



August 8, 2017

TO: Animal Science Department Heads

FROM: Rosie Nold
Superintendent, National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest
Associate Professor, South Dakota State University Animal Science Department

RE: 2017 National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest

The 18th annual National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest will be held on Monday, November 13, 2017 during the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE). This comprehensive livestock knowledge competition will be conducted in Louisville at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center.

NAILE has adopted the skillathon competition as a part of their educational program. A group of Extension specialists and industry professionals have worked to develop this national competitive activity to test 4-H'ers comprehensive knowledge of the livestock industry. Several states have skillathon-type educational activities in addition to shows and judging contests. The purpose of the 4-H Skillathon Contest is to serve as a reward and goal for youth who have excelled in similar events at their state level. The contest contains elements of competition currently contained in several state activities.

The contest is being conducted in Louisville in conjunction with the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest. The skillathon contest committee encourages livestock judging teams to also participate in the skillathon contest to introduce them and their home states to the skillathon concept. The awards ceremony will be on Wednesday, November 15 for both contests.

The North American International Livestock Exposition website will have the following items pertaining to the 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest. The link is: <http://livestockexpo.org/educationContests.html>. The information below has been submitted to NAILE, but I am unsure of when updates will be posted. Several items are the same as last year and are available on the website (e.g. resource list, past contest materials). I have included all items in this email:

1. National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Contest Rules and Regulations
 - **Please note that actual classes may deviate from this list in an effort to keep current with a rapidly changing livestock industry.**
2. Team Entry Form
 - **Due by October 1st, late entries will be accepted for states that have not selected teams by this date.**
3. Resource Materials List
4. Past Contest Materials

5. Hotel: The contest headquarter hotel is the Crowne Plaza, Phillips Lane, Louisville, KY 40209; phone: (502-367-2251). This is the large hotel adjacent to the NAILE grounds. **Reservations should be made prior to October 15, 2017.** The reservation site has not yet been updated for 2017, but should be in the near future. Information for it is:

MAKING RESERVATIONS

A dedicated website is now available to book hotel rooms online. **Booking Website:**

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=14459811

We are asking for your help in distributing this information to appropriate individuals in your state. We also seek your input in improving and more firmly establishing this type of comprehensive livestock knowledge contest. We appreciate your assistance in moving this educational effort forward.

A coaches' meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 12 at the Crowne Plaza, Louisville Airport Hotel. Contest instructions will be given at this time.

For further information regarding the contest, I may be contacted at:

Dr. Rosie Nold
Associate Professor
South Dakota State University
Animal Science Department
Brookings, SD 57007
Phone: 605-688-5459
Cell: 605-592-6194
FAX: 605-688-6170
E-mail: rosemarie.nold@sdstate.edu