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To: Extension Agents, FFA Instructors, and coaches

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

RE: 2019 Block & Bridle Club Livestock Judging, Meat Judging, and Stockmen's Contests

The Bridle Club at Virginia Tech Block has scheduled their 2019 stockmen's and livestock judging contests for March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, respectively. The meat judging contest had been moved to separate weekend and will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup>. These contests will be held on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg with the livestock judging and stockmen's contests held in Alphin-Stuart Arena and the Livestock Judging Pavilion and the meat judging contest held in the Meat Science Center and Litton-Reaves Hall. There have been several changes to the contest schedule, scoring, and entry forms this year, so please read all parts carefully. A detailed schedule with contest starting times and locations can be found on page 6.

Starting in 2019, the Block and Bridle Club is allowing teams from **outside** of Virginia to compete. There is no limit to the number of teams a county or chapter can enter in any contest. There is a junior and senior advanced livestock judging contest (contestants give reasons) that is scored differently from the junior and senior livestock judging contests that do not have contestants give reasons, so please enter your teams and individuals in the appropriate contest.

All contestants must be enrolled in either the 4-H county unit or FFA chapter that they represent in these contests. Multi-county or unit teams will only be considered eligible if only one of the units represented by that team has a viable program in that contest area. It is expected that contestants competing on multi-county or unit teams regularly practice together.

The entry fee is \$6 per individual in every contest. The entry fee for individuals competing in the advanced divisions of the livestock judging contest is \$11 because lunch is served during the contest. Stockmen's and livestock judging entries must be postmarked by February 14<sup>th</sup> to avoid a late fee. Entries postmarked from February 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> are \$12 per contestant (\$17 for advanced livestock judging). Entries postmarked after February 21<sup>st</sup> will not be accepted. No entries will be accepted on the day of the contest, but substitutions can be made.

Meat judging entries must be postmarked by March 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid a late fee. Entries postmarked from March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> are \$12 per contestant. Entries postmarked after March 8<sup>th</sup> will not be accepted. No entries will be

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accepted on the day of the contest, but substitutions can be made.

**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 with pictures and performance data (50 points) in place of a judging class of live animals. There will be a group exercise for senior teams 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 senior contestants, separate junior and senior classes for both hay and meat, and separate sets of breeds, feeds, and equipment for junior and senior. Contestants are welcome to bring simple 4-function calculators for the team problem.

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, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Contest divisions and contestant eligibility are detailed in the summary table.

**Contestant Responses:** A change for 2019 is that the senior stockmen's contest will be scored using a Scantron sheet from judgingcard.com. We will be using the horticulture CDE Scantron form that can be found at: <https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/482.pdf>. Please familiarize your contestants with this form so before the contest. The quiz in the junior contest will be scored using a simple Scantron sheet, but all our parts of the contest will be scored using paper cards.

**Livestock Judging Contest** – This contest will consist of eight to ten classes of beef cattle, swine, sheep, and meat goats. Performance data may be provided for at least one breeding class in each species. Ten questions will be asked on 2 classes. It will be possible to have breeding or market classes of each species. Market lambs will be handled in racks by all contestants. Meat goats could be used for either a reasons or questions class.

The contest will be broken into four divisions: junior livestock judging contest, senior livestock judging contest, junior advanced livestock judging contest and senior advanced livestock judging contest. Contestants 13 years and younger as of January 1, 2019 (4-H) or 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 9<sup>th</sup> grades (FFA) who are not giving reasons will compete in the junior division. All contestants 14 to 18 as of January 1, 2019 or 9<sup>th</sup> grade or later (FFA) who do not give reasons will compete in the senior division. All contestants who give reasons will be in the junior advanced (2 sets of reasons) and senior advanced (4 sets of reasons) divisions based on the previously stated age breaks.

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, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Contestant Responses:** A change for 2019 is that the senior livestock judging and senior advanced livestock judging contests will be scored using a Scantron sheet from [judgingcard.com](http://judgingcard.com). We will be using the livestock judging Scantron form that can be found at: <https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/476-3.pdf>. Please familiarize your contestants with this form so before the contest. The junior and junior advanced contests will be scored using traditional judging and questions cards.

#### **Summary of Stockmen's and Livestock Judging Contest Details**

Contest Divisions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Stockmen's: junior and senior (No separate 4-H and FFA divisions)</li><li>2. Livestock Judging: junior advanced, senior advanced, junior, and senior. Junior and senior advanced contestants will give reasons. No separate 4-H and FFA divisions.</li></ol>
Contest Eligibility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Junior contestants:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. 4-H – contestants aged ≤ 13 on January 1</li><li>b. FFA – contestants in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 9<sup>th</sup> grades</li></ol></li><li>2. Senior contestants:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. 4-H – contestants aged 14 to 18 on January 1</li><li>b. FFA – contestants in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grades</li></ol></li><li>3. Contestants must be eligible for their respective national contest</li><li>4. Contestants must be enrolled in the chapter or unit they represent</li><li>5. No contestant can have had their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday before January 1, 2019</li><li>6. A team consists of either 3 or 4 members from the same unit or chapter</li></ol>

**Meat Judging Contest** – The contest will be held Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. 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. The form is available at: <https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/480-4-Meats.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 the Virginia CDE guides for the senior ([https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/4e58fc\\_2e3f0108a6b5475aad13972d1079e4ba.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/4e58fc_2e3f0108a6b5475aad13972d1079e4ba.pdf)) and junior ([https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/4e58fc\\_700439c6410f407294b6d3a7a394fdb.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/4e58fc_700439c6410f407294b6d3a7a394fdb.pdf)) contests. Beef grading for this contest may be from a description of carcass characteristics provided. Beef carcasses may not be available.

