

## 2021 Mercer County Virtual Livestock Skillathon

Each year, we require all livestock members to participate in pre-fair/skillathon for their livestock project(s). This gives them a chance to demonstrate what knowledge they have acquired through their 4-H/FFA livestock project. It also gives members their completion for the 4-H program year and is a prerequisite for livestock shows.



Members will not turn in their record book this year but will provide some information from their record book with their electronic submission. It is still best practice to complete your entire record book to ensure you have documentation of your animal project.

Members must complete an assignment listed below based on their 4-H age and specie. Show multiple species? You must complete an assignment for each specie, just as you would have completed multiple skillathons.

For example:

- If you are showing two market hogs, then you complete the assignment once
- If you are showing a beef steer and a market hog, then you complete the assignment twice
- If you are showing, a market lamb and a breeding lamb, then you complete it once

Members must complete virtual judging to be eligible to show at the fair. Members can still earn outstanding ribbons for going the extra mile when completing their submission. Members will who earn outstanding awards will be placed in a drawing for gift cards.

### How to submit your completed work:

Members will email their completed assignment to Beth Guggenbiller ([Guggenbiller.23@osu.edu](mailto:Guggenbiller.23@osu.edu)). **In the title of the email, please include your name and specie. This information must be submitted by July 16.**

All Junior Fair livestock exhibitors (with the exception of Rabbit, Poultry and Dog members) will complete their Fair Entry submission by **July 14**. Fair Entry is the platform we use to know what animals you are bringing to the fair. See additional attachment for directions.

**\*RABBITS AND POULTRY- your study guide will be sent separately\***

### Age Brackets:

Junior: 8 to 12 years of age as of January 1  
Intermediate: 13 to 14 years as of January 1  
Senior: 15 to 18 years as of January 1

## Beef, Dairy, Goats, Sheep, Swine

Age Bracket	Assignment
<b>Junior</b>	<p>Pen Pal Assignment</p> <p>Pretend you have just been assigned a pen pal from Chicago, IL. This person lives in a skyscraper and has never been on a farm. They have never seen a farm animal in person and only have a pet rock. You are going to share with your pen pal what it means to raise a farm animal. You can do this with letter writing, pictures, storybook, or any format you want.</p> <p>Things to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell them about your animal- name, size, breed, etc.</li> <li>• What daily care does your animal require</li> <li>• What do you love best about caring for an animal?</li> </ul> <p>RECORD BOOK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please tell me about your 5 goals (Market page 5/ Breeding page 5)</li> </ul>
<b>Intermediate</b>	<p>Please find a scholarly article, journal, or published magazine article related to your specie. This article could provide information about daily care of your specie, grooming techniques, feed and feeding practices, or anything else related to providing care to your animal. You should research a topic that you feel would benefit you and your animals in preparation for the shows and market.</p> <p>After reading the article, please provide three things you have learned from this article or how you will use the information from the article. Your response should be in complete sentences and you should provide a link to the article or copy of article.</p> <p>RECORD BOOK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please tell me about your 5 goals (Market page 5/ Breeding page 5)</li> <li>• Please summarize your Expenses and Feed Record Summary (Market page 11-12/ Breeding page 9-10)</li> </ul>
<b>Senior</b>	<p>Please find an article related to COVID-19 and market animals OR any related current articles related to the livestock industry. After reading the article, please provide a short response to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How has COVID- 19 effected the livestock industry either internationally, state-wide, or locally? OR What current topics is circulating about livestock.</li> <li>• What is one thing you have learned from your article?</li> </ul> <p>Please provide link or copy to the article.</p> <p>RECORD BOOK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please tell me about your 5 goals (Market page 5/ Breeding page 5)</li> <li>• Please summarize your Profit or Loss Statement (Market page 14/ Breeding page 12)</li> </ul>

## Dogs

Age Bracket	Assignment
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>All Members</b></p>	<p><b>Pen Pal Assignment</b>            Pretend you have just been assigned a pen pal from Chicago, Illinois. Your pen pal is fifteen years old and has a sister, who is ten years old and a brother, who is only two. They live in an apartment in a skyscraper.</p> <p>They have decided to get a dog and want to know if your breed of dog would make a good family pet for them.</p> <p>You are going to share with them your knowledge of your breed of dog and if it would make a good fit for your pen pal's family. You will do this with a letter to your pen pal. Along with the letter, you may include pictures of your dog or of pictures of the breed and list any reference materials that could be of help to the family to determine if your breed of dog would be good for them.</p> <p>Things to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell them about your dog, name, size, and breed etc.</li> <li>• What your breed of dog was bred to do job wise.</li> <li>• What daily care your dog requires</li> <li>• Why you think your dog would or would not make a good pet for your pen pal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Record Book:</b> Please tell me about 5 goals you selected from your book</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Intermediate</b></p>	<p>Pick another breed of dog that would make a good pet for your pen pal and why.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Senior</b></p>	<p>List any physical or medical issues that your breed of dog is prone to and how to best to prevent these from happening</p>

## Horse

Age Bracket	Assignment
<b>Junior</b>	<p>Pen Pal Assignment</p> <p>Pretend you have just been assigned a pen pal from Chicago, IL. This person lives in a skyscraper and has never been on a farm. They have never seen a farm animal in person and only have a pet rock. You are going to share with your pen pal what it means to raise a farm animal. You can do this with letter writing, pictures, storybook, or any format you want.</p> <p>Things to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tell them about your animal- name, size, breed, etc.</li><li>• What daily care does your animal require</li><li>• What do you love best about caring for an animal?</li></ul> <p>BOOK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please tell me 5 different things you worked on with your horse this summer</li></ul>
<b>Intermediate/ Senior</b>	<p>Please find a scholarly article, journal, or published magazine article related to your specie. This article could provide information about daily care of your specie, grooming techniques, feed and feeding practices, or anything else related to providing care to your animal. You should research a topic that you feel would benefit you and your animals in preparation for the shows and market.</p> <p>After reading the article, please provide three things you have learned from this article or how you will use the information from the article. Your response should be in complete sentences and you should provide a link to the article or copy of article.</p> <p>RECORD BOOK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please tell me about your 5 goals</li><li>• Please tell me 5 different things you worked on with your horse this summer</li></ul>