

4-H Youth Livestock Skillathons

BROOKINGS, S.D. - During the State 4-H Livestock Judging contest, held Sept. 19, 2015 on the campus of South Dakota State University in Brookings, an example skillathon contest will be available for youth to complete.

The event will be held at the Animal Science Complex during the time beginning judges have completed their contest, but older youth are still involved in the Livestock Judging contest. The event is an example only, so no pre-registration is needed.

The example will be modeled after the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon, due to the scheduling of the Livestock Judging Contest, the skillathon is designed primarily for beginner 4-H members, ages 8 to 10 years-

old.

At a national level, the North American International Livestock Exposition has adopted the skillathon contest as part of the educational program, explained Rosie Nold, SDSU Assistant Department Head/Associate Professor.

"A group of Extension specialists and industry professionals from across the nation worked together to develop this national competitive activity to test youth's comprehensive knowledge of the livestock industry," she said. Dr. Nold serves on the national committee for this contest.

In recent years, several states have added educational activities, in addition to the shows and judging contests. Some states have developed skillathon

activities while other states conduct stockperson contests or other activities to test youth's comprehensive livestock knowledge.

The purpose of the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon is to serve as a reward and goal for youth who have excelled in similar events at their state level. The contest is conducted in Louisville, Ky., in conjunction with the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.

Skillathon details
The national contest consists of an individual portion and a team portion. Classes and information covered in the individual portion include:

* Livestock Equipment Identification: Identify the proper name and use for pieces of equipment used in livestock production.

* Livestock Breed Identification: Identify from photographs or pictures livestock (beef cattle, swine, sheep and goat) breeds. Contestants must also match the breed with the most appropriate description supplied for each breed.


* Retail meat cut identification: Identify beef, lamb, and pork retail cuts from the National 4-H Meat Judging Retail ID cut list. Contestants will identify the retail cut specie, primal cut, and retail cut name.


* Hay and Wool Judging Class: Rank a class of four hay and wool samples with analysis information and answer questions about the classes.

* Quality Assurance Ex-

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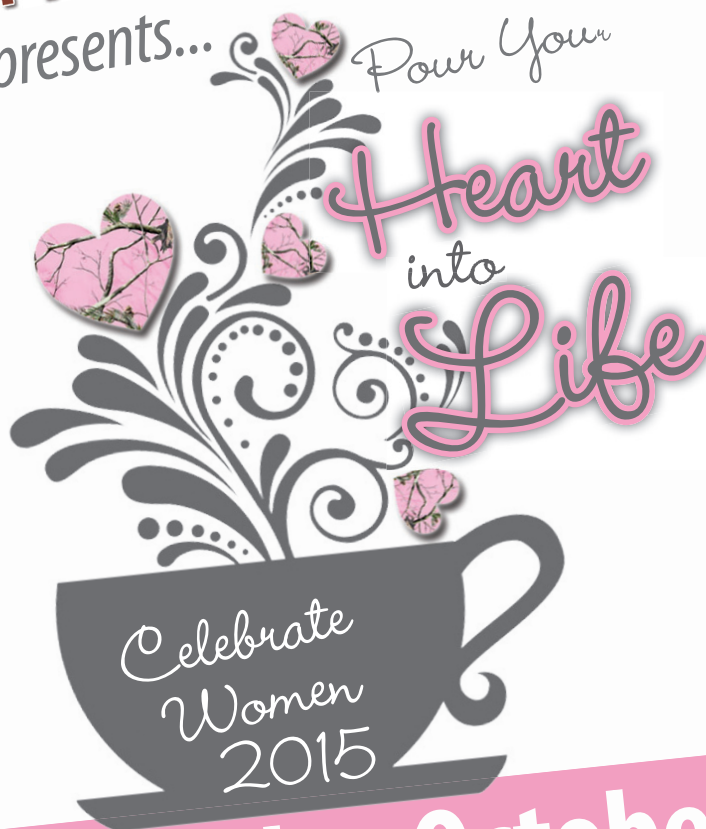


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