



*Irway City, USA*

**Eastern MI State Fair  
2024 Livestock  
Skillathon Study Guide**

## **Introduction**

Welcome to the second annual Eastern Michigan State Fair Livestock Skillathon! We are excited to offer this opportunity to all youth exhibitors. We have gathered a variety of knowledge based questions for the nine species shown at the fair plus general livestock knowledge.

Livestock Skillathon Contests provide a valuable educational experience for youth. The content of these contests provide a framework for youth to learn a variety of topics related to the production and management of beef cattle, meat goats, sheep, swine, rabbits, poultry, dairy cattle and horses. Participants in these events will learn about different breeds of livestock, external parts of livestock, skeletal anatomy of livestock, feedstuffs used in livestock diets, equipment used in raising and showing livestock and in processing meat and much more.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about species you have never shown or learn more about species you have shown.

Species/Topics included in this year's skillathon:

- General Livestock Knowledge
- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Dogs
- Goats
- Horses
- Poultry
- Rabbits
- Sheep
- Swine

## Rules and Contest Information

Please review the following rules for participating in the Livestock Skillathon:

- Open to any Eastern Michigan State Fair exhibitor.
- Any specific rules will be outlined at the testing site.
- Skillathon will be held during check-in from 2pm-5pm only. **\*No tests given out after 4:30 unless previously arranged\***
- Results will be announced at the completion of sweepstakes on Saturday.
- Prizes will be awarded in each age category (Advanced Senior, Senior, Intermediate, Junior) with Overall awards for High Point Junior (Most points of Junior and Intermediate Tests) and High Point Senior (Most points of Senior and Advanced Senior Tests).
- There is also a non-competitive Cloverbud test and each cloverbud will receive a prize.
- The skillathon will include a written test consisting of questions related to any of the species shown at the fair (Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Sheep, Swine, Goats, Rabbits, Poultry, Horses, and Dogs). The skillathon contest may also be comprised of practical tests such as breed, feed, or meat cut identification. - Contestants may not talk to each other. Questions for information or clarification of instructions should be directed to group leaders or officials. If contestants are caught talking or cheating, they will be removed from the contest.

### Contest Information

- When: Sunday, July 21st, 2024 2pm-5pm
- Who: All youth exhibitors.
- Results will be announced during Sweepstakes on Saturday.
- Each skillathon quiz contains **40** questions, with **10** additional questions that will be used in the event of a tie among individuals.
  - Please answer all questions appropriately including the tie breaker questions.

Any questions, comments or concerns please contact:

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## **General Livestock Knowledge Study Guide**

The following are general topics that will be found on the general livestock knowledge skillathon quiz. Please note that topics are not limited solely to this list.

- Basic biosecurity practices & disease transmission
- Common animal parts
- Know common parasites
- Feed types (examples: pellet, textured, pre-mix, hay, complete feed)
- Common feed ingredients
- Animal handling practices
- Common veterinary practices
- Know major required nutrients (minerals, etc)

## **Beef Study Guide**

The following are general topics that will be found on the beef skillathon quiz. Please note that topics are not limited solely to this list.

- Know normal cattle body temperature
- Know appropriate gestation period
- Common castrating practices
- What term is used for fat cover
- Know common parasites for cattle
- Know what cattle feed ration includes and percentages of nutrients
- Average feed conversion ratio for beef cattle
- What are high value cuts of meat
- Understand meat grades
- Know beef breeds
- Be able to identify cattle body parts

### **Dairy Study Guide**

The following are general topics that will be found on the dairy skillathon quiz. Please note that topics are not limited solely to this list.

- Know length of gestation, estrus, and dry period
- Know how lack of different vitamins affect cows
- Be able to identify different breeds of dairy cows and characteristics
- Know temperatures needed to maintain milk quality
- Dairy nutrition and management practices
- Milking procedure
- Know proper dairy show procedure and attire
- Know how to give medications and where to give them
- Understand the cows reproductive tract
- Know the digestive system of a cow
- Know common hormones that affect milk production
- Understand a cows diet
- Be able to identify parts of the dairy cow

## **Dog Study Guide**

The following are general topics that will be found on the dog skillathon quiz. Please note that topics are not limited solely to this list.

