

NATIONAL 4-H LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON CONTEST

Monday, November 18, 2024

Superintendent - Dr. Rosie Nold

Board of Directors, Chair – Matt Gunderson and Vice-Chair – Bonnie Boyden

Assistant Superintendent For Awards – Aaron Fisher

General Rules for 4-H National Livestock Judging, Skillathon and Quiz Bowl

RESPONSIBILITY

The National Youth Livestock Contests endorses and supports the International Association of Fairs and Expositions National Code of Show Ring Ethics ("Code of Ethics"). All contestants and their families agree to abide by this Code of Ethics and all rules and regulations. Each state representative, State 4-H Program Leader and any other designated representative, coach, contestant and their family are responsible for becoming familiar with those sections and abide by those rules and regulations at all times. The purpose of the contest shall encourage all coaches, contestants and their families to maintain a high standard of ethics while competing. Violation of rules and regulations shall lead to penalties for contestants and possibly their coach and/or team which may include disqualification, barring from future contests, removal of awards and reporting the infraction to the North American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers' Association (NALSARMA).

LIABILITY

It is understood that all persons participating in the National Youth Livestock Contests, whether participating as a contestant, parent/guardian of a contestant, coach, or in any other capacity, acting on behalf of themselves, their principals, their agents or employees, agree to make no claim against the National Youth Livestock Contests, any official or anyone acting by, for or through them or any of them, for loss, damage or injury to any property, animal or person resulting from any cause.

ADMINISTRATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

The National Youth Livestock Contests reserves to its Executive Committee, Management Committee and Contest Superintendent the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of or connected with or incident to a Contest, and the right to amend or add to these rules as its judgment may determine.

ENTRIES

THE NATIONAL YOUTH LIVESTOCK CONTESTS RESERVES THE ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO REJECT ENTIRELY OR ACCEPT CONDITIONALLY ANY ENTRY OR APPLICATION FOR ENTRY OR TO WITHDRAW CLASSIFICATION AND PRIZES IN ANY CONTEST UPON THE CLOSING OF ENTRIES WHENEVER IT, IN ITS SOLE JUDGMENT, DETERMINES THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF NATIONAL YOUTH LIVESTOCK CONTESTS (SPECIFIC INFORMATION IS PRINTED IN THE FOLLOWING SECTION).

REJECTION OF ENTRY/DISQUALIFICATION

OVERRIDING RULE

- Contestants, by submission of an entry or application, expressly acknowledge that there is no right, whether constitutional, statutory, or otherwise, to participate or compete in the National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon & Quiz Bowl).
- Contestants, by submission of an entry or application, expressly acknowledge that all procedures and remedies set forth in the rules applicable to decisions to reject entries or disqualify contestants are the sole and exclusive procedures and remedies available to the contestant. Further, contestants, parents/guardians of contestants, coaches, and all other persons participating in the National Youth Livestock Contests in any capacity whatsoever, waive any and every right to challenge, question, or contest any and all actions or inactions, rules, regulations, deadlines and schedule for the National Youth Livestock Contests, and, to the fullest extent permitted by law, contestants, parents/guardians of contestants, coaches, and all other persons participating in the National Youth Livestock Contests in any capacity whatsoever, will not now or at any time in the future pursue any legal action of any kind, nature, and character whatsoever against the National Youth Livestock Contests or its Executive Committee, Management Committee, Contest Superintendent, or any other parties affiliated with the National Youth Livestock Contests, or cause or knowingly permit any such legal action to be pursued in any federal, state, or municipal court, administrative agency, arbitral forum, or other tribunal, arising out of any of the matters covered by the rules.
- Contestants, by submission of an entry or application, expressly acknowledge that submission of an entry to the National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon & Quiz Bowl) be treated as consent to the following:
 - a. National Youth Livestock Contests reserves the absolute right and discretion to submit the name of a disqualified contestant to whomever it chooses, including, but not limited to, the North American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers' Rule Infraction Database (the "database"), any appropriate governmental agencies or authorities, and representatives from any State 4-H Office, other livestock contest, exposition or fair.
 - b. National Youth Livestock Contests reserves the absolute right and discretion to use any means deemed necessary to obtain information from the database and/or any other State 4-H Office, college, university, livestock contest, exposition or fair regarding any contestant submitting an entry to the National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon & Quiz Bowl). Information requested may include, but is not limited to, decisions to disqualify or withhold an entry acceptance from the contestant in a prior contest.
 - c. National Youth Livestock Contests reserves the absolute right and discretion to reject an entry submitted by or disqualify a contestant from competition if he or she has been disqualified from competition in any other livestock contest, show, exposition or fair, or has had a premium withheld or withdrawn by any other livestock contest, show, exposition or fair, for any reason, including, but not limited to, rules infraction, misrepresentation or fraud.

