



January 1, 2026

To: Extension Agents, FFA Instructors, and Coaches

From: Katherine E. Carter, Extension Youth Animal Science Specialist
Megan Mallory and Brooklyn Davis, B & B Livestock Contest Chairpersons
Katherine Carter, Hunter Liles, and Emma Helm, B & B Club Advisors
Lauren McCroskey, Extension Youth Animal Science Program Associate

RE: 2026 Block & Bridle Club Stockman's and Livestock Judging Contests

The Block & Bridle Club at Virginia Tech has scheduled their 2026 Stockmen's and Livestock Judging contests for Friday, February 20th and Saturday, February 21st, respectively. These contests will be held on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg at the Alphin Stuart Arena on Plantation Road.

Please take time to completely and thoroughly read this letter, which includes rules, eligibility requirements, and contest content. While we gladly welcome your questions, most of the questions we receive are already answered in the information that follows. A detailed schedule with contest starting times and locations can be found on the last page of this letter. *****Please note: age divisions and/or contest divisions are being held at different times to accommodate participant numbers and alleviate the need to limit the number of teams/contestants that a Unit, Club, or Chapter can enter.**

There is no limit to the number of teams a unit, club, or chapter can enter in either contest. For Stockmen's and Livestock Judging there are NOT separate 4-H and FFA contests; participants will need to choose whether they compete as an FFA member or a 4-H member – they are not allowed to compete for both organizations. There are not separate awards or recognitions for 4-H versus FFA in the Stockman's and Livestock Judging Contests, therefore dual-entry is not an option.

All Contests - Contestant Eligibility: All contestants must be enrolled in either the 4-H unit or FFA chapter that they represent in these contests. There are no exceptions, and enrollment will be verified using 4HOnline and the State FFA enrollment records for all contestants. All members of a team must represent the same Unit, Club, or Chapter. There is no option to combine members from different Units or Chapters to facilitate a team.

Please read below for explanation of age divisions and use of birthdates to determine age and division eligibility.

Entry Fees - The entry fee is \$12 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 will pay a \$15.00/person entry fee – this includes lunch for those contestants. **All entries are due no later than Monday, February 2nd. 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 or proof of payment should be brought the day of the contests. Invoices for the amount due, based on the number ENTERED, will be generated and emailed upon acceptance of entries.

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
- **Credit Card Payment THE DAY OF THE EVENT**
- VTF Funds Transfer is not available for these events. Please have VTF cut and send a check directly to the VT Block and Bridle Club at 175 W. Campus Drive, 3490 Litton Reaves, Blacksburg, VA 24061
- **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHECKS WITH ENTRY FORMS**

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

Stockman's and Livestock Judging Entries will be submitted using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/2026-BnB-Livestock-Wknd>

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, and in the separately attached Entry Form Tip Sheet.

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

- Name
- Date of Birth – contest divisions are broken by age – **date of birth is required for all contestants**
- Any special dietary restrictions
- Any Assistive Services Requested (reader, interpreter, wheelchair, dedicated assistant, etc.)

You will only need to know how many contestants you plan to enter for each contest and the required identifying information for each child as listed above. Youth will not be assigned to teams during the entry process. That information will be provided during check-in. You will also indicate how many teams for each contest to help us prepare check-in resources for each contest. Please pre-enter all youth that want to participate. **Only pre-entered youth that have been verified as enrolled and eligible will be allowed to participate in the contests.**

IMPORTANT – Stockman's and Livestock Judging: ALL AGE DIVISIONS WILL BE BROKEN AND DETERMINED BASED ON BIRTH DATE (NOT GRADE LEVEL):

- Junior Division: Contestants 9-13 years of age before January 1, 2026 and any youth who will turn 9 on or before September 30, 2026
- All contestants ages 14 to 18 as of January 1, 2026.
- No contestant may have had their 19th birthday prior to January 1, 2026.
- Contestants must compete in the division that is applicable based on their date of birth.

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/>

Once complete, Please print/scan and email a copy of the Qualtrics Summary form to both of the following email addresses:

Katherine Carter – carterke@vt.edu

Livestock Weekend Chairpersons - bnblivestgoekweekend@gmail.com

You must submit the online Qualtrics form AND email a copy of the completed one-page summary form. This will help us confirm entries and will be used to generate an invoice. 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:

- 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)
 - Seniors should be prepared to identify feed usage (Feed Usage Library sent in separate attachment)
 - **NEW FOR 2026:** Retail meat ID will use a simple list of choices (not the National 4-H list) and contestants will record the appropriate answer code on their Scantron Form.
- judging of hay, retail meat cuts, and classes of live animals (50 points each class)
 - The contest may feature a data scenario with pictures and performance data (50 points) in place of one or more of the live animal judging classes.
 - Senior Contestants will have a nutritive analysis and scenario on the hay judging class
- Questions about judging classes (25 points each class)
- **THERE WILL NOT BE A SENIOR TEAM PROBLEM**
- Please be aware that 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 the Google Drive Folder located here: [Contest Examples and Resources](#)

Contestants are welcome to bring simple 4-function calculators for the quiz (junior and senior). Only simple 4-function calculators will be allowed – no cell phones or smart watches will be allowed in the contest. Contestants who are seen with or utilizing electronic devices will automatically be disqualified.