- Know what dogs belong to the Working, Toy, Herding, Non-Sporting groups
- How many groups are there
- How many domestic dog breeds are there
- Know how many teeth dogs have
- Know types of ears
- Know basic obedience commands
- Know how heartworm and lyme disease are transmitted
- What vaccine is required by state law
- What does AKC stand for
- Be able to identify dog breeds

## **Goat Study Guide**

The following are general topics that will be found on the goat skillathon quiz. Please note that topics are not limited solely to this list.

- Know the different terms for adult and young goats
- What is the first milk called
- Know common goat breeds, characteristics, and where they originated
- Goats normal body temperature
- Know gestation and estrus periods of goats
- Know proper show procedure
- How many stomach compartments do goats have
- What causes white muscle disease
- What is a CD&T vaccine
- What is goats genus
- Be able to identify breeds of goats
- Be able to identify goat body parts



## Horse Study Guide

The following are general topics that will be found on the horse skillathon quiz. Please note that topics are not limited solely to this list.

- Know common Internal Parasites
- Know common External Parasites
- Understand Coggins Test and what it test for
- Know symptoms and causes of Colic
- Know length of estrus cycles and at what age they start
- Know the length of gestation
- Know common vaccines given to horses
- Know how many beats all gates are
- Know how many bones, and teeth horses have
- Know how often proper vet, farrier, and dentist work should be done
- Understand the terms: Mare, Stallion, Gelding, Foal, Colt, Filly
- Know the standard unit of measurement for horse height
- Know all animals classified in the equine family
- Know the required parts of a horses diet and how much they consume per day
- Identify horse breeds

## Poultry Study Guide

The following are general topics that will be found on the poultry skillathon quiz. Please note that topics are not limited solely to this list.

- Know the correct terms for adult and young poultry
- Know the digestive system of poultry
- Know the reproductive system of poultry
- Know the proper diet components for poultry
- Know the types of combs
- Understand egg incubation and brooding
- Be able to identify poultry breeds
- Be able to identify body parts of poultry
- Know common diseases and biosecurity practices

## Rabbit Study Guide

The following are general topics that will be found on the rabbit skillathon quiz. Please note that topics are not limited solely to this list.

- What is the ARBA
- How many breeds are recognized
- Know ages classified by the ARBA
- Gestation length of rabbits
- Know how many body types and which is correct
- Know fur types and which is correct
- Understand pedigrees
- How does a rabbit regulate temp
- Be able to identify rabbit breeds
- Be able to identify body parts
- Common diseases and prevention

## Sheep Study Guide

The following are general topics that will be found on the sheep skillathon quiz. Please note that topics are not limited solely to this list.

- Understand sheep digestion
- Know normal temperature of a sheep
- Know different diseases sheep can have such as foot rot, sore mouth, fly strike, coccidiosis, scrapie
- Know different kind of injections and where to give them
- What element can sheep not process
- Know different breeds and what they are used for
- What does NSEP stand for
- Know Gestation and estrus period of a ewe
- Know different cuts of meat
- Be able to identify sheep breeds
- Be able to identify body parts of a lamb

## Swine Study Guide

The following are general topics that will be found on the swine skillathon quiz. Please note that topics are not limited solely to this list.

- Know feed efficiency & general nutrition
- Understand digestion
- Know the terms Boar, Sow, Gilt, Barrow, Hog
- Know common parasites
- Understand estrus and gestation and how long they are
- Know methods of medication injection
- Know common medications and vaccines given to pigs
- Know common pig diseases and biosecurity practices
- Know how to read ear notches
- Be able to identify breeds
- Know pig body parts