REJECTED ENTRIES

- The responsibility for making proper entry rests upon the contestant, coach, state representative

and/or their respective State 4-H Office. **All entries must be submitted at the State 4-H Office prior to deadline for the state representative's and State 4-H Program Leader's signatures.**

- Any rejected entries will be returned to the contestant with a written explanation regarding reasons for rejection.
- If the coach believes additional information may warrant reconsideration of the decision to reject an entry, the coach must submit a written request for reconsideration, to include a detailed explanation of why the entry should be reconsidered, and, where appropriate, documentation supporting the explanation. The request for reconsideration must be received by the respective Contest (Judging, Skillathon, Quiz Bowl), within 48 hours of the received date of emailing of the rejection of entry notification from the Superintendent. **DECISIONS REGARDING RECONSIDERATION WILL BE MADE IN THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH LIVESTOCK CONTESTS AND SHALL BE FINAL.** The coach will be promptly notified in writing of the final determination.

DISQUALIFICATION

- Contestants, parents/guardians, and coaches who fail to comply with any and all rules, regulations, deadlines and schedules are subject to premium cancellation, disqualification from current and future participation in the National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon & Quiz Bowl), and/or other third parties, including governmental authorities where appropriate.
- Following a determination that a contestant has been disqualified for a rule infraction, that state's coach shall receive written notification of the determination to include an explanation of the reasons for the determination and any resulting disciplinary action.
- If the coach believes additional information may warrant re-examination of the decision, he or she may submit a request for reconsideration. The request for reconsideration shall be in writing, and must include a detailed explanation of why the decision should be reviewed, and, where appropriate, documentation supporting the explanation. All reconsideration requests must be received within 48 hours if seven (7) days prior to the event; 24 hours if within seven (7) days of the event; and within 60 minutes of notification on the day of the contest. **DECISIONS REGARDING RECONSIDERATION WILL BE MADE IN THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH LIVESTOCK CONTESTS AND SHALL BE FINAL.** The coach will be promptly notified in writing of the final determination.
- Direct criticism or interference with the committee member, volunteer, official, judge, fair or livestock contest management, other contestants, breed representatives, or event officials from the contestant, contestant's parents/guardians, contestants extended family or coach before, during, or after the contest is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock contest management, or other contest officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.

MAKING ENTRY

The responsibility for making proper entry rests upon the coach. **All entries must be submitted at the State 4-H Office prior to deadline for the state representative's and State 4-H Program Leader's**

signatures. Any and all entries submitted following the applicable deadline will be automatically and immediately rejected, and such entries will not receive a refund in any amount for any fees paid in connection therewith. All official entry forms that are physically submitted to the State 4-H Office must be completed using blue ink pens, not pencils. All official entry forms that are submitted to the State 4-H Office via email, or any other electronic medium, must be submitted as full-color copies to confirm the use of a blue ink color in completing the forms. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, any signature present on an official entry form will be treated in all respects as having the same force and effect as an original manual signature, and all persons shall be entitled to conclusively rely upon the validity and authenticity of such signature, so long as such signature is in one of the following forms: (a) an original manual signature; (b) a scanned or photocopied manual signature in full-color; or (c) any other electronic signature permitted by applicable law that is a true representation of the signatory's actual signature (including, without limitation, an electronic signature affixed to an official entry form through an electronic signature system such as DocuSign).

FRAUD

The National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee reserves the right to withhold the awards and premiums in any case in which it shall appear that the regulations have not been complied with, or that fraud or deception has been practiced or attempted. Ribbons, medals and prizes awarded shall be forfeited.

SEVERABILITY

If any portion, provision, or part of the rules are held, determined or adjudicated by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, unenforceable, void or voidable for any reason whatsoever, each such portion, provision or part shall be severed from the remaining portions, provisions or parts of these rules, and such determination or adjudication shall not affect the validity or enforceability of such remaining portions, provisions, or parts.

GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

In the event that any legal action of any kind, nature, and character whatsoever is pursued pursuant to a dispute arising under, or relating in any manner to, the rules, the rules shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Nebraska, without regard to its conflict of law principles, and the parties to such legal action shall submit to the jurisdiction and venue of the federal courts located in the State of Nebraska and the state courts located in Sarpy County, Nebraska.

FORCE MAJEURE AND GOVERNMENTAL REGULATION

In view of the fact that the National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee d.b.a. National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon, Quiz Bowl) ("The Contest") is a non-profit corporation depending to a great degree upon the contributions and services of a substantial number of donors and volunteers, the National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee deems it appropriate and prudent to be excused from liability, as set forth below in this paragraph, in the event of early cancellation of its events, operations and activities by reason of force majeure and/or governmental regulation. Accordingly, the following shall apply to the operations and activities conducted by the National Youth Livestock Contests.

Force Majeure

The National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee shall not be liable for any delay or failure

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to perform its operations, activities, contests and events to the extent such delay or failure results from a force majeure occurrence. A force majeure occurrence is defined as any occurrence arising from causes beyond the reasonable control of the National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee and National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon, Quiz Bowl) which delays or prevents performance by the otherwise required by this Agreement, including but not limited to any (i) breakage or accident to equipment, machinery or facilities; (ii) any strikes, lock-outs or other labor difficulties; (iii) statutes, ordinances, regulations, orders or rules issued by governmental authorities; (iv) judicial decrees or orders; (v) acts of God; (vi) animal diseases and/or quarantines; (vii) wars, riots or insurrections; (viii) civil disobediences, public demonstrations or sabotage; (ix) fires, floods, explosions or inclement weather; (x) inability to obtain necessary labor, materials, supplies, utilities or transportation; (xi) depressions, recessions or other economic downturns; (xii) embargoes or energy shortages; or (xiii) other causes beyond the National Youth Livestock Contests reasonable control.

Governmental Regulation

The National Youth Livestock Contests Management Committee and National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon, Quiz Bowl) shall not be liable for any delay or failure to perform its operations, activities, contests and events to the extent such delay or failure results from the National 4-H Livestock Contests (Judging, Skillathon, Quiz Bowl) good faith compliance with applicable governmental statutes, ordinances, regulations, orders, rules or other directives, including but not limited to compliance with governmental directives concerning public health and safety, animal disease prevention, detection and response (including animal quarantine and/or destruction) and protection of the environment.

SKILLATHON CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS

ENTRY

Each state is invited to enter one team of up to four members. 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. The team members will be selected in a manner determined by the State 4-H Program Leader. The contestants must be certified by the State 4-H Program Leader or their written appointed designee on entry blanks filed with the contest superintendent and the North American International Livestock Exposition by October 15th. **NO LATE OR INCOMPLETE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. (ACCEPTED ENTRIES ARE DEEMED SUBMITTED WHEN ALL REQUIRED ENTRY MATERIALS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE HAVING ALL COMPLETED INFORMATION.)**

An entry fee of \$400.00 must be paid to *National Youth Livestock Contests*. Refer to the website – youthlivestockcontests.org for acceptable payment methods.

Each state that enters a team is responsible for medical/accident insurance for all members of their team while traveling to and from the NAILE and during the National 4-H Contest and other events associated with the NAILE.

CONTESTANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Contestants must be bona fide 4-H Club members approved by the 4-H Program Leaders of their respective states. State 4-H Program Leaders are responsible for determining the eligibility of participants in the National Contest from their respective states.
2. Each contestant must have passed his or her 14th birthday and cannot have passed his or her 19th birthday by January 1st of the current year.
3. Contestants shall not have competed previously in any official post-secondary (collegiate) livestock quiz bowl or livestock quadrathlon contest.
4. Contestants who have served as an official team member in the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon contest are ineligible to compete a second time.
5. Participants are allowed to compete in more than one national 4-H livestock-related contest at NAILE, including livestock judging, livestock skillathon, and/or livestock quiz bowl; however, posted schedules for contests will not be modified to accommodate multiple contest competition.
6. Communication regarding the contest and any request shall be received from the state team coach and/or state program leader only.
7. If the coach and/or state program leader believes additional information may warrant reconsideration of a decision made by the contest superintendent or management committee, the coach/program leader must submit a written request with a \$250.00 fee to the contest superintendent, and Board of Directors chair and vice chair to initiate reconsideration. There will be no refund of said fee unless ruled in favor of the protest. At that time, the fee will be fully refunded. Cash and digital transfers only.

