Livestock Skill-A-Thon

SKILL-A-THON

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Objectives

- To educate and encourage youth in the areas of Science, Engineering and Technology, enhancing their understanding and abilities as it relates to Livestock and the Livestock Industry.

- To provide youth with the opportunity to blend knowledge and skills acquired in livestock judging, demonstrations, care and exhibition of animals into one activity.

- To provide youth with an opportunity to learn about the importance of livestock and their products to the environment and economy.

- To encourage youth to continue expanding their knowledge and participation.

- To recognize youth for their total involvement in and comprehension of the livestock industry.

- To encourage youth to work as a team and learn the value and appreciation of teamwork.

- To instill ethical values, good sportsmanship and product evaluation skills.

Eligibility

- All Wyoming 4-H members are eligible to compete in the appropriate age division (Junior (8-13 years old or Senior 14 & older). Eligibility will be confirmed using ZSuites.

- Only team entries will be accepted and may consist of a minimum of three (3) and maximum of five (5) members per team. There is no limit to the number of teams entered in each age division from each county.

Rules

- Youth may enter the contest with blank paper, clipboards, a timer, and writing utensils.

- Teams will have two (2) hours to complete the entire contest. This includes the group process and technology components.

- Spectators are welcome to enter and view the contest from the perimeter but will not be able to interact with the contestants during the event.

- Youth are **encouraged** to work together and interact throughout the event with those on the same team. Discussion between separate teams will not be allowed.

- Team scores from each class will be added together for total accumulated points. Awards will be given to the top three teams in each age division.

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Contest Classes ~ Junior Divisions

All materials for the contest will be taken from the Livestock Discovery CD from the University of Kentucky, Ohio State University lab kits, or the State 4-H web-site.

Stations have a total possible points of 95 and this is 83% of the total junior score.

Cattle: (15 points) Breeds identification; wholesale parts, external parts.

Sheep: (15 points) Breeds identification; wholesale parts, external parts.

Swine: (15 points) Breeds identification; wholesale parts, external parts.

Goat: (15 points) Breeds identification; wholesale parts, external parts.

Quality Assurance: (10 points) Reading a medicine label; calculating withdrawal times; Complete a Treatment record; Given a scenario, make responsible management decisions regarding Quality Assurance; Quality Assurance hands-on activity

Feed Identification: (10 points) Youth will be given a group of feeds to identify. These can include feed additives, minerals, vitamins, forages, grains and more.

Evaluation: (5 points) Youth will be given either classes to place of beef, sheep, swine or goats; or given questions to answer about a set of animals.

Equipment Identification: (10 points) Youth will be given either pictures or real pieces of equipment to identify.

Practicum section has a total possible points of 50 and this is 17% of the total junior score.

Practicum: (50 points) Each team will be given 20 minutes to complete this process. All teams will be presented with the same practicum within age divisions. As a group they will be asked to complete a task, solve a problem or answer questions. The practicums may require each team member to complete a part of the practicum. Props or live animals may be including in this hands-on portion of the contest. The juniors will be given three of the practicum topics and one of the three will be included in the state contest. These three topics will be posted on the State 4-H web-site by May 1.

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<u>**Contest Classes ~ Senior Division**</u>

The Wyoming State 4-H Web-site provides a list of various sources that will aid in preparing the senior livestock skill-a-thon contest. However, the contest is not limited to information provided in these resources.

Stations have a total possible points of 95 and this is 83% of the total senior score.

<u>Cattle:</u> (20 points) Breeds identification; external parts, wholesale parts, reproduction/health

<u>Sheep:</u> (20 points) Breeds identification; external parts, wholesale parts, reproduction/health

<u>Swine:</u> (20 points) Breeds identification; external parts, wholesale parts, reproduction/health

<u>Goat:</u> (20 points) Breeds identification; external parts, wholesale parts, reproduction/health

<u>Meat Science:</u> (10 points) Rank classes of meat cuts, identify cuts for wholesale and retail names, solve scenarios, answer questions and/or grade meat cuts/carcasses. (See Appendix A for list of identifications.)

<u>Wool:</u> (5 points) Youth will be given either classes of four fleeces to place; or given scenarios or questions to answer about fleeces.

