

## LIVESTOCK SKILLATHONS (Beef, Sheep & Swine)

The livestock skillathons are held in conjunction with their respective species' Area/Region and State Shows. 4-H members learn:

- How to identify various breeds of beef cattle, sheep and swine.
- How to identify a variety of equipment used in livestock management.
- How to apply the proper management techniques to insure food safety and product quality assurance.
- How to identify the forages and feed ingredients used in livestock production.
- How to identify wholesale and retail cuts of meat of the various species.
- How to select quality animals and identify conformation defects.

**Publication(s):** There are no official UT Extension publications on Livestock Skillathons. However, each Region Office may have "Learning Labs" available for loan to counties. Counties may choose to purchase their own Learning Lab Kit from the Curriculum Materials Service of the Ohio State University (<http://www-cms.ag.ohio-state.edu>)  
Other websites containing resource materials include:  
For meats – University of Nebraska  
(<http://animalscience.unl.edu/meats/id/>) or  
University of Kentucky  
(<http://www.ca.uky.edu/agripedia/agmania/meats/>)  
For breeds – Oklahoma State University  
(<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/>)

**Specialist(s):** For Regional Contest: Area 4-H Specialist  
For State Contest: Dr. Dwight Loveday, Food Technology Department  
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### General Rules:

The Regional Contest is computer-based with the participant completing the entire skillathon activity at one laptop computer. The contestants "click" their way through contest and record their answers on a separate answer sheet. The contest consists of five subject matter areas. Topics may include: Breed Identification, Equipment Identification, Meat Identification, Feeds and Feeding, Quality Assurance, Selection and Handling of Livestock. A Wool section may be added to the Sheep Skillathon.

### Area/Region Contest:

The Beef Skillathon is held in conjunction with the Area/Region Beef Expo and the Sheep Skillathon is held with the Area/Region Sheep Expo. Where applicable, a Swine Skillathon is held with the Region Swine Show. Check the Region calendar for date and location.

### State Contest:

A Beef and Sheep Skillathon is offered at each of their respective State Expos. A Swine Herdsman Contest is offered at the State Jr. Market Hog Show. Contestants visit five stations and complete tasks related to livestock management and selection. Possible topics are listed under General Rules. At the State Skillathon competition, there are five contestant divisions: Explorer, Junior, Junior High, Senior Level I and Senior Level II.