

2017 State Fair of Virginia

Junior Skill-A-Thon Contests

Students must purchase a gate pass to enter the Fairgrounds unless they are already at the Fair for another competition. Purchase these directly from the State Fair of Virginia

2017 Official Schedule

Registration: Friday, October 6, 8:00 AM

Contest Begins: Friday, October 6, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Awards: Will be announced during respective livestock shows

www.ext.vt.edu/youthlivestock

CONTEST RULES

1. Each exhibitor of livestock at State Fair of Virginia will be automatically entered in their respective species skill-a-thon **ONLY** if they indicated they would be participating in the skill-a-thon on their entry form. If an exhibitor did not indicate they would participate in the skill-a-thon on their entry they must contact Joi Saville (540-231-2257 or joi.saville@vt.edu) by September 20th to enter.
2. Every livestock exhibitor will be allowed to compete in **ONE** additional skill-a-thon contest beyond the species that they are exhibiting; however, the exhibitor **MUST** enter in the additional contest using the “Exhibitor Skill - A-Thon Registration Form” (i.e. if you are showing cattle and sheep and you indicated that you wanted to participate in the skill-a-thon contests, then you are automatically entered in the cattle and sheep skill-a-thon contests; if you would like to participate in one other species you will be allowed to choose to participate in the goat or swine skill-a-thon contest, but you can only choose one).
3. Each County 4-H or Agriculture Department is invited to enter a maximum of 3 senior, 3 intermediate and 3 junior non-exhibitors as contestants in each species contest. Contestants who are not exhibiting livestock must choose only one skill-a-thon contest to enter (i.e. one individual not exhibiting livestock can choose to compete in the goat skill-a-thon, but they are then not allowed to compete in the beef, sheep or swine skill-a-thon contests). Competition will be held for individuals only, there are no team awards. (Livestock exhibitors at the State Fair competing in this contest as part of the Premier Exhibitor program are not counted toward a chapter’s/county’s maximum number of entries stated here.)
4. Students which are not exhibitors at the State Fair are not eligible for the skillathons if they have competed in the National 4-H Skill-a-thon Contest.
5. Non-exhibitor contestants must be entered and certified by their County Extension Agent or Agricultural Instructor prior to September 20th.
6. Exhibitors must be at least 9 years of age by September 30 of the current year and must not have had their 19th birthday before January 1 of current year. Exhibitor eligibility and entries must be verified through the signature of a county Extension agent or FFA advisor on the entry form.
7. Age divisions will be broken as follows:
 - a. Junior Division – Exhibitors who are 12 years of age and younger on September 30 of current year.
 - b. Intermediate Division – Exhibitors 13-15 years of age on September 30 of current year.
 - c. Senior Division – Exhibitors who were 16 years of age and older on September 30 of current year.
8. Entries Must Be Mailed to: **Joi Saville, Virginia Tech, 362 Litton -Reaves Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061** and postmarked by September 20th. No late entries will be accepted. Use the entry form available at the 4-H Livestock website (www.ext.vt.edu/youthlivestock).
9. The Superintendent 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. Superintendents have the authority for the interpretation of the rules.
10. Contestants, coaches, and chaperones must have a ticket for admission to the Fair. These may be competition tickets or exhibitor passes. Competition tickets may be purchased directly from the Fair. More information will be posted to the State Fair section of the Youth Livestock web site (www.ext.vt.edu/youthlivestock).

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CONDUCT OF CONTEST

1. Registration begins at 8:00 AM. The contest will begin at 8:30 AM.
2. The Superintendent will supply contestants with placing cards and any other necessary forms. No contestant will be allowed to take any books, notes, or pamphlets into the ring. Clipboards are allowed.
3. A Scantron form may be used to record the contestants' answers to the quiz. A Number 2 pencil is required to complete this form. Scantrons may be used for other contest components as well.
4. While the contest is in session there SHALL BE NO COMMUNICATION among contestants and anyone else, except as directed by the Superintendent or assistants. Cell Phones, PDA's, or other types of electronic communication may not be used by contestants while the contest is in progress. Violators will be penalized by having one or more scores disallowed.

CLASSES

1. The classes for each species will be determined by each respective Skill-a-thon committee. Potential classes include those used in a traditional stockmen's contest, but are not limited to those classes. A quiz will be included in each species' contest; the quiz will ask questions regarding each particular species.
2. The overall individual ranking shall be determined by adding each contestant's scores for every class.
3. Scores will be posted on the youth livestock website after the fair.

AWARDS

The State Fair of Virginia will provide ribbons for the ten high scoring individuals. No premiums and scholarships will be awarded. Awards will be conducted during their respective species shows.