Idaho 4-H Livestock Skill-a-thon Contest
January 18, 2014
Jerome County Fairgrounds

Registration Begins at 9:00 a.m. (Tentative)
Contest Begins at 10:00 a.m. (Tentative)

So, what is the skill-a-thon and what are the objectives?

- 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 who have no opportunity for livestock ownership to learn about the importance of livestock and their products to the environment.
- To encourage youth to continue expanding their knowledge and participation.
- To recognize youth for their total involvement in and comprehension in the livestock industry.
- To instill ethical values, good sportsmanship and evaluation skills

Rules and Regulations

Team and Contestant Eligibility

1. Each county may enter an unlimited number of Senior and/or Junior teams and individuals.
2. 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 not have an alternate and all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards.
3. The teams may be selected by any procedure that the county deems to be appropriate. Team members must be enrolled in 4-H during the current year. Their eligibility must be certified by the county 4-H professional. Completed registration forms & entry fees are due by January 8, 2014 to the Gooding County Extension Office.
4. Each contestant must be at least 8 years of age by January 1 of the current year and less than 19 years of age on January 1 of the current year.
    a. Junior Division is open to those youths who have <u>not</u> reached their 14th birthday before January 1 of the current year.
    b. Senior Division is open only to those youth who have reached their 14th birthday as of January 1 of the current year and who have <u>not</u> reached their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current year.
    c. Mixed age-division teams will be allowed, the age of the oldest member of the team will determine which division the team competes in (example: team of 4 with ages 10, 11, 14, 15 will compete in the Senior Division).
5. The top senior team at the state contest will be invited to represent Idaho at a national Livestock Skill-A-Thon contest in Louisville, KY in November, 2014. Mixed age-division teams, even in competing in senior division, are not allowed to participate in the national contest.
6. An entry fee of $20 per team member will be due with the team entry. These funds are used to help defray the expenses of the contest.

General Guidelines

1. Housing and Facilities – Teams are responsible for their own transportation and to and from the contests and for their housing during the contest.
2. Insurance – Counties are required to verify that all participants are covered by accident insurance before attending the State Contest.
3. Grievances – Any protest must be submitted in writing (along with a $25 deposit) at least one hour prior to the scheduled awards presentation. Protests will be reviewed by a three-member Grievance Committee. Deposits will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained. Decisions of the Grievance Committee are FINAL.
4. Dress Code – Appropriate attire must be worn by PARTICIPANTS throughout all contests and awards presentations. Accepted attire includes: long pants, hard-soled boots/shoes, and a long- or short-sleeved shirt with a collar. Any questions regarding attire may be addressed to the Contest Committee prior to contest start. Violations of attire rules will result in disqualification, including during the awards presentation.
5. Code of Conduct -- All contestants, coaches, parents and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times (in accordance with the *Idaho 4-H Code of Conduct*). At no time will disrespectful behavior toward contest officials, other contestants, coaches, or the general public be tolerated. Failure to comply may result in immediate disqualification of any individuals and/or teams.

Contest Guidelines

1. All contestants and coaches will report to the Jerome County Fairgrounds on Saturday, January 18th. At the official start time of the contest, the contestants will receive final instructions regarding the contest and will be sorted into groups.
2. Contestants may be divided into groups for the contest. They will remain in these groups for the duration of the contest. Questions for information or clarification of instructions should be directed to group leaders or officials.
3. During the individual competition round of the contest, contestants will be further divided into groups and will remain with that assigned group throughout that contest round of classes. 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. Contestants will be allowed 10 minutes to complete each individual competition class.
4. Team members will complete one official answer sheet for each team effort class representing the combined effort of all team members. Teams will be allowed 10 minutes to complete the group assignment for each class and turn in their answer sheet. During the team competition round of the contest, contestants will be allowed to confer only with team members during the time period allowed for each class.
5. No contestant shall wear any clothing, pins, or badges that will in any way reveal his identity or the county, which he represents. The contest will be held both inside and outside, so dress accordingly. No hats are to be worn.
6. Contestants may use a blank steno pad or a clipboard and blank paper. Contestants may also use a small pocket calculator (programmable calculators will not be permitted). The contestants may bring no books, notes, pamphlets, or other reference material into the contest area. 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.
7. 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.
8. After the final contestant has officially turned in their results to the officials, the coaches will be allowed to review the materials in the contest area.
9. The contest awards will be presented at the conclusion of the contest. All contestants must be appropriately dressed to receive an award.