The National FFA Meat Evaluation and Technology CDE employs 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 can come from the following, but are not limited to:

Lamb Carcasses	Beef ribs, loins, chucks, rounds, strips, or other wholesale cuts
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 high Virginia team in the senior 4-H division will be invited to compete 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 high Virginia senior 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.

### Summary of Meat Judging Contest Details

4-H Division	Junior Contestants	Senior Contestants
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Eligibility (Age on January 1, 2019)	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

**Lunches:** Lunches will be available for coaches and non-advanced contestants on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> during the livestock judging contest for \$5; but, lunches must be purchased in advance. Lunches will not be available for purchase for any entries postmarked after February 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Entry Forms:** Contest entry forms can be submitted online using the links to the following Google

Forms:

- Stockmen's and livestock judging contests: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfbPCnYlcdiE4gilQWRQ-clm8XBR5NaI6hMvkoIqXjppvqzWQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfbPCnYlcdiE4gilQWRQ-clm8XBR5NaI6hMvkoIqXjppvqzWQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)
- Meat judging contest: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfe-brcg2-hPC3QsUZRIvD7aV-X59E7vpJfaaFG1E\\_dw3tnuQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfe-brcg2-hPC3QsUZRIvD7aV-X59E7vpJfaaFG1E_dw3tnuQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Links to the entry forms will also be posted to the Block and Bridle Club's website:

<http://vtblockandbridle.wixsite.com/vtblockandbridle>. Print and mail a hard copy of the Google Form to Block and Bridle Club at Virginia Tech, Attn: Livestock and Meat Judging Contests, 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 submit the online Google Form, mail a hard copy of the completed form, and submit payment of entry fees to fully enter your team.

The entry fee is \$6 per individual in every contest. The entry fee for individuals competing in the advanced divisions of the livestock judging contest is \$11 because lunch is served during the contest. Stockmen's and livestock judging entries must be postmarked by February 14<sup>th</sup> to avoid a late fee. Entries postmarked from February 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> are \$12 per contestant (\$17 for advanced livestock judging). Entries postmarked after February 21<sup>st</sup> will not be accepted. No entries will be accepted on the day of the contest, but substitutions can be made.

Meat judging entries must be postmarked by March 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid a late fee. Entries postmarked from March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> are \$12 per contestant. Entries postmarked after March 8<sup>th</sup> will not be accepted.

### **Contest Chairs:**

#### *Stockmen's Contest Chair*

Amber Smith, [ambers97@vt.edu](mailto:ambers97@vt.edu)

Jacob Lewis, [ljacob16@vt.edu](mailto:ljacob16@vt.edu)

Evan Lineweaver, [evan117@vt.edu](mailto:evan117@vt.edu)

#### *Livestock Judging Contest Chairs*

Zach Jacobs, [zachj14@vt.edu](mailto:zachj14@vt.edu)

Lizzie Funkhouser, [Lizzief@vt.edu](mailto:Lizzief@vt.edu)

Kaylyn Beach, [kaybeach@vt.edu](mailto:kaybeach@vt.edu)

#### *Meat Judging Contest Chair*

Jacob Lewis, [ljacob16@vt.edu](mailto:ljacob16@vt.edu)

### **Lodging Information:**

The club will not be reserving any room blocks at local hotels this year. Please make your own room reservations. Hotels that we have worked with in the past are:

- Microtel, Christiansburg, 540-381-0500
- Comfort Inn, Blacksburg, 540-951-1500
- Rodeway Inn, Christiansburg, 540-381-0150

### **Schedule of events**

#### Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

7:00 – 8:30 PM      Pre-registration for stockmen's contests (Alphin Stuart Arena, 500 Plantation Road)

#### Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>

8:00 – 9:30 AM      Registration for stockmen's contest (Alphin-Stuart Arena)

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM      Senior stockmen's contest (meet in Alphin-Stuart Arena)

12:30 PM – 2:30 PM      Junior stockmen's contest (meet in Livestock Judging Pavilion, 445

	Plantation Road)
Following junior stockmen's contest	Contestants and coaches able to view stockmen's contest classes (Alphin Stuart Arena)
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Pre-registration for livestock judging contest (Alphin-Stuart Arena)
<u>Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup></u>	
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
3:00 PM	Awards ceremony for stockmen's and livestock judging contests (Alphin-Stuart Arena)
<u>Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup></u>	
1:00 – 6:30 PM	Junior and Senior meat judging contests. Registration in the lobby of Litton Reaves Hall. Parking will be available in the Litton Reaves lot. Class critiques and results to follow contest.

The club looks forward to hosting the extremely important events again in 2019 and look forward to joining them in Blacksburg in March.

Sincerely,



Dr. Bain Wilson

Extension Specialist and Club Advisor