VIRTUAL BREEDING SKLLATHON RULES

SUPERINTENDENTS

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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 within the allotted time. A facilitator is present at each station to offer directions without helping the exhibitor perform the station tasks or offering answers.

RULES

1. In-person virtual 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, 2023, and any Ohio FFA member **exhibiting a breeding animal of that species** at the Ohio State Fair. Therefore, 4-H and FFA members turning 19 on or before December 31, 2022, are too old to participate in the Skillathons.

2. Youth are required to be breeding exhibitors at the Ohio State Fair in the specific species Skillathon for which they register in order to participate. The virtual Skillathon is specifically available for Goat, Sheep, Swine, and Beef exhibitors as part of the Outstanding Breeding Exhibitor (OBE) awards. All other interested youth should participate in the **in-person** Skillathons (please see the **IN-PERSON SKILLATHON RULES**) for more information on that contest.

3. There are 10 age classes – 8/9-year-olds through 18-year-olds. A parent/guardian, or responsible adult, **MUST** verify the youth's age at the time of Skillathon registration. 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.

4. Virtual Skillathon participation **does not qualify a youth participant for outstanding market exhibitor awards** at the Ohio State Fair. This is a separate event, and you must compete in person at the Ohio State Fair to qualify for OME awards. Youth who participate in the Virtual Skillathons are still eligible to participate at the in-person Ohio State Fair Skillathons, even within the same species.

5. Once a youth begins a quiz on the Skillathon, they **CANNOT** leave or start over. If they leave, the youth forfeits any further participation in that respective species Skillathon.

6. Skillathon participants are not permitted to use study materials or electronic devices (including but not limited to cell phones or smart watches) during the Skillathon testing time.

7. Skillathons will be proctored on-site at the Ohio State Fair. Times available to participate in the Skillathon will be on a first-come basis during the time ranges listed below:

Dates / Times
- July 18th 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm- Goat Skillathon
- July 24th 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm- Beef Skillathon
- July 28th 8:00 am – 1:00 pm- Swine Skillathon
- July 28th 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm- Beef Skillathon
- July 31st 10:00 am – 1:00 pm- Sheep Skillathon
- August 2nd 10:00 am – 1:00 pm- Sheep Skillathon

Skillathon Superintendents
- Goat – Dawn Wallace, James Maynard, and Dr. Braden Campbell
- Beef – Dr. Steve Boyles, Garth Ruff, and Jamie Stacy
- Sheep – Jeanne Osborne, Tracy Dendinger, and Jacci Smith
- Swine – Andrea Rees, Kevin Kremer, and Kelly Morgan

8. There will be 4 stations in each Skillathon that will make up 4 separate, timed modules. Each station will have a time limit (typically 5 minutes per station). 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. Any specific rules for an individual species will be outlined on the testing site.

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

9. Accommodations (e.g. timing, reading assistance, etc.) are available upon receiving formal documentation of needs. Facilitators will do their best to accommodate a youth member's specific needs as documented. To best accommodate youth, please bring a copy of a Winning 4-H Plan, IEP, or other appropriate and current documentation related to the program (4-H or FFA) the youth is representing with the youth to the event. If your child requires any testing accommodations, please

contact us in advance at 4hanimalscience@osu.edu to help expedite assistance during the testing window.

10. 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.

11. Photographing or video recording of stations is strictly forbidden and may result in the disqualification of associated youth participants.

12. Results will be posted for each age category, age division, and overall, after the Skillathon is completed.

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