



Virginia Cooperative Extension
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2020 Virginia 4-H/FFA State Skill-A-Thon

Entries are now open for the 2020 Virginia 4-H/FFA State Skill-A-Thon. Please read the entry information, rules, and schedule carefully. There are a number of changes to this year’s event as we transition from a traditional Stockmen’s Contest format to one that more closely aligns with the National 4-H Skill-A-Thon.

Contest Date: Thursday, April 9th, 2020
Contest Location: Virginia Tech at The Alphin Stuart Arena

Contest Superintendents

Katherine Carter carterke@vt.edu 540-231-2257
 Dr. Bain Wilson tbwilson@vt.edu 980-621-6823

A complete entry for this contest must include the following:

- Submitted online entry of all contestant information completed
- Printed copy of the electronic form **with payment summary sheet completed**
- \$8.00 entry fee per individual competing – Payable to: VA 4-H Foundation

Entries Must Be Submitted Online at <https://tinyurl.com/2020VA-4-H-FFA-Skill-a-Thon> by March 25th, 2020 with a copy mailed and postmarked by March 26th to:
Virginia 4-H/FFA Skill-a-Thon Contest,
Katherine Carter,
362 Litton Reaves Hall (0306)
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Please Do NOT mail payment with entry forms – Payment or Proof of Payment Processing should be delivered during check-in/registration the morning of the contest.

TENTATIVE STOCKMEN’S CONTEST SCHEDULE: Thursday, April 9th at VT’s Alphin Stuart Arena

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|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Registration: | 9:00-9:30 AM |
| Contest Rules/Break into Groups: | 9:40 – 9:50 AM |
| Contest Begins: | 10:00 AM |
| Lunch On Your Own/View Classes: | 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM |
| Awards: | 3:45 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.

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. Junior contestants will be those who are 13 years old or younger by January 1, 2020 and will reach their 9th birthday by September 30, 2020. Senior contestants will be those who are at least 14 years old by January 1, 2020 and have not had their 19th birthday before January 1, 2020. This rule aligns with National 4-H Skillathon requirements.
5. Only youth who are pre-entered during the online entry process and verified eligible (age and organization enrollment) are allowed to compete. NO EXCEPTIONS.
6. 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.
7. The Superintendents of the contest, in cooperation with the contest committee, will be in charge of the contest and conduct it in compliance with these rules and regulations. They shall have the authority for the interpretation of the rules

NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED

CONDUCT OF CONTEST

- 1) Registration begins at 9:00 AM for all contestants. All contestants and coaches will report to the arena at 9:30 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 a 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 his/her assistants. Contestants may not use Cell Phones or other types of electronic communication while the contest is in progress. Violators will be penalized by receiving zeros for all contest components.

SENIOR DIVISION CLASSES:

INDIVIDUAL CLASSES FOR SENIORS – Please Take Note – There are a number of changes for the 2020 contest

| | | |
|--|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Written Test – 30 questions about the livestock industry | 2 pts/question | 60 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 | | 50 pts total |
| 9. Quality Assurance Exercise (30 questions) | 2 pts/question | <u>60 pts total</u> |
| **QA exercise will be multiple choice, T/F, and Matching** | | |

INDIVIDUAL SENIOR TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS 410 Points

TEAM ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS – Please Take Note – There are a number of changes for the 2020 contest

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| 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) 1530 Points

***Team Activities/Problems will be a joint effort by all 3 or 4 team members. Teams will submit one answer sheet for each team activity. 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.

JUNIOR DIVISION CLASSES:

INDIVIDUAL CLASSES FOR JUNIORS- Please Take Note – There are Changes for 2020

| | | |
|---|----------------|---------------------|
| 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 – Please Take Note – This is a change for 2020

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

***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.

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.

The highest-ranking senior team competing as a 4-H team will be invited to represent Virginia in the National 4-H Skillathon Contest in Louisville, Kentucky in November.

2020 State 4-H/FFA Skill-a-Thon Tentative Schedule

| | | |
|----------|--------------------|---|
| 9:00 AM | | Check-In/Registration |
| 9:40 AM | | Contest Instructions |
| 9:50 AM | | Juniors to Judging Pavilion |
| 10:00 AM | Junior Contestants | Team Problem – Pavilion (20 min) |
| 10:30 AM | Junior Contestants | Quiz – Pavilion (20 min) |
| 10:00 AM | Senior Contestants | QA Individual Activity – Arena (20 min) |
| 10:30 AM | Senior Contestants | Quiz – Arena (20 min) |
| 10:55 | Junior Contestants | Return to Pavilion |
| 11:00 AM | Rotations Begin | (12-minute rotations, 3 min. move time) |

Alphin Stuart Arena will be split with Junior Stations on one end and Senior Stations on the other end

| | <u>Juniors</u> | <u>Seniors</u> |
|-------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 11:10 | Equip ID | Equip ID |
| 11:25 | Breed ID | Breed ID |
| 11:40 | Retail Meat ID | Retail Meat ID |
| 11:55 | Feed ID | Feed ID |
| 12:10 | Hay Judging | Hay Judging |
| 12:25 | Live Animal Judging | Move to Bleachers for Team Activities |
| 12:40 | Live Animal Judging – Potentially Keep Cull | |

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

| | | |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 12:30 PM | Senior Contestants | Team Problems (3 @ 20 min/each) |
| | ***Teams split evenly between the three problems, rotating to complete | |
| 1:00 PM | Approximate Finish Time for Juniors | |
| 1:30 PM | Approximate Finish Time for Seniors | |
| 1:30 – 3:30 | Lunch On Their Own for all Contestants Classes/Stations Available for Viewing | |
| 3:45 PM | Results and Awards | |