

December 20, 2017

To: 4-H Agents and FFA Instructors

From: Dr. Bain Wilson, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist

RE: 2018 Block & Bridle Club Livestock Judging, Meat Judging, and Stockmen's Contests

The Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club has scheduled their annual livestock judging, meat judging, and stockmen's contests for February 23rd and 24th on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg. This packet includes all information about the contests, lodging, and entries. There have been several changes to the contests and entry deadlines this year, so please read all parts carefully.

All individuals wishing to participate in the events must be enrolled members of either 4-H or FFA in Virginia. Please note that there is no limit to the number of teams a county or chapter can enter in any contest. As a reminder, there is a Jr. and Sr. advanced livestock judging contest (those giving reasons), so please enter your teams and individuals for the livestock judging contest appropriately.

The Jr. meat judging and Sr. stockmen's contests will start at 10:00 AM, and the Jr. stockmen's and Sr. meat judging contests will start at 3:00 PM.

The entry fee is \$5 per individual in every contest. The entry fee for individuals competing in the advanced divisions of the livestock judging contest is \$10 because lunch is served during the contest. Entries without a late fee must be postmarked by February 6th! Entries postmarked between February 7th – 15th are \$15 per contestant (\$20 for advanced livestock judging). Entries postmarked after February 15th will not be accepted. No entries will be accepted on the day of the contest, but substitutions can be made. This change is to better facilitate contest organization.

Stockmen's Contest – The stockmen's contest is a test of general knowledge of livestock production. Contest format is similar to the state stockmen's contest. The 15-minute classes include a 20 - 25 question multiple choice quiz (100 points); identification of feeds, equipment, breeds, and retail meat cuts (50 points each class); judging of hay, retail meat cuts, and classes of live animals (50 points each class); and questions about judging classes (25 points each class). It is possible the contest may feature a data scenario for one of the species (50 points) in lieu of judging that class. For Sr. teams only, there will be a group exercise that members will complete together. Sample contest materials and previous years' quizzes can be found at the 4-H Youth Livestock Program website at: <http://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock/competitions/block-bridle.html>. Please be aware that we will have a nutritive analysis and scenario on the hay judging for Sr. contestants, separate Jr. and Sr. classes for both hay and meat, and separate sets of breeds, feeds, and equipment for Jr. and Sr. contestants.

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Members who have previously participated in the National 4-H Skillathon contest are **not** eligible to participate in this contest. The contest will be held Friday, February 23rd. Contest divisions and contestant eligibility are detailed in the summary table.

Livestock Judging Contest – This contest will consist of eight to ten classes, including beef cattle, swine, sheep, and meat goats. Performance data will be presented on at least one breeding class in each species. Ten questions will be asked on 2 classes. Meat goats could be used for either a reasons or questions class.

The contest will be broken into four divisions: Jr. livestock judging contest, Sr. livestock judging contest, Jr. advanced livestock judging contest and Sr. advanced livestock judging contest. Contestants 13 years and younger as of January 1, 2017 (4-H) or 7th, 8th, or 9th grades (FFA) who are not giving reasons will compete in the Jr. division. All contestants 14 to 18 as of January 1, 2017 or 9th grade or later (FFA) who do not give reasons will compete in the Sr. division. All contestants who give reasons will be in the Jr. advanced and Sr. advanced divisions based on the previously stated age breaks. Contestants in the Jr. advanced division will place all classes, answer all questions, and will give oral reasons on 2 classes. Contestants in the Sr. advanced division will place all classes, answer all questions, and will give oral reasons on 4 classes. All other contestants will place all classes, answer all questions, but will not give any oral reasons.

For advanced contestants only (Jr. and Sr.), the market lamb class will be in racks and contestants will handle them (15 seconds per lamb). There will be a second market lamb class for students not in the advanced divisions that will be in racks, but not handled.

Members who have previously participated in the National 4-H Livestock Judging contest or National Livestock Evaluation CDE are **not** eligible to participate under that organization in this contest. The contest will be held Saturday, February 24th. Contest divisions, contestant eligibility, and contest schedule are detailed in the summary table.

Meat Judging Contest – The contest will be held Friday, February 23rd. This will be the Virginia state Contest for 4-H and FFA members. The contest will be broken into separate 4-H and FFA divisions.

Quiz material will come from the Meat Science and Food Safety Microsoft PowerPoint found at: <http://www.cevmultimedia.com/index.php?p=product&id=1595>. Please be aware that you must order the PowerPoint from CEV and the cost is \$125.00.

