

Texas 4-H Veterinary Science Skill-a-thon

Updated 8/1/2021

2022 Invitational Contest Rules & Guidelines

Thursday, June 9, 2022

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 veterinary science project. Participants must also have completed at least one full calendar year in a structured veterinary science program.
3. Age. Participants must be Senior aged 4-H members as of September 1, 2021 school year.



4. *Skillathon levels.* The contest will be divided into two (2) experience levels. Participants that have completed 20-60 lessons from the *Veterinary Assistant Handbook* or *Veterinary Science: Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant* will be placed in Level 1. Participants that have completed more than 60 lessons from the *Veterinary Assistant Handbook* or *Veterinary Science: Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant* will be placed in Level 2. *Please note that these levels are based on veterinary science project experience, not age, grade, or years in 4-H.*
5. *Contest participation.* This will be an *individual* contest.
6. *Agent certification.* Applications must be signed by the County Extension Agent to certify current membership, grade in school, and project experience.

CONTEST COMPONENTS

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

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

All participants will compete and earn points in the first three (3) rounds 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) rounds 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 two (3) points, for a total of 300 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.

At each skills station, instructions and time constraints will be provided. The skills 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 400 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.

<http://aevm.tamu.edu/4-h-veterinary-science/contest-resources/>

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 2020 Invitational 4-H Veterinary Science Skillathon, the possible topics are as follows:

Level 1

- Genetics
- Vital Signs
- Breeds of Livestock
- Animals & Society
- Economic Losses

Level 2

- Disinfectants
- Rabies control Program
- Drug Residue Avoidance Program
- Food Safety Program
- Nutritional Diseases

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*. Use the Identification Power Points under the FFA State Veterinary Science Clinic and CDE section for the Identification Exam.
<http://peer.tamu.edu/VBB/AgTeacherResources.asp>

- *Texas 4-H Veterinary Science Lesson Plan Model*. The *Lesson Plan Model* indicates which lesson topics will be covered in each level of the skillathon. Level 1 of the skillathon will cover information listed in lessons 1-60. Level 2 of the skillathon will cover information listed in Lessons 1-100.

http://aevm.tamu.edu/files/2011/09/VSLesson_Model2.pdf

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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