


## Texas 4-H Veterinary Science Skill-a-thon

2025 Invitational Contest Rules & Guidelines

Updated 9/1/2024

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.

 Written examination will be presented as scenario demonstrations. Participants should be familiar with primary use of instruments in the identification portion as well as life cycles of parasites in identification portion.

### 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 4HOnline April 14 - May 6, 2025
2. Project enrollment. Participants must be active Texas 4-H members enrolled by March 1, 2025.
3. Age. Participants must be Senior aged 4-H members as of September 1, 2024 school year.
4. Contest participation. This will be an *individual* contest.

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperation





## CONTEST COMPONENTS

There will be five (5) components to the contest. Each component will be weighted in the following manner for scoring purposes:

Written Exam	300 points	(30%)
<b>Math Application</b>	<b>100 points</b>	<b>(10%)</b>
ID Exam	150 points	(15%)
Skills Exam	300 points	(30%)
<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

The objective of general knowledge written exam is designed to determine team members' broad understanding of the veterinary science field. General knowledge will be demonstrated during the history and scenario demonstrations. 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 but will be in a case scenario format. There will be 100 questions, each worth 3 points, for a total of 300 points.



### **Math Application**

The math questions will vary based on the scenario. Questions may include conversions, dose calculations, dilutions, cost calculations and invoices.

### Identification Exam

**UPDATED**

- Participants will identify equipment, parasites and breeds/species. Identification lists are located at the end of this handbook.
- Equipment Participants will identify pieces of equipment (actual equipment and photos). They will also need to have general knowledge about the use of each item.
- Parasites/Microscopic ) Participants will identify parasites (specimen and photos) and explain the life cycles of selected parasites. Participants will identify microscopic organisms.
- Breeds Participants will identify breeds of small and large animals (photos).
- This portion will be made up of 50 questions worth 3 points each for a total of 150 points.

### Skills Exam

**UPDATED**

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:

- Preparing a Surgery Pack
- Suture Removal

- Nylon Muzzle
- Opening a Surgery Pack
- Administering an Aural Medication
- Filling a Prescription
- Restraint for Jugular Venipuncture
- Placing a Tail Tie

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/>

### 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.

**UPDATED** For the 2025 Invitational 4-H Veterinary Science Skillathon, the possible topics are as follows:

- Interstate and International Movement of Animals
- Laws Related to Veterinary Medicine
- Clinic Emergency Management Plan
- Dehorning, Castrating and Docking-Clinical
- Preparing Livestock For Shipment
- Handling and Restraining Livestock
- Controlling Internal Parasites
- Controlling External Parasites

### **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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