

Goat Skillathon Study Guide 2008

The Virginia State Fair Dairy Goat Skillathon will be held_____

All exhibitors should bring their completed Livestock Project Record Book and a pencil to the Skillathon. This Study Guide provides information about the stations that will be included in the Goat Skillathon. Age divisions for Skillathon are as follows: (age of exhibitor on Jan. 1, 2008) Juniors age 8-10, Intermediates age 11-13, Seniors age 14-18.

Station 1 Terminology

You will be asked to match basic goat terms to their definitions. Examples of terms you may be asked to match might include: breed, buck, caprine, castrate, crossbred, doe, forage, freshen, gestation, halal, kid, parasite, pedigree, ration, ruminant. For a review of goat related terms see the attached reference sheet.

Station 2 Interview Station

You will be asked 3-4 questions based on age division that can cover a variety of dairy goat information. Examples of subjects include: breeds, structure, score card, nutrition, milking practices, products and health issues.

Station 3 Quality Assurance

Information for this station will be based on the "10 Good Production Practices". A handout reviewing the "10 GPP's" was given at Quality Assurance Education sessions. A copy of this handout can be found attached to the reference sheet.

Station 4 Parts of the Goat

You will be asked to identify parts of a dairy goat. A reference for parts of a dairy goat is attached to this Study Guide. Junior age exhibitors will be asked to identify 10 parts, Intermediates will identify 20 parts, and Seniors will identify 30 parts. In addition, Seniors will be asked questions about determining the age of goats based on their teeth. For a review of the parts of a dairy goat see the attached reference sheet.

Station 5 (Juniors Only) Goat Basics

Juniors will be asked questions about basic goat knowledge. A reference for this information is included on the reference sheet. For example; you may be asked what a goat's normal body temperature is, what age a kid should be disbudded, or what the length of gestation is for goats.

Station 5 (Inter. & Seniors) Nutrition, Pastures, and Feeds

You will be asked questions about basic nutrition for goats, about forages and pasture management, and to identify some feeds common in goat rations. You will also be asked to classify a few feeds as to what they provide in a goat diet (energy, carbohydrate, or mineral). See the attached reference sheet for more information.

Station 6 (Seniors Only) Reproduction and Breeding

You will be asked basic questions about selecting breeding animals and goat reproduction. Resources for these topics are included on the reference sheet. You may also be given scenarios in which you will utilize this information to make a management decision.

Tie Breaker: Breeds of Goats/Goat Products

You will be asked to identify breeds of goats, some based on photos and some based on descriptions of the particular characteristics and history of the breed. You will also be asked about the different types of goat products.