

2015 Lake County Fair Skill-a-thons!

NEW FOR 2015:

- *Currently enrolled 4-H and FFA Members who are showing at least one animal at the fair may compete in any and all skill-a-thons*
- *An award will be given to the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior with the highest combined skill-a-thon scores overall*

The 2012 Skill-a-Thon Theme is NUTRITION and FEEDING

The State Fair Skill-a-Thon Manuals are available online at <http://www.floridastatefairag.com/youth-skilathon-manuals>. **Please note that these are only a guide and our skill-a-thon stations will differ somewhat from those seen at the State Fair.** Nevertheless, each manual contains excellent, concise information and is a wonderful place for you to start studying! Other great study materials can be found online at:

<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/>

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/livestk/01618.html>

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/nutrition>

http://www.merckmanuals.com/vet/management_and_nutrition/nutrition_cattle/nutritional_requirements_of_beef_cattle.html

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_swine_nutrition

<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/~chibale/an12poultryfeeding.pdf>

http://www.merckmanuals.com/vet/exotic_and_laboratory_animals/rabbits/nutrition_of_rabbits.html

http://www.merckmanuals.com/vet/management_and_nutrition/nutrition_goats/nutritional_requirements_of_goats.html

<https://www.boundless.com/biology/textbooks/boundless-biology-textbook/animal-nutrition-and-the-digestive-system-34/digestive-systems-195/vertebrate-digestive-systems-748-11981/>

Of course, one of the best ways to get an edge on the competition is to attend our Skill-a-Thon Overview and Study Session on **Tuesday March 10th** at 6pm (Ag center auditorium). This session will include an overview of material by Ms. Meg and a chance to run through a few practice stations. Everyone is welcome and new members are highly encouraged to participate so they will have an idea of what to expect the following month. This session should serve as an excellent summary of what they have been learning on their own and in their clubs.

PLEASE NOTE

*The pictures/diagrams used in the Lake County Fair Skill-a-thon may not be the exact ones used in the State Fair Skill-a-thon manual or in our office skill-a-thon kits. Please learn to identify breeds, parts etc. and not just memorize a particular diagram or photograph.

*Spelling counts! If the grader can infer what you meant no points will be deducted, however if the answer is misspelled to the point of being unclear it may be marked incorrect. Additionally, if two tests score the same, preference will be given to the one which was spelled more correctly.

*Penmanship is also important; the grader must be able to read your handwriting in order to grade it.

*You will have two minutes at each station. Make sure to read the directions carefully and completely.

*There will be a volunteer available to help with the interpretation of questions. You are allowed to ask them for help reading a question if you need to.

*If you need additional assistance or time at the stations due to a handicap or learning disability, please contact Meg at least a week in advance of the skill-a-thon to make arrangements.

*A tie breaker question(s) will be included as part of the skill-a-thon. Attempting to answer the question will not hurt your score but could help you in the event of a perfect tie. The question(s) is designed to be of a greater difficulty level than the rest of the skill-a-thon but should be attempted if at all possible. There is no designated time to complete this question(s), it should be worked on after completing each station while waiting for time to be called.

The 2015 Stations (for all species) will be as follows:

Station 1: Breed Identification

Juniors: Will be asked to match the name of the breed to a picture

Intermediates: Will be asked to name the breed given a picture

Seniors: Given a description members will be asked to name the breed and match it to the correct picture

Station 2: Parts (digestive anatomy)

Juniors: Will be asked to match the name of the part to the structure in a diagram

Intermediates: Will be asked to name the parts on a diagram

Seniors: Given the function of a part members must correctly name it and locate it on a diagram

Station 3: Problem

Juniors: Will be asked to interpret a basic feed tag

Intermediates: Will be asked to make feeding decisions based on a feed tag

Seniors: Will be asked to formulate a ration using a Pearson Square (a calculator will be available)

Station 4: Misc

Juniors: Will be asked to match the name of a feedstuff to a sample

Intermediates: Will be asked to identify samples of common feedstuff

Seniors: Given the description of a feed, seniors must identify a sample and name it

Suggested Study Topics by Age:

Juniors

- Become familiar with the more common breeds and be able to identify them by sight (know colors, markings, distinctive conformation traits etc.)
- Become familiar with major features of digestive anatomy
- Learn to read a feed tag and know where to find feeding instructions, ingredients, and nutritional analysis.
- Become familiar with common feedstuff (grains, grasses, forages, and weeds)

Intermediates

- Become familiar with all but the rarest breeds and be able to identify them by sight
- Become familiar with digestive anatomy
- Learn to read and analyze a feed tag and to compare one feedstuff to another
- Become familiar with common feedstuff (grains, grasses, forages, and weeds)

Seniors

- Become familiar with both common and less common breeds, know their defining traits, and be able to identify them by sight
- Become familiar with digestive anatomy know the major function of each anatomical structure
- Know how to formulate a simple diet using a Pearson Square
- Become familiar with common feedstuff (grains, grasses, forages, and weeds)

