2025 State Fair of Virginia
Junior Livestock Skillathon Contests

2025 Official Schedule

==Exhibitors ONLY==: *Thursday, October 2ⁿᵈ: 1:00 – 4:00 pm*

==*NON-Exhibitors and Exhibitors*==: *Friday, October 3ʳᵈ: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm*

Awards: Will be announced via a Zoom Awards Presentation on Mon., Oct. 13ᵗʰ at 7:00   https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/88577465832

SUPERINTENDENTS: Dr. Scott Greiner, Katherine Carter, and Hunter Liles –
Virginia Tech Co-Superintendents: Emily Bowman

CONTEST RULES

1. **Each exhibitor of youth livestock at The State Fair of Virginia will be automatically entered in their respective species skillathons** in order to compete in that specie's premier exhibitor program. **Exhibitors should NOT enter via the Non-Exhibitor Entry Form.**

2. Every livestock exhibitor will be allowed to compete in **ONE** additional skillathon contest beyond the specie(s) that they are exhibiting. All exhibitors are automatically entered in the respective skillathons for which they have animal entries. **For livestock exhibitors, no pre-registration is necessary** for the one additional skillathon. Contestant packets will be available during skillathon registration Thursday and Friday mornings at the fair.

3. Each County 4-H or FFA program is allowed to enter non-exhibitors as contestants in each species contest. **Contestants who are not exhibiting livestock may choose TWO species skillathon contests to enter** (i.e. an individual not exhibiting livestock can choose to compete in the goat and beef cattle skillathon, but they are then not allowed to compete in the sheep or swine skillathon contests).

4. Contestants will compete as individuals only, with no team awards given.

5. Students who are not exhibiting livestock at the State Fair are not eligible to compete in skillathon contests if they have competed in the National 4-H Skillathon Contest.

6. **Non-exhibitor contestants must enter using the electronic form at https://tinyurl.com/2025-SFVA-NonExh-Skillathon   prior to Wednesday, September 24th**

7. Exhibitors must be at least 9 years of age by September 30 of the current year and must not have had their 19th birthday before January 1 of current year. Exhibitor eligibility for 4-H youth will be verified using 4HOnline. All 4-H youth wishing to participate must be enrolled via the 4HOnline platform prior to the entry deadline of September 25ᵗʰ. FFA participants will be verified via the State FFA Office using 2024-2025 Chapter Membership Rosters.

8. Age divisions will be broken as follows:
   a. Junior Division – Contestants who are 9-12 years of age on September 30 of current year.
   b. Intermediate Division – Contestants 13-15 years of age on September 30 of current year.
   c. Senior Division – Contestants who were 16 -19 years of age on September 30 of current year, and did not have their 19ᵗʰ birthday prior to January 1, 2025.

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9. There is no entry fee for this contest, however each contestant, coach, and chaperone MUST have a single-day competition ticket purchased directly from the State Fair of Virginia – NonExhibitor Skillathon Participants and Chaperones must purchase a competition ticket at this link.

10. Superintendents of the contest, in cooperation with the contest committees, will be in charge of the contest and conduct it in compliance with these rules and regulations. Superintendents have authority for interpretation of contest rules.

CONDUCT OF CONTEST
1. **For EXHIBITORS** – the contest will run from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Thursday, October 2nd AND from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm on Friday, October 3rd. Exhibitors may work on their various species skillathons during this time frame, **but MUST complete each individual Skillathon in one session**. In other words, once you begin a species Skillathon, you must complete and submit it. **You may not begin a species Skillathon, leave, and then return to finish.** You are allowed to complete one species, go show your livestock, and then return to begin and complete another one. **It is up to each individual exhibitor to manage their schedule and find time to complete each of their species skillathons during the competition times.**

2. **For NON-EXHIBITORS** – the contest will run from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm on Friday, October 3rd. You must complete each species once you start. **Each non-exhibitor participant is limited to TWO species skillathons – these must be designated during the entry process.**

3. Contestants will complete each Skillathon at their own pace and may start anytime during the timeframes which the contests are open. The contest resources will not be available after 4:00 on Thursday and 4:00 on Friday.

4. Contestants will record their answers using the provided Scantron form. ALL Answers for ALL Age Divisions will be recorded and submitted using this method. No contestant will be allowed to take any books, notes, or pamphlets into the contest area. **Each contestant will need a No.2 pencil and clipboard.**

5. While the contest is in session there SHALL BE NO COMMUNICATION among contestants and anyone else, except as directed by the Superintendent or assistants. Cell Phones, smart watches, or other types of electronic communication may not be used by contestants while the contest is in progress. Violators will be penalized by having one or more scores disallowed. Parents, coaches and advisors are NOT allowed in the contest area at any time. Contest Administration will provide readers and assistance as needed or requested.

6. Contestants are NOT allowed to pick up any items associated with the Skillathon. Picking up contest materials/items is grounds for disqualification.

7. Once they begin, each participant must start and complete each species-specific Skillathon before beginning the next one. **Participants will not be allowed to leave the contest area and return while working on the Skillathon.**

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CLASSES

1. The classes for each species will be determined by each respective skillathon committee. Potential classes include those used in a traditional stockmen's contest but are not limited to those classes. A quiz will be included in each species' contest; the quiz will ask questions regarding each particular species.

2. The overall individual ranking shall be determined by adding each contestant's scores for every class.

3. Awards will be announced during the State Fair Youth Livestock Awards Ceremony via Zoom on Monday night, October 13th at 7:00 pm

AWARDS

The Virginia Youth Livestock Program will provide certificates to the Top 10 Individuals in each of the age divisions for the respective species. No premiums and scholarships will be awarded. Awards will be announced during the 2025 State Fair of VA Zoom Awards on October 13th at 7:00 pm at this link:
https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/88577465832