METHOD OF CONDUCT

(Any amendment to the “Method of Conduct” section sent to State 4-H Leaders and/or their delegated contacts by July 1, 2024, will be in effect for the 2024 contest.)

1. A coaches meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 17 in the Crowne Plaza, Louisville Airport Hotel, Meeting Room. At that time, the program will be explained, and contest instructions will be given. Coaches should be prepared to check names, addresses, and ages of their contestants.
2. All contestants and coaches will report to the East Hall of the Exposition Center on Monday, November 18 by 1:00 p.m., where they will receive final instructions for the remainder of the contest.
3. No contestant shall wear any clothing, pins, or badges that will in any way reveal his/her identity or the state that he/she represents. The contest will be held inside. The contest may involve a minimal amount of animal handling. No hats are to be worn.
4. All electronic communication devices of any kind are prohibited. Contestants should remove these devices prior to the start of the contest. If a contestant's phone should ring, or if they are discovered using such electronic devices during the contest, the contestant and their team may be disqualified. Contestants may use a blank steno pad or a clipboard and blank paper. The contestants may not bring 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 prior to the contest. Simple calculators will be provided at stations where they have been deemed helpful/necessary by the officials. Violators are subject to contest dismissal and disqualification.
5. 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.
6. The contest will be divided into two rounds. In the first round of the contest, one group will participate in the team-oriented classes while the other group will complete the individual competitor classes of the contest. In the second round, the two large groups will switch areas of competition. Rotations and/or group assignments may be changed due to participant numbers and/or NAILE schedules.
7. 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 15 minutes to complete each individual competition class.
8. Team members will complete one official answer sheet for each team exercise, representing the combined effort of all team members. Teams will be allowed 18 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.
9. Coaches are invited to review contest materials in the contest area at the conclusion of the contest at approximately 5:00 p.m.
10. The contest awards will be presented in conjunction during the joint awards breakfast of the National 4-H Livestock Judging, Quiz Bowl and Skillathon Contests. The awards breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, November 20 at the North American International Livestock Exposition. It is advised to arrive at least a half-hour to one-hour early to get team photos taken and get a table.

CONTEST CLASSES

The following is a list of common Skillathon classes. The committee will make all reasonable efforts to adhere to these descriptions but reserves the right to make adjustments and deviate from this list due to unforeseen circumstances.

Classes completed as an individual:

1. **Livestock Equipment Identification:** (60 possible points) Identify the proper name for pieces of equipment used in livestock production.
2. **Livestock Breed Identification:** (60 possible points) Identify from photographs or pictures livestock (beef cattle, swine, sheep and goat (non-dairy)) breeds. Contestants must also match the breed with the most appropriate description supplied for each breed.
3. **Retail meat cut identification:** (60 possible points) Identify beef, lamb, and pork retail cuts from the National 4-H Meat Judging Retail ID List. Contestants will identify the retail cut species, primal cut, and retail cut name.
4. **Wool Judging Class:** Rank a class of four wool samples with analysis information (40 possible points). Answer up to 10 questions about the class (20 possible points).
5. **Hay Judging Class:** Rank a class of four hay samples with analysis information (40 possible points). Answer up to 10 questions about the class (20 possible points).
6. **Quality Assurance Exercise:** (60 possible points) Example tasks include: demonstrate how to read a medicine label, calculate withdrawal times, complete a treatment record, and make responsible management decisions regarding quality assurance.
7. **Quiz:** (60 possible points) Complete a 30-question multiple choice quiz concerning the total livestock industry.

Total possible individual points = 420

Classes completed as a team:

1. **Quality Assurance Exercise:** (100 possible points) 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 & Marketing:** (100 possible points) May include ranking one (1) class of four similar retail cuts, evaluate photos of carcasses and also price carcasses using a grid.
3. **Animal Breeding Scenario and Exercise:** (100 possible points) Team members will evaluate a breeding 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. May include questions on adjusted weaning weights or other common measures of breeding livestock performance. May include an oral presentation.
4. **Management, Performance & Marketing Problem(s):** (100 possible points) Determine best options for management and marketing of livestock (e.g., should producers sell calves at weaning, retain ownership through feedlot, combination), when provided with information on markets and performance to evaluate. Verbally defend decisions.
5. **Livestock Feeding:** (100 possible points) 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.
6. **Reproduction:** (100 possible points) Identify reproductive tract organs and functions and/or reproductive management equipment for livestock species. Demonstrate common reproductive management techniques such as artificial insemination or use of CIDRs.

