TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

September 1, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: District 8 County Extension Agents

FROM: Megan R. Shaffer
Extension Program Specialist
4-H Youth Development

Megan R. Shaffer

SUBJECT: 2023 DISTRICT 8 4-H LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON

Events: Livestock Skillathon

Event Date: Thursday, November 9, 2023

Location: Lakeview Baptist Church
7717 TX-317
Belton, TX 76513

Entry Deadline: All entries will be completed on 4-H Online at https://texas.4honline.com/.
Opens: Monday, October 9, 2023
Closes: Friday, October 20, 2023

County Approvals: County offices need to approve registrations on 4-H Online by Monday, October 22, 2023

Entry Fee: $12 per member per event

Late Entries: Late entries will be permitted with an additional:
- $20 late fee per 4-H member up to 60 hours after the regular contest deadline.
- $50 late fee per 4-H member after 60 hours and up to the time of check-in on-site at an event

Auxiliary Aids or Special Accommodations: If you have any participants requiring auxiliary aids or special accommodations, please let us know at the time of entry.

D8 4-H LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON
Schedule

Registration will be in the gym at Lakeview Baptist

	Check-in by:	Orientation/Contest Starts
Livestock Skillathon	11:15-11:30	Contest starts-12:00-2:00pm *Orientation will be handed out at check-in*
Quiz Bowls	9:30-10:00	10:00-10:30-Orientation 10:30-move to contest rooms
Ag Product Identification	9:00-9:30	9:30-10:00-Orientation 10:00-11:15-Contest
Awards Ceremony (gym)	**Ag Product ID:** *Approximately 12:00 pm or immediately following completion of tabulation.* **Livestock Skillathon:** *Approximately 2:30 or immediately following completion of tabulation.*	
Awards Ceremony (contest rooms) (Quiz Bowls)	**Awards for Quiz Bowl** *contests will be held in each of the Quiz Bowls rooms. Participants will receive their awards at the conclusion of the final round.*	

D8 4-H LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON

General Rules for all District 8 4-H contests

1. **Rules and Guidelines**
   All District contests will be conducted by the rules printed in the District 8 General Rules and Guidelines and in the 2024 Texas 4-H Roundup Guide. If an inconsistency exists, the Texas 4-H Roundup Guide rules will always supersede District policies, rules, and guidelines. All contests listed in the Texas 4-H Roundup Guide will be included in District Contest, provided there are sufficient entries.

2. **Membership**
   Participants must be a bona fide 4-H member, currently enrolled in their respective county program.

3. **Age Divisions**
   There will be three (3) age divisions (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior) in all contests.

   Age divisions are determined by a participant's grade as of <u>September 1, 2023</u> as follows:

Age Division	Grades	
Junior	3*, 4, or 5	*Must be at least 8 years old*
Intermediate	6, 7, or 8	
Senior	9, 10, 11, or 12*	*Must not be older than 18 years old*

   Only Senior aged members may advance to the state qualifying competition at Texas 4-H Roundup in the qualifying contests.

4. **Participation/Entries**
   4-H members must be certified by the County Extension Agent to participate at any District 4-H event.

5. **Team per county**
   There is no limit to the number of teams a county may enter in the district contest.

6. **Members per team**
   These are team events; therefore, entrants are encouraged to be part of a team. Each team will have at least three (3) and no more than four (4) members. Individual entries will be allowed, only if there are not enough individuals in the county to make up a team.

   Note: A County can only have a maximum of 2 individual entries per age division. If there are 3 individuals wanting to judge in the same age division, they must be considered a team entry.

   All team members must be from the same county and within the same age division. Exception: Juniors may move up to the Intermediate age division when participating on a team that has true Intermediates (based upon grades listed above) on it. No one may move up to the Senior age division. No individual may move down to a younger age division.

7. **Multiple Entries**
   4-H members may participate in multiple events. The schedule is built to allow youth to participate in multiple contests on the same day. Lunch will be on your own, so youth will need to be prepared if planning to compete in contests that are around lunch time.

