

# 2023 Livestock Skillathon

The 2023 Livestock Skillathon will include two phases. In Phase 1, each participant will complete a written knowledge test with multiple-choice questions about different topics within the livestock industry. In Phase 2, each participant will complete a series of identification stations. Both phases will focus on cumulative knowledge of the five livestock species shown at CYAE: dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine, sheep, and meat goats.

The Livestock Skillathon contest is open to all CYAE participants.

**Scoring:** Each participant will receive a combined score for both phases of the contest.

**Awards:** An award will be given to the top placing exhibitors in each division of the Skillathon.

## **Skillathon Overview:**

The following is a list of common Livestock Skillathon tests. Please note that actual tests may deviate from this list to keep current with a rapidly changing livestock industry.

Junior, Intermediate, and Senior-level versions will be used in each phase.

## **Phase 1 - Topics to Review for Knowledge Test:**

- **General Knowledge:** Average temperatures of each species, names of genders of each specie.
- **Biosecurity:** Indirect transmission of a pathogen, direct transmission of a pathogen
- **Animal Health:** Common diseases and in which species/sex they occur, common causes of diseases and symptoms, diseases commonly found in the U.S., proper age for vaccinations, what causes common illnesses.
- **Breeds:** Maternal breed characteristics and origins, Latin terms for each specie, appearance characteristics, what the breed is known for (i.e., which breed is known for producing a heavy muscled carcass?), maternal breed characteristics, performance traits.
- **Nutrition:** Feedstuffs and classes of nutrients, common feed rations, minerals found in common feeds, characteristics of wheat millings, what are feed by-products, what should be restricted in certain specie diets.
- **Animal Reproduction:** Gestation periods, reproductive anatomy, understand the purpose for common reproductive management techniques such as artificial insemination or use of CIDRs.
- **Carcass Traits:** What determines yield grade, what determines quality grade, what is marbling, from what part of the body do certain meat cuts come.

## **Phase 2 – Review for Identification Stations:**

- **Livestock Equipment Identification:** Identify the proper name and purpose for pieces of equipment used in livestock production.

- **Livestock Breed Identification**: Identify livestock breeds (beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, and non-dairy goats) from pictures. Participants may also be required to match the breed with the most appropriate description supplied for each breed.
- **Retail Meat Cut Identification**: Identify beef, lamb, and pork retail cuts from the National 4-H Meat Judging Retail ID List. Participants will identify the retail cut species, primal cut, and retail cut name.
- **Feed Sample Identification and Hay Evaluation**: Identify major livestock feed ingredients including different grains and hays. Participants may also be asked to identify nutrient category and major composition information. Feed samples and lists of feed names and nutrient groups will be provided.
- **Management**: Example tasks include demonstrate how to read an animal health product label, be familiar with administration routes and animal restraint methods.
- **Reproduction**: Identify reproductive tract organs and functions and/or reproductive management equipment for livestock species.