



Virginia Cooperative Extension
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2026 Virginia 4-H/FFA State Skill-A-Thon

Contest Date: Wednesday, March 25th, 2026
Contest Location: Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg, VA

Contest Superintendents

Katherine Carter carterke@vt.edu 540-231-2257
Extension Youth Animal Science Specialist
Lauren McCroskey lkopp@vt.edu 540-231-1716
Extension Youth Animal Science Program Associate
Hunter Liles huntl97@vt.edu 540-231-6345
Extension Youth Animal Science Program Associate

A complete entry for this contest must include the following:

- Submitted online entry of all contestant information completed
- Entry Summary Form emailed to carterke@vt.edu
- Payment or proof of payment processing brought the day of the contest
- \$15.00 entry fee per individual competing – Payable to: Treasurer of Virginia Tech

Entries Must Be Submitted Online at <https://tinyurl.com/2026-VA-Livestock-Skillathon>

by Friday, March 18th, 2026 at 5:00 pm

Payment or Proof of Payment Processing should be delivered during check-in/registration the morning of the contest.

***Personal or Business/School Checks Made Payable to: Treasurer of Virginia Tech**
***VT HokieMart Journal Transfer (Org #064300/Acct #553931)**
***Copy of your VT HokieMart PO Paperwork**

VTF Check made payable to: Treasurer of Virginia Tech
***Copy of your Virginia 4-H Foundation PO Request**

TENTATIVE STOCKMEN'S CONTEST SCHEDULE: Wednesday, March 25th, 2026

Registration:	9:00-9:45 AM
Contest Rules/Break into Groups:	9:45 – 9:55 AM
Contest Begins:	10:00 AM
Lunch On Your Own/View Classes:	1:30 PM to 3:30 PM
Awards:	4:00 PM

(See Full Tentative Schedule/Station Rotation on Page 5)

Lunch will be on your own. Classes and Stations will be open for viewing during this time.

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.



CONTEST RULES:

1. **Youth are NOT eligible if they have competed in the National 4-H Skillathon Contest.**
2. Competition will be held for individuals and for teams consisting of 3 or 4 members. When four members compose a team, the three members with the highest individual scores will make up the team total (this applies to overall score as well as category awards).
3. **Contestants must be an enrolled member of the 4-H Unit or FFA team for which they compete.** 4-H and FFA Enrollment and eligibility will be verified. State 4-H rules pertaining to contestant eligibility and team participation apply to this contest.
4. **ALL contestants will be divided into the Junior and Senior Divisions based on BIRTH DATE:**
 - Junior contestants will be those who are 13 years old or younger by January 1, 2026 and will reach their 9th birthday by September 30, 2026.
 - Senior contestants will be those who are at least 14 years old by or on January 1, 2026 and have not had their 19th birthday before January 1, 2026. **This rule aligns with National 4-H Skillathon requirements as this contest has National 4-H Skillathon implications for Senior 4-H Contestants.**
5. Only youth who are pre-entered during the online entry process and verified eligible (age and organization enrollment) are allowed to compete.
6. **There is no dual-entry allowed.** Youth must represent either a 4-H Unit/Club or the FFA Chapter of which they are a member. **There will only be one contest for each age division (Junior/Senior), not separate 4-H and FFA Contests, as there is no National FFA CDE for Livestock Skillathon.**
7. Youth are INELIGIBLE to compete at this contest if they have completed a collegiate level animal science course or are enrolled in a collegiate level animal science course – this information will be verified.
8. The Superintendents of the contest will oversee the contest and conduct it in compliance with these rules and regulations. They shall have the authority for the interpretation of the rules

CONDUCT OF CONTEST

- 1) Registration begins at 9:00 AM for all contestants. All contestants and coaches will report to the Rockingham County Fairgrounds and be checked in no later than 9:45 AM for final instructions and to begin the contest.
- 2) The Superintendents will supply contestants with contest materials and forms. No contestant will be allowed to take any books, notes, or pamphlets into the ring. **Each contestant must bring one clipboard and at least one No. 2 pencil to the contest.** *Four-function calculators will be allowed for use during the team problem(s) and the Quiz. Cell phones, smart watches, and all other electronic devices are banned from the contest.*
- 3) **ALL contestants will record ALL of their answers on the VA Skillathon Scantron form.** <https://www.judgingcard.com/ScanSheets/samples/UnivD-VA-Skillathon.pdf>
****Please review the scantron with all contestants and help them familiarize themselves with each area, where answers are to be placed, and how to properly bubble their responses**
- 4) While the contest is in session there shall be no communication among contestants and anyone else, except as directed by the Superintendent or contest admin. Contestants may not use Cell Phones or other types of electronic communication while the contest is in progress – this includes the calculator function on those devices. Violators will be penalized by receiving zeros for all contest components.

