



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

Premier Livestock Exhibitor Award



Introduction

This award recognizes a more comprehensive development of livestock project knowledge in alignment with the 4-H Livestock Management Triangle* (see reverse side). The results are published on the SDSU Extension Website following the state livestock skill-a-thon contest in mid-late September. Awards for the top 2 individuals in each category will be distributed at each member's county recognition event.

Award Categories

There are two categories and three age divisions (beginner, junior, senior):

- **Large Animal:** Beef, Swine, Sheep, Goat
- **Small Animal and Dairy:** Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goat, Poultry, Rabbit

Scoring Matrix

Each event contributes one third of the overall score. Maximum score is 300 points.

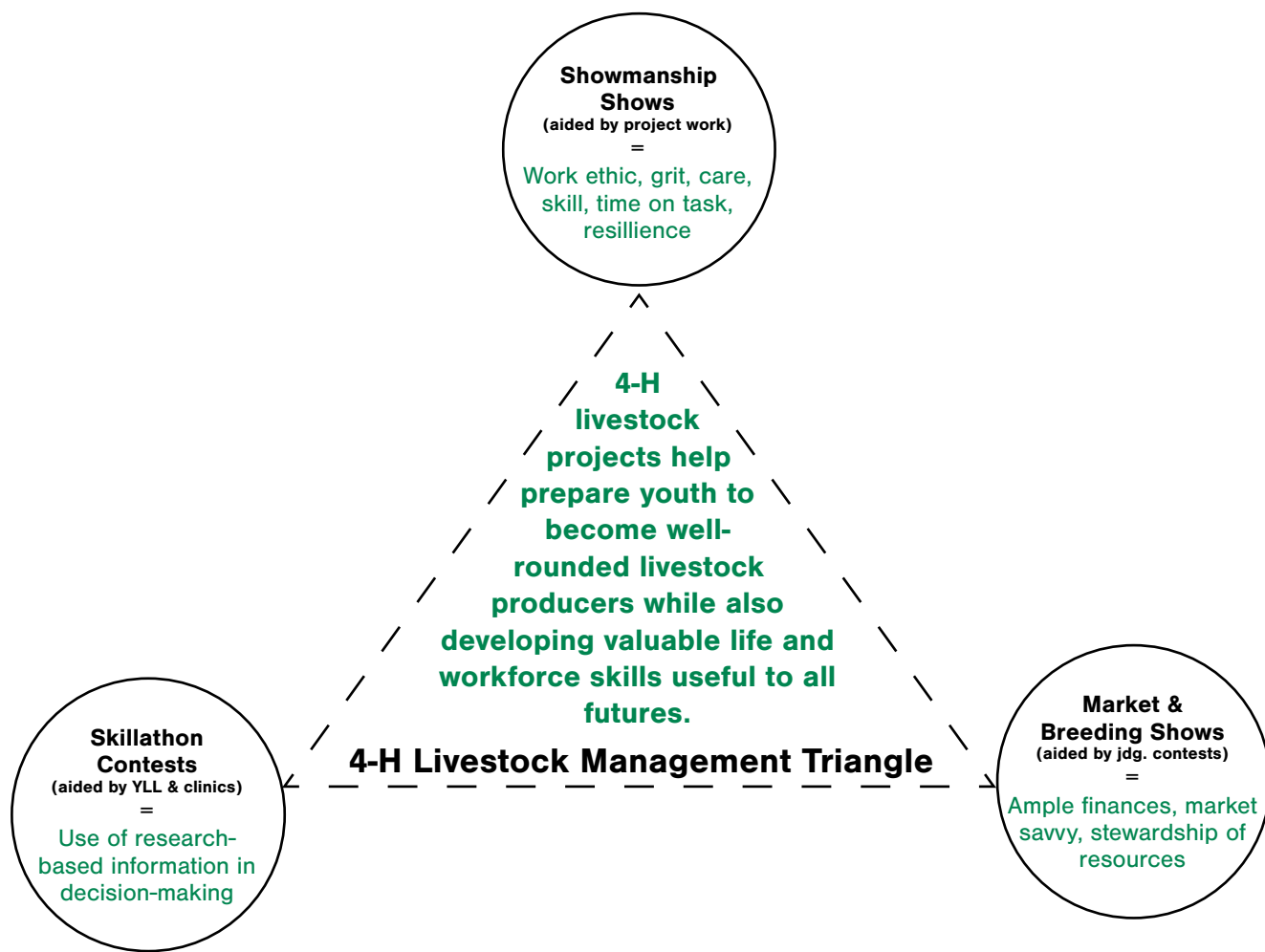
Placing	State Fair Showmanship Score	State Skill-a-thon Adjusted Score	State Fair Market/Breeding Score
1st Overall in Age Division	100	Uses each youth's five highest scoring stations OR five most important stations at event official's discretion; stations calibrated to total scale of 100 points	
2nd Overall in Age Division	97		
3rd Overall in Age Division	94		
4th Overall in Age Division	91		
5th Overall in Age Division	88		
Purple Ribbon	85		100
Blue Ribbon	80		95
Red Ribbon	75		90
White Ribbon	70		85

Scoring and Participation Details

- If a youth shows multiple animals in the same category, the highest score prevails. Youth cannot gain more than 100 points per matrix column.
- The small animal and dairy skill-a-thon scores will count on an equitable curve basis. If youth participate in more than one of these skill-a-thons, the higher score will be used.
- Youth are eligible in any species category in which they show.
- Tie-breaker order: showmanship → skill-a-thon → market/breeding → coin toss
 - Note: The tie-breaker order reflects our skill priorities. That is, we celebrate work ethic and care first, knowledge-gain second, and so forth.

*4-H Livestock Management Triangle (Tanner, 2021)

Youth often gain friendships and strengthen mental health by taking livestock projects, but our key developmental emphases in 4-H livestock are workforce and life skills. The triangle below highlights the relationship between our key events and the skills developed along the way.



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