

MEMORANDUM

TO: District 10 4-H Members and Coaches

FROM: 
Cheryl Mapston
District Extension Administrator


Cheryl Newberry
Extension Program Specialist - 4-H

SUBJECT: District 10 4-H Swine Skill-A-Thon Contest

Date/Location: The Swine Skill-a-thon will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2008 in San Marcos at Texas State University LBJ Student Center, 1st Floor.

Contest Schedule: Registration @ 8:30 a.m. – 1st Floor, LBJ Student Center
Contest begins @ 9:00 a.m.
Awards will be held in contest area following conclusion of contest

Age Divisions: For the Swine Skill-a-thon, there will be only two age divisions:

- * **Junior** – we will combine the junior and intermediate age divisions into one for this contest. Junior age will be 8 and in 3rd grade or 9 as of August 31, 2007 through 13 years of age.
- * **Senior** – 14 - 18 as of August 31, 2007

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Counties may send as many Juniors and Seniors to the District Contest as they wish. The top three seniors will advance on to Texas 4-H Roundup. These individuals may be from the same county. There are no restrictions on the number of state entries from a county.

Registration

Procedure: Registration will be conducted on 4-H Connect April 1-14, 2008. Registration fee will be \$5.00 per person. Late registration will be open April 15-17, 2008 with a late registration of \$10.00. Registration will be held in conjunction with the District 10 Judging Contests. **The name of the event on 4-H Connect will be: 2008 D10 Judging Contests.**

Contest Study Resources

Study guides are available at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/main/academics/swine/pubs.html> and are updated every late fall. They can be found under "Youth Projects". Scroll to the bottom of this page to find the resources. These are large documents with an immense amount of information intended to help youth prepare for the contest without allowing one to completely master all of the information. It is important to emphasize that these are guides only, and not inclusive. Additional questions or skills may pertain to knowledge or skills gained from actually raising the project pig and cannot be found in print.

In addition to the printed resources available on the animal science website, each district also has the Swine Learning Laboratory Kit that can be checked out by counties to use in practicing the skills component of the skill-a-thon. Contact your respective District office to reserve the Swine Learning Laboratory Kit.

Skill-a-thon Contest Layout/Components

The swine skill-a-thon at the state 4-H level will consist of a four components:

1. Written Exam
2. Several "skills" stations
3. Quiz bowl (individual basis)
4. Oral presentation (extemporaneous). Scores from the first three components of the event will be totaled. The top five youth will compete in the oral presentation. **Juniors will not give an oral presentation, but will go through a brief interview.**

The four components of this contest are used for specific reasons. The written exam is an opportunity to test the contestant on "book knowledge" gained from

the show pig project. The skills portion is meant to examine the “hands-on” or experiential learning that is often difficult to measure via other means. The quiz bowl requires youth to think on their feet, as well as analyze risk as far as losing points for incorrect answers, and also has entertainment value (the students really enjoy this part), and the oral presentation (or interview for juniors) develops public speaking skills.

Contest Flow

All stations will be set up and a rotation will be established. There will be youth who start at each skills while others will start the exam. The exams need to be graded as soon as students complete them, in order to have the top five identified after the quiz bowl. Skills stations are graded as the students rotate through.

1. Written Exam – 100 points

Questions are derived from the vast amount of information available in the study guides as well as from knowledge and skills that can be obtained actually raising the project pig. Multiple choice questions are easiest to grade. Juniors will have 50 questions on the exam and Seniors will have a 100-question exam. Exams will be numbered and must be turned in at the completion of the exam. Exams may not be kept by participants!!!

2. Skills Stations – 100 points

There will be four stations for each age division. Each station will be worth 25 points. Skills should be age-appropriate, but similar ideas can be used with different examples.

Examples of potential skills stations might be:

- * Ear notching
- * Breed identification
- * Meat cuts identification
- * Calculating medication dosage
- * Reading a pedigree
- * Administering a shot
- * Equipment identification
- * and more!

Youth will demonstrate a specific skill, answer a question pertaining to a specific situation, or identify pictures of breeds, meat cuts, equipment or other items. An adult will be located at each station and will score the youth.

3. Quiz Bowl

A maximum of eight (8) youth in a specific age division will compete against each other (individual competition) in the Swine Quiz Bowl. The Quiz Bowl Buzzer

system will be used. Each round will have 20 questions. Contestants earn 10 points for a correct answer, and lose 5 points for each incorrect answer. The points are then divided by 5 at the end of the round in order to not place too much emphasis on the quiz bowl.

4. Oral presentation/interview – 100 points

At the end of the first three portions of the contest, scores are tallied and the top five Senior contestants will move on to the final round. Senior contestants are given 5-6 topics and will choose one topic and prepare a 5-6 minute, extemporaneous speech. While these speeches are being prepared (~20 min., WITHOUT any outside materials).

The top five Juniors will participate in a 5-minute interview while seniors are preparing their oral presentation.

Oral presentations and/or interviews will be scored on a 100 point scale.