



January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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  
B & B Contest Chairpersons

RE: 2021 Block & Bridle Club Stockmen's, Livestock Judging, and Meat Evaluation Contests

**The Block & Bridle Club at Virginia Tech has scheduled their 2021 Stockmen's and Livestock Judging contests via a VIRTUAL format, for Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.** At this time, the Meat Judging contests are being postponed with a date TBD, in hopes of being able to hold an in-person event later in the spring or early summer once gathering numbers are increased. The Stockmen's and Livestock Judging Contests will be VIRTUAL events that contestants will complete electronically using a laptop, desktop computer, tablet or iPad. Mobile devices such as cellphones may be used, but we cannot confirm the ability of those devices to show the full scope of classes and contest materials.

**The contest platforms will open at 8:00 am on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and close automatically at 6:00 pm on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.**

As the contest delivery mode has changed for 2021, please read this letter carefully to make sure you understand the technology requirements, additional divisions, and contest logistics.

**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, and youth are NOT allowed to dual enter – they must compete either as a 4-H member or an FFA member, but not both. Out-of-state teams and individuals are allowed to compete in both 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.

**AGE/DIVISION ELIGIBILITY – PLEASE READ – CHANGES FROM 2020 – ALL DIVISIONS WILL BE BROKEN ON BIRTHDATE/AGE**

Junior Contestants are youth who have not had their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to January 1, 2021 and also includes youth who will turn 9 years old by September 30, 2021.

Senior Contestants are youth who turned 14 years of age prior to January 1, 2021 and have not had their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to January 1, 2021.

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**Entry Fees** - The entry fee is \$5.25 per individual for each contest entered. **All entries are due no later than February 10th. Late entries will not be accepted.** Entry fees must be postmarked by Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> or payment processing request emailed by Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. **Preferred method of payment is Credit Card via Square at this link:** <http://block-and-bridle-club-at-virginia-tech.square.site/>

Additional 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
- Copy of your VT Hokiemark PO Paperwork
- Copy of your VA 4-H Foundation Payment Request
- Please contact Jessica Dotson at [ejessica@vt.edu](mailto:ejessica@vt.edu) for account information or payment questions

**Entry Forms** - Contest entry forms must be submitted online using the following links – please make sure you use the correct link for the appropriate contest:

**Livestock Judging Entry Form:** <https://tinyurl.com/2021-BandB-Livestock-Judging>

**Junior Stockman's Entry Form:** <https://tinyurl.com/2021-BandB-Jr-Stockmans>

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
- Any Assistive Services Requested (reader, interpreter, etc.)

Youth will be assigned to teams the week of the contest. Coaches will receive an email confirming entered/eligible youth names and asked to designate team members at that time.

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: Mikayla St. Clair - Livestock Judging and Skillathon Contests**

**175 West Campus Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24061**

You must submit the online Qualtrics form AND mail a hard copy of the completed form with your entry payment or proof of payment processing. This will help us confirm entries.

**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) – 24 minutes 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 livestock (50 points each class); and questions about judging classes (25 points each class); One or more judging classes (livestock) may contain a scenario and performance data. Please be aware that we will have a nutritive analysis and scenario on the hay judging for senior contestants. 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 as a team. It will be up to the team coach/teacher to determine how to best provide for the team to collectively complete the team problem, complying with current COVID restrictions and guidelines.

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> and in a Google Drive folder at this link <https://tinyurl.com/Stockmans-Skillathon-Resources>

**Contestants are allowed to use a simple 4-function calculators for the senior team problem and quiz (junior and senior). Only simple 4-function calculators will be allowed – contestants will be disqualified and lose access to the contest platform if they utilize search engines such as Google to look for information when answering questions or completing sections.**

Stockmen's Contest Eligibility - Members who have previously participated in the National 4-H Skillathon contest are **not** eligible to participate in this contest.

This contest will be broken into two age divisions Junior and Senior, based on the ages and contestant's birthdate. Details are listed on page 1 of this letter.

Stockmen's Contestant Responses: **All Stockmen's Contest Responses will be submitted using the link provided prior to the contest. There will be a separate link for each age division and coaches/contestants are responsible for completing the correct contest link applicable to each contestant. Completion of the wrong contest material will result in disqualification.**

Each class (quiz, identifications, judging classes) will be timed and time begins when the contestant opens each class. Once a contestant has opened a class, they must finish in the time allotted and will not be able to log out and then log back into that same class. To accommodate students and school schedules, youth contestants will be able to log out, and log back in at any time during the "Contest Open" period and complete/finalize their contest. PLEASE REMEMBER – ONCE A CLASS IS STARTED, TIME BEGINS AND IT MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE LEAVING THE PLATFORM. You will not be able to go back to a class or section after moving on to the next one.

