2018 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 tickets directly from the State Fair of Virginia.

2018 Official Schedule
Registration: Friday, October 5, 8:00 AM
Contest Begins: Friday, October 5, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Awards: Will be announced during respective livestock shows
www.ext.vt.edu/youthlivestock

SUPERINTENDENTS: Dr. Scott Greiner & Dr. Bain Wilson, Virginia Tech

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 Jessica Dotson (540-231-9161 or ejessica@vt.edu) by September 21 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. All exhibitors are automatically entered in the respective skill-a-thons for which they have animal entries. For livestock exhibitors, no pre-registration is necessary for the one additional skill-a-thon (packets will be available during skill-a-thon registration Friday morning at the fair).

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 21.

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.

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8. **Entries Must be postmarked or emailed by <u>September 21</u>** to: *Jessica Dotson, Virginia Tech, 372 Litton -Reaves Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061, ejessica@vt.edu* **. No late entries will be accepted.** Use the entry form available at the 4-H Livestock website (www.ext.vt.edu/youthlivestock).

9. The Superintendents of the contest, in cooperation with the contest committees, 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).

CONDUCT OF CONTEST
1. Registration begins at 8:00 AM. The contest will begin at 8:30 AM.

2. The Superintendents 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, smart watches, 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.