<u>Quality Assurance:</u> (10 points) Reading a medicine label; calculating withdrawal times; Complete a Treatment record; Given a scenario, make responsible management decisions regarding Quality Assurance; Quality Assurance hands-on activity.

<u>Feeds and feeding:</u> (10 points) Youth will be given a group of feeds to identify. These can include feed additives, minerals, vitamins, forages, grains and more. Solve scenarios or answer questions related to feeding options.

<u>Evaluation:</u> (5 points) Youth will be given either classes to place of beef, sheep, swine or goats; or given scenarios or questions to answer about a set of animals.

<u>Equipment Identification:</u> (10 points) Youth will be given either pictures or real pieces of equipment to identify; or given scenarios or questions to answer about equipment.

<u>Technology:</u> (10 points) Contestants will use the NCBA Red Book Excel program to answer questions related to herd management. A computer with the program will be provided for the contest. This section can be completed any time during the contest; however teams will have a maximum of 20 minutes to complete this section.

Practicum section has a total possible points of 50 and this is 17% of the total senior score.

<u>Practicum:</u> (50 points) Each team will be given 20 minutes to complete this process. All teams will be presented with the same practicum within age divisions. As a group they will be asked to complete a task, solve a problem or answer questions. The practicums may require each team member to complete a part of the practicum. Props or live animals may be including in this hands-on portion of the contest. The senior will be given three of the practicum topics and one of the three will be included in the state contest. These three topics will be posted on the State 4-H web-site by May 1.

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APPENDIX A
Meat Identification List ~ Seniors
Items in the meat identification portion will be taken from the following list:

	Wholesale Cut	Retail Cut
Beef		
	Loin	T-Bone Steak
		Round Bone Sirloin Steak
	Round	Round Steak
		Eye Steak
	Chuck	Blade Roast
		Arm Roast
	Plate	Short Ribs
	Flank	Flank Steak
	Shank	Cross Cuts
	Rib	Ribeye Steak
Pork		
	Loin	Blade Chop
		Top Loin Chop
		Center Loin Roast
		Rib Chop
		Sirloin Chop
		Canadian Style Bacon SM^
	Shoulder	Arm Picnic Roast
		Arm Steak
	Ham	Rump Portion SM^
		Center Slice SM^
Lamb		
	Rack (Rib)	Rib Roast
		Rib Chop
	Leg	Sirloin Chop
		French Style Roast
		American Style Roast
	Loin	Loin Chop
	Shoulder	Blade Chop
		Square Cut
	Variety Meat	Kidney
	Shank	Shank

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Resources:

- [2025-Livestock-Skill-A-Thon-Resource-Guide-11.19.25.pdf](#)

- [State 4-H Livestock Skillathons | Animal & Food Sciences](#)

- National 4-H Skill-a-thon Resources and Examples: https://youthlivestockcontests.org/4-h-livestock-skillathon

- U.S. Premium Beef USDA Quality Grades and Yield Grades: [USDA QUALITY GRADES and YIELD GRADES](#)

- Understanding Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) Cattle: https://www.uaex.uada.edu/publications/pdf/FSA-3068.pdf

- Goat Reproduction Selection Genetic Animal Evaluation EPDs – [Extension https://goats.extension.org/goat-reproduction-selection-genetic-animal-evaluation-epds/](https://goats.extension.org/goat-reproduction-selection-genetic-animal-evaluation-epds/)

- Texas A&M Wool Judging Guide https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Judging-Wool-and-Mohair.pdf

- University of Maryland Hay Judging Example [https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021- 03/Hay_Judging_Example_Class.pdf](https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/2021-03/Hay_Judging_Example_Class.pdf)

- University of Kentucky publication on using forage quality reports for hay judging https://afs.ca.uky.edu/sites/afs.ca.uky.edu/files/interpreting_forage_quality_reports_id-101.pdf

- University of Kentucky publication on common calculations needed in Skill-a-thon contests https://afs.ca.uky.edu/files/livestockcalculationspublication.pdf

- Sheep and Goat Production Resources https://www.uaex.uada.edu/farm-ranch/animals-forages/sheep-goats/

- Beef Quality Assurance training manuals https://www.bqa.org/resources/manuals