**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. Video classes will be used whenever possible, but still picture may also be used if necessary. Contestants will have 12 minutes to judge each class, and take notes for reasons, if applicable.

The livestock judging contest will be broken into four divisions – these have been renamed: Junior Non-Reasons Livestock Judging, Senior Non-Reasons Livestock Judging, Junior Reasons Livestock Judging, and Senior Reasons Livestock Judging. Junior Reasons Contestants will give two sets of reasons. Senior Reasons Contestants will give four sets of reasons. The Junior and Senior age classifications will follow the ages or academic grade level, and organizational membership as listed at the beginning of this letter.

Livestock Judging Eligibility - Members who have previously participated in the National 4-H Livestock Judging contest or National FFA Livestock Evaluation CDE are **not** eligible to participate under that organization in this contest.

Livestock Judging Contestant Responses - **All Livestock Contest Responses will be submitted using the link provided prior to the contest. There will be a separate link for each of the four contest divisions as listed previously and coaches/contestants are responsible for completing the correct contest link applicable to each contestant. Completion of the wrong contest material will result in disqualification. Class placings for all classes will be submitted electronically, as will recorded reasons uploads for those junior and senior youth competing in the reasons divisions. Reasons uploads must be submitted within 12 hours of judging the final class, AND before the contest link closes at 6:00 pm on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **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 reasons, senior reasons, junior non-reasons, and senior non-reasons. No separate 4-H and FFA divisions. No Dual Entry.</li> </ol>
Contest Eligibility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Junior Contestants: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Contestants ages 14 and younger as of 1/1/2021 and those who will have their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday by 9/30/21</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Senior Contestants: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Contestants 14 and older prior to 1/1/2021, Contestants may not have had their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to 1/1/21</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Contestants must be enrolled in the chapter or Unit they represent</li> <li>4. A team consists of either 3 or 4 members from the same unit or chapter</li> </ol>

**Meats Judging Contest** – Dates, times, and locations for the Meats Judging Contests, which serve as the State Contest for both 4-H and FFA, have yet to be determined. Those events are temporarily postponed with hopes of holding in-person contests later in the spring or early summer. If this does not appear to be feasible, we will proceed with a virtual event later this spring or early this summer. Because these are the State Meats Evaluation Contests for both 4-H and FFA, these contests will use the standard eligibility age/grade for the respective organization.

## Contest Chairs

### *Stockmen's Contest Chairs*

Mikayla St. Clair, [mikaylastclair@vt.edu](mailto:mikaylastclair@vt.edu)

Mallory Painter, [mpainter18@vt.edu](mailto:mpainter18@vt.edu)

### *Livestock Judging Contest Chairs*

Mikayla St. Clair, [mikaylastclair@vt.edu](mailto:mikaylastclair@vt.edu)

Katie Corbitt, [katiec21@vt.edu](mailto:katiec21@vt.edu)

Makenzie Shifflett, [makshiff19@vt.edu](mailto:makshiff19@vt.edu)

### *Meat Judging Contest Chairs:*

Alex Kinsey, [alexk0017@vt.edu](mailto:alexk0017@vt.edu)

Bailey Carpenter, [baileyc4@vt.edu](mailto:baileyc4@vt.edu)

## Contest Entry and Eligibility Questions

Katherine Carter, [carterke@vt.edu](mailto:carterke@vt.edu), 540-231-2257

Dr. Bain Wilson, [tbwilson@vt.edu](mailto:tbwilson@vt.edu), 540-231-5253

## Schedule of Events

Wednesday, February 10 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	Entries Due for All Horse Judging, Hippology, Livestock Judging, and Junior Stockman's Contests
Friday, February 12 <sup>th</sup>	5:00 pm	Postmark/Email or credit card payment deadline for all Contest entry fees or Proof of Payment Processing Paperwork, and entry hard copies
Wednesday, February 24 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Horse Judging and Hippology Contest Links Open
Sunday, February 28 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Horse Judging and Hippology Contest Links Close
Wednesday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00 am	Livestock Judging and Stockman's Contest Links Open
Wednesday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Official Class Placings and Cuts for Horse Judging Contest Released
Sunday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	Livestock Judging and Stockman's Contest Links Close
Tuesday, March 9 <sup>th</sup>		Official Class Placings and Cuts for Livestock Judging Contest Released
Thursday, March 11 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	B & B Contest Awards Ceremony, Live via Zoom