8. **Academic Eligibility of Participants**
   According to the Texas Education Code, a 4-H member must be deemed "eligible" to compete in an event that takes place on a weekday or weekend. All 4-H youth, including youth in public, private, and/or home school must adhere to the following guidelines regarding extracurricular activities and academic eligibility:
   – Complete a "Declaration of Eligibility Form"
     OR
   – Name of 4-H member must appear on a list of eligible students to participate in a specific extracurricular activity signed by the school principal or designee.

   If a 4-H member is ineligible for a 4-H competitive event, the agent must notify the 4-H member, his/her parents, and the district office, by letter, of this situation. If the parent has any questions, he/she should be referred to the school administrator.

9. **Entry Fee**
   There is a $10 entry fee per member per contest. All entries must be submitted through 4-H Online by the entry due date.

10. **Late Fees**
    Late entries will be permitted with an additional $20 late fee per 4-H member 60 hours after the regular contest deadline. $50 late fee per member after 60 hours and up to the time of the check-in on-site at the event.

11. **Awards**
    The top three (3) teams and the top five (5) individuals in each age division in each contest will receive awards.

12. **Auxiliary Aids/Special Accommodations**
    If 4-H members that are participating in District 4-H events require auxiliary aids or special accommodations, please notify the District Office at the same time that entry materials are due.

13. ***These are invitational only contests. These contests are invitational at Texas 4-H Roundup***

D8 4-H LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON

Livestock Skillathon

1. **Objective**
   - The Livestock Skill-a-thon contest tests a 4-H member's knowledge and comprehension of animal science and livestock management practices. The contest provides an opportunity for youth to gain and develop production livestock skills and life skills through a competitive environment.

2. **TEAM AND CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY**
   - The contest is an Invitational (non-qualifying) Contest open to any eligible 4-H member in 3rd-12th grade
   - Contest will be divided into Junior, Intermediate, and Senior age divisions.
   - Teams consist of three or four members. In teams in which there are four members, all will compete, but the member receiving the lowest overall score will be automatically declared the alternate. The scores of the alternate will not be included in any of the team totals but will be considered in making all individual awards. Teams consisting of three members will have no alternate and all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards.

3. **Contest Logistics**
   - This will be a "come and go" format where there is not a specific time that all contestants will be required to report.
   - The contest will be open from 9 am to 11:45 am.
   - All contestants that are designated as a team must enter the contest at the same time.

4. **CONTEST METHOD OF CONDUCT**
   - The contest will be divided into four areas: identification, judging (which consist of meat cuts, wool and/or hay classes), quizzes (quality assurance quiz, and industry quiz.), and a team exercise. Contestants will be divided into groups and have time limits for each station area.
   - The contest will utilize a scantron form. #480-5b (Meat Skill-a-thon)
   - While competing in the event, there will be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by contest officials. Contestants will be allowed specific time limits to complete each individual class.
   - Contestants may use a blank steno pad or a clipboard, blank paper, and a calculator. The contestants may bring no books, notes, pamphlets, or other reference material into the contest area. All electronic communication devices of any kind are prohibited. Contest officials reserve the right to check all contestant's notepads or clipboards to make sure they are blank just prior to the contest. Violators are subject to contest dismissal.
   - Contestants are not to pick up or touch any item that is being identified or evaluated in the individual competition classes, unless otherwise directed by contest officials. (The exception is wool classes)
   - Coaches are invited to review contest materials in the contest area at the conclusion of the event.

5. **CONTEST CLASSES** The following is a list of common skill-a-thon classes. Please note that actual classes may deviate from this list in an effort to keep current with a rapidly changing livestock industry. All pictures, equipment items, retail meat cuts, feed samples, judging classes, and quizzes will be developed using resources obtained from Texas A&M University and West Texas A&M University.

