

Texas 4-H Veterinary Science Skill-a-thon

2023 Invitational Contest Rules & Guidelines

Thursday, June 6, 2024

Updated 4/16/2024

New for 2024! The Texas 4-H Roundup Veterinary Science Skillathon will return to the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences! Exact location will be sent as details are finalized, but a tour of the Vet School will be provided by Vet Student Ambassadors at the conclusion of the vet science contest.

OVERVIEW

The Veterinary Science Skillathon is a competitive event designed to test the knowledge and skills that a 4-H member can gain through his or her involvement in a Veterinary Science project. There are several components to the contest. The Written Exam is to test the participant's subject matter knowledge. The Skills Exam tests the hands-on or experiential learning and is the largest component of the contest. The Identification (ID) Exam will include Veterinary Instruments, Breeds (cattle, horses, sheep, goats, swine, dogs, and cats), Parasites, and Internal Organs. Finally, the Communication portion of the contest helps to develop research and public speaking skills.

OBJECTIVES OF THE 4-H VETERINARY SCIENCE PROJECT

1. Utilize career-oriented resource material and supplements that provide lessons, questions, and activities.
2. Develop the interest, knowledge, skills, and experiences of youth in veterinary science for a career in veterinary medicine (veterinary assistant, veterinary technician, or veterinarian), human medicine (paraprofessional or physician), or allied health fields (diagnostics, therapeutics).
3. Prepare youth in workforce development, prepare youth to pursue an associate degree college program, and prepare youth to pursue a professional degree college program.

ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES

1. Skill-a-thon signup Participants will sign up through 4-H CONNECT
2. Project enrollment. Participants must be active Texas 4-H members currently enrolled in the 4-H.
3. Age. Participants must be Senior aged 4-H members as of September 1, 2023 school year.
4. Contest participation. This will be an *individual* contest.
5. Agent certification. Applications must be signed by the County Extension Agent to certify current membership, grade in school, and project experience.

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CONTEST COMPONENTS

There will be four (4) components to the contest. Each component will be weighted in the following manner for scoring purposes:

Written Exam	400 points	(30%)
ID Exam	150 points	(15%)
Skills Exam	300 points	(40%)
<u>Communication</u>	<u>150 points</u>	<u>(15%)</u>
Total	1000 points	(100%)

All participants will compete and earn points in the first three (3) components of Written Exam, Identification Exam, and Skills Exam, for a maximum of 850 points. The top three (3) participants earning the most points in the first three (3) components will then advance to the Communication round. Total scores to establish final ranking will be determined by adding points earned in all four (4) contest components, for a maximum of 1000 points.

Written Exam

Questions will be written regarding information selected from the *Veterinary Science: Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant*. Questions will be derived from the lessons in the reference book, as well as, from the knowledge that can be obtained by participating in activities of the veterinary science project. Questions may be multiple choice, true/false, matching, identification, or short answer. There will be 100 questions, each worth 4 points, for a total of 400 points.

Identification Exam

Identification Exam: The Identification Exam will include Veterinary Instruments, Breeds (cattle, horses, sheep, goats, swine, dogs, and cats), Parasites, and Internal Organs. This portion will be made up of 50 questions worth 3 points each for a total of 150 points.

Skills Exam

The Skills Exam will be the hands-on component of the contest. Participants will perform the skills individually. The ability to perform these skills will come from working as trainee under the supervision of a veterinarian. Possible skills for 2024 include the following:

- Placing a tail tie
- Preparing a Surgery Pack
- Dosage Calculation
- Cost Calculation
- Conversions
- Suture Removal
- Nylon Muzzle
- Opening a Surgery Pack

At the skill station, instructions and time constraints will be provided. The skill will be judged using a rubric for thoroughness, safety, and overall completion of the skill in the allotted time. The Skills Exam will be worth 300 points total. Each skill may be weighted with different point values depending upon the complexity of the skill. Refer to the link below for skills rubrics. <https://vetmed.tamu.edu/ffa-veterinary-science/practicum-rubrics/>

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Communication

Three (3) participants earning the highest total points from the first three (3) contest components (Written Exam, Identification Exam, and Skills Exam) will individually present a 3-5 minute informative speech related to the specified topic without using any outside materials. Each year, a list of five (5) possible topics will be identified so that preparation may begin prior to the contest. From these five (5) topics, one will be selected by contest officials as the Communication round topic for the contest. Participants will receive the selected speech topic the day of the contest and will have no less than 15 minutes to prepare. Judges may ask questions. Spectators and eliminated participants may watch the Communication round, but may not speak, signal, or otherwise communicate with participants. Spectators and eliminated participants may not ask questions. The Communication round will be worth 150 points.

For the 2024 Invitational 4-H Veterinary Science Skillathon, the possible topics are as follows:

- Natural, Accidental, and Intentional Outbreaks of Disease
- Emergency Animal Management During Disaster
- Carcass Disposal Regulations
- Causes of Infectious Diseases
- Drug Residue Avoidance Program
- Causes of Infectious Disease
- Food Safety Program

CONTEST SCHEDULE

Please note: This schedule will be determined after the initial sign up of participants.

CONTEST RESOURCES

- *Veterinary Science: Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant*
Author: Floron C. Faries, Jr.
<http://aevm.tamu.edu/4-h-veterinary-science/handbook-information/books/>
- *Partnership for Environmental Education and Rural Health*. Rubrics for practicum skills may be found here. <https://vetmed.tamu.edu/ffa-veterinary-science/practicum-rubrics/>
- *Veterinary Science Career Development Handbook*. Slides for the identification exam portion may come from this resource. <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/veterinary-science-career-development-events-handbook/01t4x000002dEwtAAE>
- *Veterinary Science Career Development Event Student Handbook*. Slides for the identification exam portion may come from this resource. <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/veterinary-science-career-development-event-student-handbook/01t4x000008Xgm2AAC>

HELP NEEDED CONDUCTING THE CONTEST

County Extension Agents and screened volunteers will be needed on the day of the contest to help. Assistance will be needed for many different parts of the contest including check-in, group leaders, score keepers, tabulation, etc. If interested, contact one of the Contest Superintendents.

CONTEST SUPERINTENDENT

If you have any questions, please contact one of the following:

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