Contestant Responses: FFA and 4-H will use their respective organization's Identification Key and Score Sheet. Contestants will complete a Scantron form for all responses to the meat judging contest. This includes quiz, placings for judging classes, answers to questions, and all the additional classes that are only in the FFA contest. Please familiarize your contestants with this form. Form is available at: http://www.ext.vt.edu/topics/4h-youth/youth-livestock/competitions/meats-judging/files/national_meats_scantron.pdf. To maintain cleanliness of the Scantron forms, contestants will be given a form resembling the Scantron form to complete while in the meats lab. Contestants will be given adequate time to transfer their responses to the Scantron after exiting the meats lab. Materials to be used by 4-H contestants in addition to the Scantron can be found on the 4-H Youth Livestock Program website at: <http://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock/competitions/meat-contest-info.html>.

FFA Contest: Description of contest format, examples, contest materials, etc. are available in updated CDE guide: https://www.ffa.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/cde_meats_2012.pdf. Beef grading for this contest may be from a description of carcass characteristics provided. Beef carcasses may not be available. All contestant responses will be put on the Scantron Form described above. Make sure your team members know how to use this form.

The National FFA Meat Evaluation and Technology CDE has changed to employ a three person team format with no drop score, instead of a four person team, and therefore our state FFA meat judging contest will follow that system.

Classes in the judging portion of the contest will come from the following:

Lamb Carcasses	Beef ribs, loins, chucks, rounds, strips, or other wholesale cut
Pork Carcasses	
Fresh Hams	Retail Cuts of beef, pork, or lamb
Beef Carcasses.	

Attire – In addition to wearing closed toed shoes, contestants will be required to bring frocks, hard hats and hair/beard nets for their own use in the meat judging contest, as we try to more closely follow the format of the national contests. Some suppliers of these items are listed below:

Koch Supplies: <http://www.kochsupplies.com/>

UltraSource: <https://www.ultrasourceusa.com/>

National Contest Participation - The winning team in the Sr. 4-H division will be invited to represent Virginia at the National 4-H Meat Judging Contest. That will be held at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas in October.

Information about past 4-H contests and background material useful in training and preparing teams can be found at the American Meat Science Association website at: <http://www.meatscience.org/students/meat-judging-program/national-4-h-meat-judging>.

The winning Sr. FFA team will be eligible to compete at the National FFA convention in Indianapolis in October. Details of that event can be found on the national FFA website.

Contest divisions and contestant eligibility are detailed in the summary table.

Lunches: Lunches will be available for coaches and non-advanced contestants on Saturday, February 24th during the livestock judging contest for \$5; but, lunches must be purchased in advance. You are on your own for lunch if you don't order in advance. Additional lunches will not be available for purchase for any entries postmarked after February 15th.

Entry forms: Entry forms are found on the Block and Bridle contests section of the Virginia 4-H Livestock website at: <http://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock/competitions/block-bridle.html>. Send an electronic copy of the completed forms to bnbcontest@vt.edu. Complete and mail the hard copy to Block and Bridle Judging Contest, 175 West Campus Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Make checks payable to Virginia Tech Block & Bridle Club with your county or school as the memo. You must send your completed entry forms by e-mailing them to the above web address as well as mailing the completed hard copies to the Block and Bridle Judging Contest.

Entries MUST be postmarked by February 6th in order to be received on time. Any entries postmarked February 7th – 15th will be charged a late entry fee of \$15 per contestant (\$20 for advanced livestock judging). Entries postmarked any time after February 15th will not be accepted.

Contest chairs:

Stockmen's Contest Chair

Chapman Earhart
540-292-7717
echap96@vt.edu

Madison Slaven
540-908-8442
mls2013@vt.edu

Emily Moyers
540-960-1078
memily97@vt.edu

Livestock Judging Contest Chairs

Zach Jacobs
540-294-1716
zachj14@vt.edu

Emmalee Edwards
540-206-6797
eaevt15@vt.edu

Meat Judging Contest Chairs

Jacob Lewis
540-241-3855
ljacob16@vt.edu

Luke Moore
804-339-8938
lukem98@vt.edu

LODGING INFORMATION:

The following hotels are holding rooms for the nights of February 22nd and 23rd. Make your own reservations for your team. The room blocks are listed under "Block & Bridle".

