2020 Kansas 4-H Virtual Livestock Skillathon Contest

Eligibility:

1. **Entries must be submitted through Cvent by the local extension unit and are due August 15, 2020.** Each County Extension Unit may enter one team of three or four enrolled 4-H members. Each District Extension Unit may enter teams of three or four enrolled 4-H members equal to the number of counties comprising the extension district (Kansas 4-H Policy J3). The three contestants with the highest scores will make up the team total for each category and overall scores. The contestant with the lowest score is still eligible for individual awards.

2. No alternates will be listed on a team. Up to 5 individuals from each county (who are not already on a skillathon team) are allowed to compete in the individual skillathon competition. **Therefore, a county may enter up to 9 total youth (team of 4, plus 5 individuals) in the state 4-H livestock skillathon contest.**

3. Members must be 9, but not yet 19, before January 1 of the current year. Contestants in National 4-H Competitive Events cannot have reached their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current year. **If a team has one or more members who are under 14 years of age, that team will be ineligible to qualify for national competition. The contest is designed with the competitive intensity of a state-level event to give youth the opportunity to display their advanced skills in critical thinking, decision making, reasoning ability, communication skills, and livestock knowledge. Participants should understand the basic concepts of this event for it to be a positive experience that fosters experiential learning.**

4. **Individuals who have competed as an official team member or as an alternate at the designated National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest (NAILE) in Louisville, KY are not eligible to compete as a team member.** They may participate as an individual contestant but will not be eligible for awards. Their score will, however, be counted towards individual sweepstakes awards. If an individual served as an alternate at the National 4-H Contest but did not actually participate in the contest, they retain their eligibility for the state contest.

5. In keeping with National 4-H rules, contestants who have participated in any post-secondary (university, college, junior college or technical school) course work or training for post-secondary competition in the subject area of this contest, including animal science courses, livestock quiz bowl contests, or academic quadrathalon-type contests, are not eligible to compete.
Contest Method of Conduct:

1. The Kansas 4-H Livestock Skillathon will be tentatively hosted virtually on Saturday, August 22 at 6:00pm.

2. The rules and format of the contest are tentative and may be altered to provide the best experience for participants. Team activities may be altered based on total participation. Any changes will be communicated to coaches and local extension units prior to the contest.

3. **VIRTUAL FORMAT FOR 2020:** Participants must log on to the appropriate platform at the designated time to compete; the skillathon will not be offered during a window of time. The contest will be hosted via Qualtrics. There will be a virtual orientation hosted via Zoom at 5:30pm, prior to the contest beginning. Links to the skillathon and virtual Zoom orientation will be provided to coaches and extension staff just prior to the event. All contestants must provide their own device (computer or tablet preferred) and have reliable internet access. Youth who have technology needs should contact their local extension office in advance to discuss their options.

4. Team members will complete their team activities via Zoom at a designated time, using a link shared with the coach/Extension staff. Teams will have an appropriate amount of time (5-10 minutes) to complete each activity and submit their answers to the moderator. Time allotted will depend on the number of teams and will be announced during the virtual Skillathon orientation. During the team competition round of the contest, contestants will be allowed to confer with team members only during time allowed for that activity.

5. This contest will be scored through the Qualtrics system. All individuals will use their own device to complete the skillathon. While completing the individual competition classes, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by contest officials. Participants may not use outside resources and are expected to practice integrity while completing the skillathon stations. The skillathon link will be active for the exact time of the contest (tentatively, 6:00pm to 7:30pm). There will be a time limit on each set of questions, and the system will automatically advance once the set amount of time expires. Youth will not be able to go back once they advance to the next page. Contestants will be allotted 30 minutes to complete the exam portion and approximately 10 minutes to complete each individual competition class, which will be broken down across multiple pages. Specific time allotted will be announced during the orientation.

6. Possible classes-The classes below are suggested potential classes. Please refer to reference list, however, and note that actual classes may deviate from this list in an effort to keep current with a rapidly changing livestock industry. Contest organizers reserve the right to provide material and classes they feel are valid industry educational opportunities.

   **Individual classes:**

   a) **Livestock Equipment Identification** – identify the proper name and/or use for pieces of equipment used in livestock production.

   b) **Livestock Breed Identification** – identify from photograph, pictures, or by matching a written description, a variety of livestock (beef cattle, swine, sheep and goat) breeds.

   c) **Retail Meat Cut Identification** – identify beef, lamb, and pork retail cuts from the National 4-H Meat Judging Retail ID List. Contestants will identify the retail cut specie, primal cut, and retail cut name, as well as be able to answer follow up questions regarding the retail cut and general meat science.

   d) **Hay and Wool Judging Class** – rank a class of four hay samples and/or a class of four wool samples with analysis information. Answer questions about the class.

   e) **Quality Assurance Exercise** – demonstrate how to read a medicine label, calculate withdrawal times, complete a treatment record, and make responsible management decisions regarding quality assurance.
f) **Feed Stuffs Identification** – identify a variety of livestock feed ingredients, as well as answer questions regarding how each feed stuff contributes to animal nutrition, production, and management.

g) **Current Events & Contemporary Issues** – analyze and answer questions related to a current events issue or emerging industry topic.

h) **Written Exam** – complete a 30 question multiple choice quiz concerning the total livestock industry.

*Team classes (see statement above; may involve live animals when applicable and available. May also include group oral presentation):*

a) **Quality Assurance Exercise** – Demonstrate how to read an animal health product label, calculate dosage rates and withdrawal times, complete a treatment record, be familiar with administration routes, animal identification and restraint methods, and make responsible management decisions regarding quality assurance.

b) **Meat & Carcass Evaluation** – May include ranking one (1) class of four similar retail cuts, evaluate photos of carcasses, price carcasses using a grid, or make management decisions based on carcass data provided.

c) **Animal Breeding Scenario and Exercise** – Team members will evaluate a breeding/marketing animal scenario and make animal selection/marketing decisions based upon performance/visual data to rank breeding animals or market them for use within the situation provided.

d) **Livestock Feeding/Feed Label Knowledge** – Identify the proper name for livestock feeds and identify each corresponding nutrient group. Feed samples and lists of feed names and nutrient groups will be provided. Utilizing feed ingredients given, formulate a ration for a group of livestock. Answer questions and make management decisions based on feed label information.

e) **Evaluation of Management, Performance & Marketing Knowledge** - Evaluate performance information on a group of livestock and then use the information given to make the best marketing decisions.

f) **Current Events & Contemporary Issues** – analyze and answer questions related to a current event issue or emerging industry topic.

*Total team scores will be determined by adding the highest three team member individual scores with the total team activity score accumulated from the team classes.*

7. No hats are to be worn. Smartwatches are also not permitted and should be removed prior to the contest.

8. Conferring among contestants (talking, gestures, messaging using apps or other electronic means, etc.) will result in dismissal from the contest.

9. Contestants may use a blank steno pad or a clipboard and blank paper. Contestants may also use a small pocket calculator. The contestants may not utilize books, notes, pamphlets, websites, digital resources, or other reference material during the contest.

10. A summary of the material included in the contest will be shared electronically with coaches and/or extension units following the contest to use as an educational opportunity with their youth.

**Awards**
The awards ceremony will be hosted virtually via Facebook Live at the conclusion of all sweepstakes contests on Sunday, August 23. The contest will recognize the top five teams and top ten individuals, as well as appropriate categorical awards. The highest ranking team will qualify for the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest at NAILE in Louisville, KY. If they cannot attend, the opportunity will be offered to the Reserve Champion team, and so forth. Eligible senior teams must meet age and all other qualifications established by the national contest.