



SWINE SKILL-A-THON CONTEST INFORMATION

Date/Location: Saturday, December 6, 2008 in San Marcos at Texas State University LBJ Student Center, 1st Floor.

Contest Schedule: Registration @ 2:00 p.m. – 1st Floor, LBJ Student Center

Contest begins @ 2:30 p.m.

awards will be presented with all other Roundup Awards at 6:00 p.m.

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, 2008 through 13 years of age.
- **Senior** – 14 - 18 as of August 31, 2008

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.

NOTE: Counties who have youth participating in the contest are encouraged to send adult volunteers/coaches to the contest and be available to assist with the event. We will need quite a few folks to make the contest run smoothly and be finished by 6:00 p.m!

Registration

Procedure: Registration will be conducted on 4-H Connect November 3-20, 2008. Late registration will be open April November 21-23, 2008 with a late registration of \$5.00. **Registration event on 4-H Connect is the 2008 D10 Food Show and Roundup.**

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. **The top five Senior contestants** are given 5-6 topics and will choose one topic and prepare a 5-6 minute, extemporaneous speech. Seniors will have approximately 20 minutes to prepare their speech without any outside materials. **The top five Junior contestants** 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.

Contest Helper Roles

To conduct the Swine Skill-a-thon contest, we will need quite a few agents and volunteers who are knowledgeable in swine to assist. Here are the roles that we will need help with:

- Skills Station Judges (4)
- Administer test and grade (1)
- Quiz Bowl Moderators – one for each age division (1)
- Run Quiz Bowl Equipment – one for each age division (1)
- Quiz Bowl Score Keepers – one for each age division (1)
- Oral Presentation/Interview Judges (2 or 3)
- Overall scorekeeper (1)

Some of these jobs may overlap, but at the minimum, we will need approximately 6-8 individuals to assist with the contest. **It is recommended that if a county has youth participating, then there will be an adult volunteer attend with them and assist with the contest.**