



December 18, 2019

To: Extension Agents, FFA Instructors, and coaches

From: Katherine E. Carter, Assistant Specialist, Youth Livestock Programs
Dr. Bain Wilson, Assistant Professor, Extension Specialist, and B & B Club Advisor

RE: 2020 Block & Bridle Club Stockmen's, Livestock Judging, and Meat Evaluation Contests

The Block & Bridle Club at Virginia Tech has scheduled their 2020 Stockmen's and Livestock Judging contests for Friday, February 28th and Saturday, February 29th, respectively. The Meat Judging contests will be held the following Saturday on March 7th. These contests will be held on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg with the livestock judging and stockmen's contests held in the Alphin-Stuart Arena. The meat judging contest will be held in the Meat Science Center and Litton-Reaves Hall.

There have been several changes to the contest schedule, scoring, contestant responses, and entry forms this year, so please read all parts carefully. A detailed schedule with contest starting times and locations can be found on the last page of this letter.

There is no limit to the number of teams a unit or chapter can enter in any contest. For Stockmen's and Livestock Judging there are NOT separate 4-H and FFA contests. Please see information specific to the Meats evaluation contest for details on dual entry in that event. Out-of-state teams and individuals are allowed to compete in all three contests.

All Contests - Contestant Eligibility: All contestants must be enrolled in either the 4-H unit or FFA chapter that they represent in these contests. Contestant eligibility will be verified using 4HOnline and the State FFA enrollment records for all contestants.

Entry Fees - The entry fee is \$6 per individual in all divisions of the Stockmen's Contest and the Regular (non-reasons) divisions of the Livestock Judging Contest. Individuals competing in the Advanced divisions of the Livestock Judging contest and the Meats Judging Contests will pay an \$11.00/person entry fee – this includes lunch for those contestants. **All entries are due no later than February 14th. Late entries will not be accepted.** Entry fees should be paid on the day of the contest and will be assessed based on the number of youth ENTERED in the entry system. Please do NOT submit payment when mailing your entry forms. Payment should be brought the day of the contests. Acceptable forms of payment are:

- Personal, business, or school check made payable to: Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club
- VT Hokiemark or VA 4-H Foundation Check made payable to: Block & Bridle Club
- **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHECKS WITH ENTRY FORMS**
- Copy of your VT Hokiemark PO Paperwork
- Copy of your VA 4-H Foundation Payment Request

Entry Forms - Contest entry forms must be submitted online using the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/2020-B-B-Livestock-Contests>

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Directions for how to complete the entry form(s) and what information you will need to provide are included at the beginning of the form.

All contests and all contestant information will be submitted at this one link. Please have the following information available for each contestant prior to beginning the entry process:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Current Academic Grade (required for FFA youth)
- Any special dietary restrictions
- Any Assistive Services Requested (reader, interpreter, etc.)

You will only need to how many teams you plan to enter for each contest. Youth will not need to be assigned to teams during the entry process. That information will be provided during check-in.

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

<https://vtblockandbridle.wixsite.com/vtblockandbridle>, the Virginia Youth Livestock Website

<https://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock.html>, and on the Virginia Youth Livestock Programs Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/vayouthlivestock/>

Mailing Entry Forms - Please print and mail a hard copy of the Qualtrics form to:

Block and Bridle Club at Virginia Tech

Attn: Sarah Keeth - Livestock and Meat Judging Contests

175 West Campus Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24061

You must submit the online Qualtrics form AND mail a hard copy of the completed form. This will help us confirm entries. Payment or proof of payment request as listed previously must be presented at check-in. Please do NOT mail payment with your entry forms.

Stockmen's Contest – The stockmen's contest is a test of general knowledge of livestock production. The 12 minute classes include a 20-25 question multiple choice quiz (100 points) – two 12 minute rounds will be allocated for quiz completion; 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. Seniors will also complete feed usage, equipment usage, and breed descriptions. There will also be a group exercise for senior teams that members will complete together. Please be aware that we will have a nutritive analysis and scenario on the hay judging for senior contestants. Sample contest materials and previous years' quizzes can be found at the Youth Livestock Program website at: <http://ext.vt.edu/4h-youth/youth-livestock/competitions/block-bridle.html>.

NEW THIS YEAR: Contestants are welcome to bring simple 4-function calculators for the senior team problem and quiz (junior and senior). Only simple 4-function calculators will be allowed – no cell phones or smart watches will be allowed in the contest.

Stockmen's Contest Eligibility - 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 28th. Contest divisions and contestant eligibility are detailed in the summary table.

Stockmen’s Contestant Responses: **A change for 2020** is that all stockmen’s contest participants (junior and senior) will be scored using our Virginia Skillathon Scantron sheet. This form can be found at: <https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/UnivD-VA-Skillathon.pdf> A separate sheet with retail meat identification choices will be provided for the Meat ID station and will be used to complete that portion of the scantron. Please familiarize your contestants with this form before the contest. **All contestants will need a clipboard and at least one No.2 pencil to complete the scantron sheet.**

Livestock Judging Contest – This contest will consist of eight 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. Contestants may have to judge breeding or market classes of each species. Market lambs may be handled in racks by all contestants – this will be at the discretion of the officials. Meat goats could be used for either a reasons or question class.

