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Contest Date and Time: Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 10:00am to 12:00pm

Contest Location: Agriculture Center

Entry Deadline: Friday, March 22, 2019 by 5 pm through online entry. This was sent to clubs on Friday, March 8, 2019.

Livestock Skill-A-Thon

The Maricopa County Fair Skill-A-Thon is a hands-on competition that rewards livestock exhibitors who possess the skills and knowledge to raise production livestock in an efficient and humane environment. The contest is open to Maricopa County 4H, FFA, or Open club members. Entry in the junior livestock show is not required. Participants compete within multiple, age-appropriate categories that may include the following: genetics, livestock anatomy, livestock nutrition, livestock equipment, meat processing, wholesale/retail cut identification, meats evaluation, livestock quality assurance, analysis of EPDs, evaluation of wool fleeces, hay judging, judging livestock performance, and using common calculations to measure animal performance and profitability.

Contest Format

1. This contest is for both teams and individuals. Clubs/chapters are not limited to the number of teams or individuals they can enter.
2. Teams consist of three or four members. In teams of four all four members will compete, but the member receiving the lowest score overall score will be declared the alternate and the scores of the alternate will not be included in the team total. The alternate will still be part of the individual awards and will receive any awards that the team may receive. Teams consisting of three members will have no alternate and all members' scores will count in determining individual and team awards.
3. Teams and individuals may be entered in either the junior or senior division.
 - a. Junior team members or individuals must be 9 years of age by January 1, 2019 and not 14 years of age or older by January 1, 2019
 - b. Senior team members or individuals must be 14 years of age by January 1, 2019 and not 19 years of age or older by January 1, 2019.
4. Each division will consist of individual and team rotations. The divisions are required to complete the following:
 - a. Junior Team: two team rotations and three individual rotations plus a test
 - b. Senior Team: two team rotations and three individual rotations plus a test
 - c. Junior and Senior Individuals: three individual rotations plus a test
5. Class rotation subject matter will change from year to year. Contest classes will post prior to the entry dead line.

Contest Classes for 2019

The following is a list of Skill-A-Thon rotations for the 2019 Maricopa County Fair. Please refer to the resource guide for study material.

Class rotations completed as an individual:

Junior Individuals

1. **Livestock Equipment Identification:** Identify the proper name and use of pieces of livestock equipment used in livestock production.
2. **Livestock Breed Identification:** Identify from photographs or livestock portraits the breeds of beef cattle, sheep, swine, or goats.
3. **Livestock Feeding:** Identify the proper name for livestock feeds and identify each corresponding nutrient group. Develop a feeding plan for beef, swine, meat goat or lamb.
4. **Test:** Complete a 30-question multiple choice test concerning the total livestock industry.

Senior Individuals

1. **Livestock Equipment Identification:** Identify the proper name and use of pieces of livestock equipment used in livestock production.
2. **Livestock Breed Identification:** Identify from photographs or livestock portraits the breeds of beef cattle, sheep, swine, or goats.
3. **Retail meat cut identification:** Identify beef, lamb, and pork retail cuts. Contestants will identify the retail cut species, primal cut, and retail cut name.
4. **Test:** Complete a 30-question multiple choice test concerning the total livestock industry

Class rotations completed as a team:

Junior Teams

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 management decisions regarding quality assurance.

Senior Teams

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 management decisions regarding quality assurance.
2. **Livestock Feeding:** Develop a feeding plan for beef, swine, meat goat or lamb when given a feed label and feeding scenario.

Study material for the skill-a-thon can be found on the Arizona National Livestock Show Skill-A-Thon website, www.anls.org/skill-a-thon