assurance Exercise:** (100 possible points) Demonstrate how to read an animal health product label, calculate dosage rates and withdrawal times, complete a treatment record, be familiar with administration routes, animal identification and restraint methods, and make responsible management decisions regarding quality assurance. (This may involve live animals depending on availability.)
2. **Meat & Carcass Evaluation & Marketing:** (100 possible points) May include ranking one (1) class of four similar retail cuts, evaluate photos of carcasses and also price carcasses using a grid. May include an oral presentation.
3. **Animal Breeding Scenario and Exercise:** (100 possible points) Team members will evaluate a breeding/marketing animal scenario and make animal selection/marketing decisions based upon performance/visual data to rank breeding animals or market them for use within the situation.
4. **Evaluation of Performance & Marketing Information:** (100 possible points) Evaluate performance information on a group of livestock and then use the information given to make the best marketing decisions.
5. **Livestock Feeding:** (100 possible points) Identify the proper name for livestock feeds and identify each corresponding nutrient group. Feed samples and lists of feed names and nutrient groups will be provided. Utilizing feed ingredients given, formulate a ration for a group of livestock.

**Possible point total for team classes = 400-600**

Total team scores will be determined by adding the highest three team member individual competition class totals with the total accumulated from the team competition classes. (Possible team total = 1,600-2,000 points)

**AWARDS**

Individual and team awards will be given in all divisions.

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| * Top 10 **teams** overall
 | * Top 10 **individuals** overall
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| * Top 10 **teams** in Quality Assurance
 | * Top 10 **individuals** in Quality Assurance
 |
| * Top 10 **teams** in Identification
 | * Top 10 **individuals** in Identification
 |
| * Top 10 **teams** in evaluation
 | * Top 10 **individuals** in Evaluation
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