The contest will be broken into four divisions: Junior Regular Livestock Judging, Senior Regular Livestock Judging, Junior Advanced Livestock Judging, and Senior Advanced Livestock Judging. Contestants in only the ADVANCED contest divisions will give reasons. Contestants 13 years and younger as of September 30, 2020 (4-H) or 6th, 7th, 8th, or 9th grades (FFA) will compete in the junior division. All contestants ages 14 to 18 as of September 30, 2020 or 9th grade or later (FFA) 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.

Livestock Judging Eligibility - 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 29th, 2020.

Livestock Judging Contestant Responses - **A change for 2020** is that all judging contests will be scored using the Livestock Form#: 476-3 scantron. This form can be found at: <https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/476-3.pdf> Please familiarize your contestants with this form before the contest.

Summary of Stockmen’s and Livestock Judging Contest Details

Contest Divisions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stockmen’s: junior and senior (No separate 4-H and FFA divisions) 2. Livestock Judging: junior advanced, senior advanced, junior, and senior. <u>Junior advanced and senior advanced contestants will give reasons</u>. No separate 4-H and FFA divisions.
Contest Eligibility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Junior Contestants: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 4-H – contestants ages 9 - 13 as of 9/30/2020 b. FFA – contestants in 6th, 7th, 8th, or 9th grades 2. Senior Contestants: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 4-H – contestants aged 14 to 19 as of 9/30/2020 b. FFA – contestants in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades 3. Contestants must be enrolled in the chapter or unit they represent 4. No contestant can have had their 19th birthday before 1/1/2020 5. A team consists of either 3 or 4 members from the same unit or chapter

Meats Judging Contest – The contest will be held Saturday, March 7th. 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. Youth are allowed to dual enter and compete in both the 4-H and FFA divisions. This will require youth to complete additional components as required by one or both divisions.

Quiz material will come from the Meat Science and Food Safety Microsoft PowerPoint found at: http://store.icevonline.com/Meat-Science-Food-Safety_p_737.html. Please be aware that you must order the PowerPoint from CEV and the cost is \$125.00.

Meats Judging Contestant Responses - Contestants will complete a Scantron form for all responses to the meat judging contest. This includes quiz, placings for judging classes, answers to questions, retail cut identification, 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: <https://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) and junior (https://6866ef7c-009f-47ab-a1b0-a7a6d943036f.filesusr.com/ugd/4e58fc_700439c6410f407294b6d3a7a394fdb.pdf) contests. Contestants may be required to complete the beef grading portion of this contest on paper based on provided carcass measurements as enough beef carcasses may not be available.

NEW THIS YEAR: The National FFA Meat Evaluation and Technology CDE employs a four-person team format with no drop score, 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:

- Beef, pork, or lamb carcasses
- Wholesale cuts of beef, pork, or lamb
 - Including but not limited to: Ribs, loins, chucks, rounds, strips, and hams
- Retail Cuts of beef, pork or lamb

Contests Attire – In addition to wearing close 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 on the national contest. Suppliers of these items are listed below:

- Koch Supplies: <https://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

	Junior Contestants	Senior Contestants
	4-H Contest	
Eligibility (Age on January 1, 2020 for Seniors and September 30, 2020 for Juniors)	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 Contest	
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

Contest Chairs

Stockmen's Contest Chairs

Lindsey Anderson, lindsa5@vt.edu

Georgia Stover, sgeorgia@vt.edu

Livestock Judging Contest Chairs

Mikala Liptrap, mikalal18@vt.edu

Emily Nolen, nemily99@vt.edu

Sarah Keeth, sarahk20@vt.edu

Meat Judging Contest Chairs:

Jacob Lewis, ljacob16@vt.edu

Evan Liveweaver, evanl17@vt.edu

Contest Entry and Eligibility Questions

Katherine Carter, carterke@vt.edu, 540-231-2257

Dr. Bain Wilson, tbwilson@vt.edu, 540-231-5253

Lodging Information

The club will not be any room blocks at the 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

Friday, February 28th – Stockmen’s Contests

8:00 – 9:30 AM	Registration for Stockmen’s contest (Alphin-Stuart Arena)
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Junior stockmen’s contest (meet in Alphin-Stuart Arena)
1:30 – 4:30 PM	Senior stockmen’s contest (meet in Alphin-Stuart Arena)
Following senior stockmen’s contest	Contestants and coaches able to view stockmen’s contest classes (Alphin-Stuart Arena)

Saturday, February 29th – Livestock Judging Contests

7:30 AM	Livestock judging contest registration (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
12:30 PM	Oral reasons will begin for advanced contestants
Approximately 3:00 PM	Awards ceremony for stockmen’s and livestock judging contests (Alphin-Stuart Arena)

Saturday, March 7th – Meats Judging Contest

10:00 – 4:30 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.
Approximately 12:00 noon	Lunch

The club looks forward to hosting the extremely important events again in 2020 and look forward to joining them in Blacksburg in February and March.