Possible point total for team classes = 600

AWARDS: Individual and team awards will be given in divisions of Evaluation, Identification, Quality Assurance and Overall. Point totals and awards are determined as follows:

1. Individual Identification: Sum of individual 1) Equipment ID, 2) Breeds ID, and 3) Retail meat ID. Tie-breakers: 1) Retail meat ID, 2) Breed ID, 3) Equipment ID
2. Individual Evaluation: Sum of individual 1) Wool judging, 2) Wool questions, 3) Hay judging, and 4) Hay questions. Tie-breakers: 1) Wool questions, 2) Hay questions, 3) Overall individual total.
3. Individual Quality Assurance: Sum of individual 1) Quality Assurance and 2) Quiz. Tie-breakers: 1) Quiz, 2) Quality Assurance, 3) Overall individual total
4. Individual Overall Total: Sum of individual 1) Identification, 2) Evaluation, and 3) Quality Assurance. Tie-breakers: 1) Individual quality assurance, 2) Quiz, and 3) Retail meat ID.
5. Team Identification: Sum of top three individual ID scores for team. Tie-breakers: 1) Team equipment ID, 2) Team Breed ID, 3) Team Retail meat ID.
6. Team Evaluation: Sum of top three individual Evaluation scores for team plus team exercise scores for Animal Breeding, Livestock Feeding, Reproduction, Management-Performance-Marketing, and Meats-Carcass Evaluation. Tiebreakers: 1) Livestock feeding team exercise score, 2) Meat and carcass evaluation team exercise score, 3) Management-performance-marketing team exercise score.
7. Team Quality Assurance: Sum of top three individual quality assurance scores plus team Quality Assurance score. Tie-breakers: 1) Quality Assurance team exercise score, 2) Individual quality assurance (not quiz) scores of top three team members, 3) Overall team score.
8. Overall Team: Sum of top three individual scores plus all team exercise scores. Tiebreakers: 1) Team ID score, 2) Team Quality Assurance score (top three individual Quality assurance section scores plus Quality Assurance team exercise score, 3) Team Evaluation score (top three individual evaluation section scores plus team evaluation activities).
9. The records tabulated and submitted by the Superintendent to the Secretary-Manager of the North American International Livestock Exposition shall be final, once they have been publicly announced.

SUPERINTENDENT

1. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to see that all rules and regulations of the contest are followed. He/she shall determine the answers to all questions which may arise in connection with the interpretation of the rules governing the contest.
2. The Superintendent shall have contest committee members and helpers to assist with contest management.
3. The Superintendent shall take charge of all records and shall have all scores tabulated and totaled.
4. All decisions by the Superintendent, Chair and/or Board of Directors shall be deemed final and shall not be further challenged.

CONTEST HELP

Any helpers, clerks, assistants and attendants, etc. shall be under the direction of the Superintendent. They shall carry out all assignments in an orderly manner; and no contest helpers shall confer with a contestant, contest committee, contest's official Judges, or anyone from the public or other coaches while serving in their official contest capacity unless directed by the Superintendent.

**CONTESTANTS AND TEAMS ~~WILL~~ BE SUBJECT TO DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE
CONTEST FOR INFRACTIONS OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

ENTRY MATERIALS due by October 15th:

- 1) **State Entry Form** – with all the required signatures (State 4-H Program Leaders/Directors and Coaches), youth and coaches' information.
- 2) **Signed National 4-H Livestock Contest Code of Ethics for coaches.**
- 3) **An entry fee of \$400.00 must be paid to the National Youth Livestock Contests.**

All forms and required materials must be sent to Contest Superintendent Rosie Nold. If online payment is used, please include a copy of the receipt. You may email materials (other than a check) to rosemarie.nold@sdstate.edu. Please include a subject line of "National Livestock Skillathon Entry – *Your State*".

If checks are used for payment, the check must be sent to: Rosie Nold, Animal Science Department, P.O. Box 2170, SDSU, Brookings, SD 57007. Sending hard copies of other materials is appreciated but not required.

Failure to submit all entry materials by the deadline shall deem the state's entry incomplete and thus ineligible to compete in that year's National 4-H Skillathon Contest.

WEBSITE FOR CONTEST INFORMATION

Youthlivestockcontests.org

If you have questions or desire additional information, please contact the Superintendent, Dr. Rosie Nold at rosemarie.nold@sdstate.edu or 605-688-5459 (office) or 605-592-6194 (cell).