   - **Identification (Four Stations will be Selected)**
     - Livestock equipment Identification: Identify the proper name for pieces of equipment used in livestock production. Participants are no longer required to indicate the equipment use.
     - Livestock Breed Identification: Identify from photographs or pictures livestock (beef cattle,

swine, sheep, and goat) breeds. Contestants must also match the breed with the most appropriate description supplied for each breed.
- 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.
- Feed Sample Identification: identify various samples of feeds and indicate their classification.

- **Judging (Three Classes will be Selected)**
  - Hay Judging class: Rank a class of four hay samples with analysis information and answer questions about the classes.
  - Wool Judging class: Rank a class of four fleeces and answer questions about the class.
  - Retail Meat Judging class: Rank a class of four retail meat cuts (beef, pork, or lamb) and answer questions about the class.
- **Quizzes**
  - 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.
  - Industry Quiz: Complete a 30-question multiple choice quiz concerning the total livestock industry.

6. **Scan Sheet**

   The following scan sheet will be used.

   Meat Skillathon, 480-5b:

   http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/roundup_livestock_skill_a_thon_guide_2020.pdf

7. **Contest Resources**

   https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/roundup_livestock_skillathon_guide_2023.pdf

This list is just some of the potential resource information available. Please feel free to utilize other sources as you deem appropriate.

Swine Resources
- National Swine Registry Skill-a-thon Training https://nationalswine.com/resources/resources-main.php
- Texas A&M Swine Skill-a-thon study guide
https://animalscience.tamu.edu/livestockspecies/swine/skillathon/
- Oklahoma State Swine Breeds - http://afs.okstate.edu/breeds/swine
- National Pork Board : http://www.pork.org/youth-and-education/skillathon-quiz-bowl/

Beef Resources
- Texas A&M Beef Skill-a-thon https://beefskillathon.tamu.edu/
- Iowa State Beef Skill-a-thon https://www.ans.iastate.edu/beef-skillathon
- Oklahoma State Cattle Breeds - http://afs.okstate.edu/breeds/cattle/

Sheep & Goat Resources
- Sheep and Goat programs - http://animalscience.tamu.edu/livestock-species/sheep-goats/
- Iowa State Sheep Skill-a-thon https://www.ans.iastate.edu/sheep-skillathon
- Oklahoma State Sheep Breeds - http://afs.okstate.edu/breeds/sheep
- Oklahoma State Goat Breeds - http://afs.okstate.edu/breeds/goats
- Maryland Small Ruminant Page - https://www.sheepandgoat.com/skillathon

Meat Judging and Identification Resources
- http://www.meatscience.org/students/meat-judging-program/meat-judging-resources/
- http://aggiemeat.tamu.edu/meat-identification-pictures/
- https://aggiemeat.tamu.edu/example-classes/

Equipment Identification
- Nasco - https://www.enasco.com/

- Valley Vet - https://www.valleyvet.com
- Sullivan's Supply - https://www.sullivansupply.com/
- Weaver Livestock - https://www.thewinnersbrand.com

Feed Sample Identification
- https://quizlet.com/22837845/feed-stuff-identification-flash-cards/
- https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/P2834.pdf
- http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/400/400-011/400-011_pdf.pdf

Wool Judging
- https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Judging-Wool-and-Mohair.pdf Hay Judging
- https://www.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/19/Hay%20Judging%20Resources.doc
- https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/defaul t/files/publications/publications/P2834.pdf
- https://cherokee.agrilife.org/4-h/hay-judging/
- https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_images/locations/charles_county/Hay%20Judging%20Examp le%20Class%20with%20Photos%202018.pdf

National Livestock Skill-a-Thon
- https://extension.umd.edu/charles-county/4-h-youth/2019-national-4-h-livestock-judging-skillathon-and-quiz-bowl

Texas FFA Livestock Quiz Question Bank
- https://www.texasffa.org/docs/2017-21%20Livestock_QBank_Export_Key_71269.pdf