10. Tie Breaking
    a. All ties overall, individual and team, will be broken using the following sequence:
        1. Quiz scores
        2. Identification scores
        3. Team Question scores
    b. Ties within any phase are to be broken using the overall score first and then the same sequence as above. If further tie breaking is needed, the scores at each station, in order (example: station 1, station 2), may be used.

Contest Format

Format

The format will be as follows: Contestants will participate in individual activities and team oriented exercises.

A. Written Quiz 25 questions: Individuals will complete the exam independently. Potential topics are nutrition, health, breeding, management, genetics and showmanship.

B. Identification: Individuals may be asked to identify retail meat cuts, livestock feeds, and breeds, evaluate cuts of meat and hay or wool samples and complete a quality assurance exercise.

C. Team Questions: Team participation will be required in a quality assurance exercise, evaluation of livestock feeding and performance information, livestock equipment identification and an animal breeding or marketing scenario and exercise.

Awards

Individual and team awards will be given in all divisions.

- Top 5 **teams** overall in both the Junior and Senior Divisions
- Top 5 **individuals** overall in both the Junior and Senior Divisions
- Top 1 **individual** in Written Quiz in both Junior and Senior Divisions
- Top 1 **individual** in Identification in both the Junior and Senior Divisions
- Top 1 **team** in Team Questions in both the Junior and Senior Divisions

Possible 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. The contest is not limited to the following classes therefore points totals may vary as well.

Classes competed as an individual

1. Livestock Equipment Identification: Identify the proper name and use for pieces of equipment used in livestock production. (A list of equipment and potential uses will be provided.)

2. 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.

3. Retail meat cut identification: Identify from a provided list the uniformly accepted name of beef, pork, and lamb retail cuts on display including the species, wholesale cut from which each retail cut originates and the retail cut.

4. Hay and Wool Judging Class: Rank a class of four hay and wool samples with analysis information. Answer questions about the classes.
5. Quality Assurance Exercise: Demonstrate how to read a medicine label, fill a syringe, calculate withdrawal times, complete a treatment record, and make responsible management decisions regarding quality assurance.
6. Quiz: Complete a 30 question multiple choice quiz concerning the total livestock industry.

Classes completed as a team

1. 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. (This may involve live animals depending on availability.)
2. Meat & Carcass Evaluation: Rank one (1) class of four similar retail cuts (50 possible points). Evaluate photos of a carcass and also price carcasses using a grid (75 possible points).
3. 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.
4. Evaluation of Performance & Marketing Information: Evaluate performance information on a group of livestock and then use the information given to make the best marketing decisions.
5. Livestock Feeding: 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.

Possible Resources for Study

1. University of Kentucky - Livestock Calculations for Skill-a-thon Contests - http://www.uky.edu/Ag/AnimalSciences/4h/livestockcalculationspublication.pdf

2. Ohio State University Learning Lab Kits are available at the Ohio State website or by contacting Communications and Technology Media Distribution (614) 292-1607 or go to the "contact us" on their website to order.

3. SID – Sheep Industry Development Sheep Production Handbook. The 7th edition was published by the American Sheep Industry Association, Inc. at 6911 South Yosemite Street, Centennial, Colorado, 80112. 303-771-3500. For more info contact: info@sheepusa.org or http://www.sheepusa.org/

4. National Pork Producers

5. University of Nebraska Meat Identification page http://animalscience.unl.edu/meats/id/

6. Beef Chart from North American Meat Processors Association

7. Oklahoma State University Breed Identification page http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/

8. University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Agripedia http://www.ca.uky.edu/agripedia/agmania/