SKLLATHON RULES

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GENERAL INFORMATION

A Skillathon is an event to test knowledge of specific subject matter using the experiential learning model of exploring, reflecting and applying that knowledge. Skillathons are created from materials directly or modified from Learning Laboratory Kits, information provided in the Ohio 4-H Animal Resource Books, and other resources, along with input from industry experts.

Each Skillathon is comprised of four educational and challenging stations. Certain species Skillathons offer different age-appropriate stations, such as junior, intermediate and senior. Youth move from station to station, attempting to perform the tasks they are given. A facilitator is present at each station to offer directions without helping the exhibitor perform the station tasks or offering answers. Station scores are recorded by each facilitator, and entered into a computer program that calculates each youth's placing. Winners are announced at the species' awards ceremonies.

RULES

1. All Skillathons are open to any Ohio 4-H member, age 8 and in the 3rd grade or age 9 and in any grade to age 18 as of January 1, 2021, and FFA members. Therefore, 4-H and FFA members turning 19 on or before December 31, 2020 are too old to participate in the Skillathons. Youth are not required to be exhibitors at the Ohio State Fair to participate.

2. There are 10 age classes – 8/9 year-olds through 18 year-olds. A parent/guardian, or responsible adult, **MUST** sign the youth's Skillathon form at the Skillathon registration table verifying the youth is in the correct age class **BEFORE** the youth can participate in the Skillathon. If it is determined at the completion of the Skillathon that an exhibitor was entered in the wrong age class, the exhibitor will be disqualified from the competition and not eligible for placings or awards. **Parents/guardians:** Verify with your county Extension professional your child's correct 4-H age, as this is the basis for age classification.

3. Once a youth registers for the Skillathon, s/he should expect to go through the line when called. Once a youth enters the Skillathon judging area, s/he **CANNOT** leave. If s/he leaves, s/he forfeits any further participation in that respective species Skillathon.

4. Skillathon participants are not permitted to bring study materials or electronic devices such as cell phones into the Skillathon judging area.

5. Participants will be required to sign the back of their score sheet upon completion.

6. Ties for overall Skillathon awards and age class placings will be broken by the following procedure:
   1st: Skillathon Station No. 2 score;
   2nd: Skillathon Station No. 3 score;
   3rd: Skillathon Station No. 4 score;
   4th: Within age group Skillathon Station No. 1;
   5th: Total score of common Skillathon Stations;
   6th: Scoring segments within stations (same order – Station 2, 3, 4, and 1); and
   7th: An additional test may be administered.

7. The four station categories for each species will be posted around June 15 at *www.go.osu.edu/osfskillathons* on the respective species' Skillathon page.

8. Complaints must be submitted in the form of an email by August 31 to the State 4-H Office at 4HAnimalScience@osu.edu.

Poultry, Goat, Sheep, Swine, and Beef Participants

9. Specifically for Poultry, Goat, Sheep, Swine, and Beef **in-person** Skillathon participants (Outstanding Market Exhibitor [OME]-eligible Skillathons). For the possibility of achieving the maximum potential score on the records section of a Skillathon, youth must bring their current year's completed record book. A separate award will also be given to the outstanding record book from each age class.

10. Youth participating as 4-H members:
    a. Must bring their up-to-date species record books (Beef #117; Goat #135, Swine #139 or #140; Poultry #150; Sheep #198 or #199).
    b. Copies of 4-H record books will **NOT** be accepted. 4-H record books other than the official Ohio 4-H record books listed above will **NOT** be accepted.
    c. Project and record books **MUST** be intact. Book pages **CANNOT** be separated and/or placed loose or in sheet protectors in a binder. The project and record books may be put into a binder if additional pages are added.
    d. 4-H project and record books will be allowed no more than ten (10) additional sheets of paper (single- or double-sided), and those pages must pertain directly to activities or records required for the book. These additional sheets may be placed in the binder at the youth's discretion – either before or after the intact project and record book. Youth will be ineligible for the Outstanding Record Book award if more than ten additional sheets are added, although they will still receive points towards their Skillathon score.