Stockmen's Contest Eligibility - Members who have previously participated in the National 4-H Skillathon contest are **not** eligible to participate in the B & B Stockman's contest as a 4-H **or** FFA contestant. Contest divisions and contestant eligibility are detailed in the summary table.

Stockmen's Contestant Responses: 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> Answer choice banks will be provided at each identification station for contestants to use when completing their Scantron. This includes the Retail Meat ID Station – this is different from previous years. Please familiarize your contestants with this form before the contest.

All contestants must have a clipboard and at least one No.2 pencil to complete the scantron sheet.

Junior and senior contestants will compete in separate divisions and separate times of the day to accommodate contestant numbers and provide an age appropriate and positive experience for all contestants.

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 Livestock Judging contest will be broken into four divisions:

- Junior Regular Livestock Judging and Senior Regular Livestock Judging – **these contestants will NOT give reasons and will judge after lunch on Saturday, February 21st.**
- Junior Advanced Livestock Judging and Senior Advanced Livestock Judging – **these contestants will place classes in the morning (February 21st) and give reasons in the afternoon at Litton Reaves (2 sets for Juniors and 4 sets for Seniors)**

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, but may compete for the other organization IF their eligibility is still valid for that group.

Livestock Judging Contestant Responses - **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 regular, and senior regular. <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. ALL DIVISIONS WILL BE DETERMINED AND BROKEN ON DATE OF BIRTH 2. Junior Contestants: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ages 9 - 13 as of 01/01/2026, including 4-H youth who reach their 9th birthday by September 30, 2026 3. Senior Contestants: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ages 14 to 18 as of 01/01/2026. 4. Contestants <u>must</u> be enrolled in the chapter or unit they represent in the contest 5. No contestant can have had their 19th birthday before 01/01/2026 6. A team consists of either 3 or 4 members from the same unit or chapter – for four member teams the top three scores in each respective division will be used to calculate the team total. All contestants are eligible for individual awards.

Contest Chairs

Stockmen’s Contest and Livestock Judging Contest Chairpersons:

Megan Mallory

Brooklyn Davis

Contest Entry and Eligibility Questions

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

Extension Youth Animal Science Specialist

Hunter Liles, huntl97@vt.edu, 540-231-6345
Extension Youth Animal Science Program Associate

Lauren McCroskey, lkopp@vt.edu, 540-231-1716
Extension Youth Animal Science Program Associate

**2026 VT Block and Bridle
Livestock Educational Contests
Tentative Schedule of Events**

Schedule of Events - Subject to Change based on Entry Numbers or other unforeseen circumstances

Friday, February 20th – Stockmen’s Contests

JUNIOR CONTESTANTS COMPETE IN THE MORNING/SENIOR CONTESTANTS COMPETE IN THE AFTERNOON

8:00 – 9:30 AM	Registration for Jr Division Stockmen’s contest (Alphin-Stuart Arena) – Groups with Junior Contestants
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Junior stockmen’s contest (meet in Alphin-Stuart Arena)
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Registration for Senior Division Stockmen’s Contest (Alphin-Stuart Arena) – Groups with Senior Contestants
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 21st – Livestock Judging Contests

7:30 AM	Advanced (Reasons) Livestock Judging contest registration open (Alphin-Stuart Arena)
8:15 AM	All ADVANCED Livestock Judging contestants to the Alphin-Stuart Arena
8:30 AM	ADVANCED (Jr and Sr) Livestock judging contest begins (Alphin-Stuart Arena)
11:30 AM	Lunch for All Advanced Contestants
11:30 AM	REGULAR(non- reasons) Livestock Judging Contest registration open
12:30 PM	Transport Advanced Contestant to Main campus *Junior and Senior Reasons to be held in Litton Reaves
12:30 PM	All REGULAR contestants report to Arena
1:00 PM	REGULAR Livestock Judging Contest Begins
3:00 PM	Classes available for view by coaches
Approximately 4:00 PM	Awards ceremony for stockmen’s and livestock judging contests (Alphin-Stuart Arena)

The club looks forward to hosting the extremely important events again in 2026 and look forward to having you join them in Blacksburg on February 20 and 21.