SENIOR DIVISION CLASSES:

INDIVIDUAL CLASSES FOR SENIORS:

1. Written Test – 25 questions about the livestock industry	2 pts/question	50 pts total
2. Identification – 20 pieces of livestock equipment	3 pts/item	60 pts total
3. Identification – 10 breeds of livestock	3 pts/item	30 pts total
4. Description of the 10 identified breeds of livestock	3 pts/item	30 pts total
5. Identification – 10 livestock feeds	3 pts/item	30 pts total
6. Usage of the 10 identified livestock feeds	3 pts/item	30 pts total
7. Identification – 10 retail cuts of meat (2 pts/species, 2 pts/primal, 2 pts/retail)		60 pts total
8. Judging of a class of Hay with Nutritional Analysis		50 pts total
9. Quality Assurance Exercise (20 questions)	3 pts/question	<u>60 pts total</u>
QA exercise will be multiple choice, T/F, and Matching		

INDIVIDUAL SENIOR TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS

400 Points

TEAM ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS

***Team Activities/Problems will be a joint effort by all 3 or 4 team members. Teams will submit answers to their Team Activities on a Team Scantron. Questions may be multiple choice, T/F, matching, or short answer. The use of a simple 4-function calculator will be allowed on team problems.

1. Animal Breeding Scenario/Exercise – may include live animals for the selection portion	100 pts total
2. Quality Assurance Team Exercise	100 pts total
3. Management, Performance, and Marketing Problem	<u>100 pts total</u>

TEAM SENIOR TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS (Top Three Individual Scores + Team Problem Total)

1500 Points

JUNIOR DIVISION CLASSES:

INDIVIDUAL CLASSES FOR JUNIORS:

1. Written Quiz – 25 questions about the livestock industry	2 pts/question	50 pts total
2. Identification – 10 pieces of livestock equipment	5 pts/item	50 pts total
3. Identification – 10 breeds of livestock	5 pts/item	50 pts total
4. Identification – 10 livestock feeds	5 pts/item	50 pts total
5. Identification – 10 retail cuts of meat (2 pts/species 1 pt/primal 2 pts/retail)		50 pts total
6. Judging of a class of retail meats		50 pts total
7. Two classes of livestock to evaluate (potentially 1 being a keep/cull)	50 pts/class	100 pts total
8. Judging of a class of Hay		<u>50 pts total</u>
INDIVIDUAL JUNIOR TOTAL POSSIBLE POINT		450 points

TEAM ACTIVITY for Juniors –

***Each Junior Team of 3-4 members will work together to answer 10 multiple choice, T/F, and/or matching questions as they pertain to the provided Quality Assurance activity. A simple 4-function calculator may be used on the Junior Team Activity.

1. Quality Assurance Exercise	<u>50 pts total</u>
TEAM JUNIOR TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS (Top Three Individual Scores + Team Problem Total)	1400 pts

DETERMINATION OF RANKINGS

- A. The overall individual ranking shall be determined by adding each contestant's scores for all classes.
- B. For Junior teams the team total will be the total for the three team members with the highest individual scores and the score for the team activity.
- C. For Senior teams the team total will be the total for the three team members with the highest individual scores, plus the total of the points awarded in the three team activities.
- D. In case of a tie for individual awards and junior team awards, ties will be broken in favor of the individual/team with the highest score on the written Quiz. If still tied, the highest total score in the identification classes (Equipment, Breeds, Feeds, and Retail Meats) will be utilized, followed by total judging score for junior individuals and teams and the Quality Assurance Individual Exercise for Seniors.

For Senior Teams Only, ties will be broken on the total cumulative score of the team exercises.

2026 State 4-H/FFA Skill-a-Thon Tentative Schedule

9:00 AM		Check-In/Registration
9:45 AM		Contest Instructions
9:55 AM		Break Contestants into Groups
10:00 AM	Junior Contestants	Begin Rotations (12-minute rotations, 3 min. move)
10:00 AM	Senior Contestants	QA Individual Activity
10:30 AM	Senior Contestants	Quiz
11:00 AM	Rotations Begin for Seniors	
11:45 AM	Junior Contestants	(½ judging and ½ Quiz)
12:15 PM	Junior Contestants	(½ judging and ½ Quiz)

Junior Stations and Senior Stations will be located in different areas of the RCF Barn Complex, allowing both divisions to compete simultaneously

	<u>Juniors</u>		<u>Seniors</u>
10:00	Equip ID	11:10 AM	Equip ID 1
10:15	Breed ID	11:25 AM	Equip ID 2
10:30	Retail Meat ID	11:40 AM	Breed ID/Description
10:45	Feed ID	11:55 AM	Retail Meat ID
11:00	Hay Judging	12:10 PM	Feed ID/Usage
11:15	Meat Judging	12:25 PM	Hay Judging w/ nutritional analysis
		12:40 PM	Team Activities – Hoop Barn

**Contestant groups will rotate through stations w/ 1 group/station for 12 minutes each

12:45 PM	Senior Contestants	Team Problems (3 @ 20 min/each)
		***Teams split evenly between the three problems, rotating to complete
12:45 PM	Junior Contestants	Team Problem (1 @ 20 minutes)
1:00 – 1:15 PM	Approximate Finish Time for Juniors	
1:30 – 1:45 PM	Approximate Finish Time for Seniors	
1:30 – 3:30	Lunch On Your own Classes/Stations Available for Viewing	
4:00 PM	Results and Awards – Tentative – will not start before 4:00 pm	