11. Youth participating as FFA members:
    a. Must bring an up-to-date Single Experience Report from AET.com, Animal Enterprise Record Book, or Farm Account Book for each species entered. Other record books that contain equivalent record keeping information permitted by FFA are also acceptable.

b. FFA books will be allowed no more than ten (10) additional sheets of paper (single- or double-sided), and those pages must pertain directly to activities or records required for the book. These additional sheets may be placed in the binder at the youth's discretion – either before or after the books. Youth will be ineligible for the Outstanding Record Book award if more than ten additional sheets are added, although they will still receive points towards their Skillathon score.

12. Judging criteria will include evidence of current and up-to-date records, completeness, accurate calculations, legibility, and how well the book reflects sound production and management practices. Interviews may be required for finalists.

SKILLATHON DATES & SUPERINTENDENTS

Dog
Monday, June 28, 9:00am – 4:00pm
VIRTUAL ONLY
Sonja Hyer

Horse
Wednesday, July 22, 10:00am – 3:00pm
Voinovich Livestock Center Mezzanine (2nd floor)
Debbie Manring & Janessa Hill

Rabbits
Friday, July 30, 10:00am – 2:00pm
Rabbit/Poultry Pavilion
Vicki Bogan & Travis West

Dairy Cattle
Monday, August 2, 12:00 – 4:00pm
Voinovich Livestock Center Mezzanine (2nd floor)
Maurice Eastridge & Sherry Smith

Poultry
Wednesday, August 4, 4:00pm – 8:00 pm
Rabbit/Poultry Pavilion
Becky Barker & Sara Lucha

Swine
Thursday, August 5, 9:00am – 1:00pm
Voinovich Livestock Center Mezzanine (2nd floor)
Kevin Kremer, Andrea Rees, & Dale Ricker

Sheep
Thursday, August 5, 3:00pm – 7:00pm
Brown Arena Wool Room
Tracy Dendinger, Jeanne Osborne, &
Amanda Wenner

Goat
Friday, August 6, 9:00am – 12:00pm
Voinovich Livestock Center Mezzanine (2nd floor)
James Maynard, Dallas Miller, & Dawn Wallace

Beef
Friday, August 6, 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Voinovich Livestock Center Mezzanine (2nd floor)
Steve Boyles & Garth Ruff

Possible Skillathon Station Topics may include:
Quality Assurance; Breed I.D.; Nutrition; Animal Identification; Genetics; Meat Cut I.D.; Selection & Evaluation; Systems – Reproductive, Digestive, Nervous, Vascular, Skeletal, etc.; Animal Welfare and Handling – Housing, Environment, Health Care, etc.; Breeding; Diseases and/or Parasites

Visit *www.go.osu.edu/osfskillathons* and click on the respective species' Skillathon page for specific study resources and topics to study.

AWARDS

All participants will receive a respective species' Skillathon pin and a participation ribbon sponsored by the **Ohio State Fair**. Youth in each age class will receive 1st through 10th place ribbons sponsored by the **Ohio State Fair**.

The top three youth in each age class (8/9-18) will receive a monetary award from the **Youth Reserve Program**. This amount varies from year to year and will be announced during each Skillathon awards ceremony.

Each age winner and the overall Skillathon champion or age-group champion will receive awards sponsored by **Cooper Farms** and the **Ohio State Fair**.

VIRTUAL SKILLATHON
For rules and entry information, please go to: www.go.osu.edu/osfskillathons . Virtual Skillathons do not exclude a youth exhibitor from also participating at in-person Skillathons.

Please note that those participating in OMEs must attend an **in-person** Skillathon to be eligible for that award.

DATES

Session 1
Monday, June 28, 9:00am – 4:00pm
Dog, Horses

Session 2
Tuesday, June 29, 9:00am – 4:00pm
Goats, Sheep, Alpacas & Llamas

Session 3
Wednesday, June 30, 9:00am – 4:00pm
Dairy, Beef, Swine

Session 4
Thursday, July 1, 9:00am – 4:00pm
Poultry, Rabbit, Cavy