Microtel (Christiansburg Mall) 540-381-0500 20 rooms with 2 queen beds \$59.95 per night + tax	Comfort Inn (South Main, Blacksburg) 540-951-1500 10 rooms with 2 double beds \$89 per night + tax
Rodeway Inn (Christiansburg I-81) 540-381-0150 20 rooms with 2 double beds \$59 per night + tax	Days Inn (Christiansburg) 540-382-0261 20 rooms with 2 double beds \$59.95 per night + \$8.58 tax

Summary of Stockmen's and Livestock Judging Contest Details

Contest Divisions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stockmen's: Jr. and Sr. (No separate 4-H and FFA divisions) 2. Livestock Judging: Jr. advanced, Sr. advanced, Jr., and Sr. (Jr. and Sr. advanced will give reasons; No separate 4-H and FFA divisions)
Contest Eligibility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jr. contestants: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 4-H – contestants aged ≤ 13 on January 1 b. FFA – contestants in 7th, 8th, or 9th grades 2. Sr. contestants: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 4-H – contestants aged 14 to 18 on January 1 b. FFA – contestants in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades 3. Contestants must be eligible for their respective national contest 4. Contestants must be enrolled in the chapter or unit they represent 5. No contestant can have had their 19th birthday before January 1, 2017 6. A team consists of either 3 or 4 members from the same unit or chapter
Entry Fees	\$5.00 per contestant per contest in which they participate (\$10 for advanced livestock judging contestants, which includes lunch) if postmarked before February 6 th , \$15 per contestant (\$20 for advanced livestock judging) if postmarked February 7 th -15 th . Entries postmarked after February 15th will not be accepted.

Summary of Meat Judging Contest Details

	Jr. Contestants	Sr. Contestants
4-H Division		
Eligibility (Age on January 1, 2017)	9 through 13	14 through 18
Classes		
Retail Identification	15 Cuts	30 Cuts
Quiz	Yes	Yes
Judging	5 or 6 Classes	4 Classes
Questions on Judging Class	2 Classes	2 Classes
Oral Reasons	No	1 Set
FFA Division		
Eligibility (Current Grade in School)	Grades 6, 7, 8, or 9	Grades 9 to 12
Classes		
Identification	15 Cuts	30 Cuts
Quiz	Yes	Yes
Judging	5 or 6 Classes	4 or 5 Classes
Questions on Judging Class	2 Classes	2 Classes
Beef Quality and Yield Grading	No	Yes
Carcass Order Fulfillment	No	Team Activity
Formulation Problem	No	Team Activity

Schedule of events

Thursday, February 22nd

7:00 – 8:30 PM Pre-registration for stockmen's and meat judging contests
(Alphin Stuart Arena)

Friday, February 23rd

7:30 – 9:30 AM Registration for stockmen's contest (Alphin-Stuart Arena)
Registration for meat judging contest (Litton Reaves)

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Sr. stockmen's contest (Alphin-Stuart Arena)**

10:00 AM – 1:30 PM Jr. meat judging contest (Litton Reaves and Food Science
Building)**

3:00 – 6:00 PM Jr. stockmen's contest (Alphin-Stuart Arena)

3:00 – 8:30 PM Sr. meat judging contest (Litton Reaves and Food Science
Building)

Concluding
Stockmen's contest Discussion of stockmen's contest classes (Alphin Stuart Arena)

7:00 – 8:30 PM Pre-registration for livestock judging contest (Alphin-Stuart
Arena – Coaches)

Saturday, February 24th

7:45 AM Livestock judging contest registration continues (Alphin-Stuart
Arena)

8:15 AM All Livestock judging contestants to the Alphin-Stuart Arena

8:30 AM Livestock judging contest begins (Alphin-Stuart Arena)

11:30 AM Coaches pick-up all contestants not giving reasons (Alphin-
Stuart Arena)

11:30 AM Lunch for advanced livestock judging contestants

12:00 PM Lunch for all others that purchased lunch in advance

12:30 PM Oral reasons will begin for advanced contestants
Awards ceremony for all contestants (Alphin-Stuart Arena)

3:00 PM 1. Stockmen's
2. Meat judging
3. Livestock judging

**If contestants are simultaneously eligible for the Sr. stockmen's and Jr. meat judging contests, they will go through the Sr. stockmen's contest and then complete their Jr. meat judging work during the Sr. meat judging contest timeframe.