

# Virginia Youth Animal Science



## Newsletter



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## Animal Science FFA Teams Excel at National Convention

National FFA Convention was held in Indianapolis on the 3rd week of October. Chapters from across the country gathered in Indiana to network, learn, and compete.

Virginia had many chapters attend National Convention, with some earning the opportunity to compete in their respective contest by winning the State level contest held earlier in the year. Among many competitions, teams competed in the following Animal Science based contests: Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management, Dairy Handlers, Horse Evaluation, Livestock Evaluation, Meats Evaluation and Technology, and Poultry.

While some teams competed at their State Level Contest at

FFA Convention, some began their journey as a State Winner as early as March.

Many State FFA Animal Science Contests are held in conjunction with other events, making animal procurement and contest management more efficient for contest management. These wins are all culminated by recognition at the State FFA Convention held in Blacksburg, Virginia in June.

Teams have been practicing in depth all summer, with farm visits, professional lectures, and team practices after school and over the summer. They are able to earn bronze, silver, and gold ratings dependent on their placings at the national contest.

### Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management

Fort Defiance FFA—Silver

- Lee Kent
- Hunter Wampler
- Ashley Tutwiler
- Jeffrey McLaughlin

### Dairy Handler

CL Payne FFA—Silver

- Leslie Linton

### Horse Evaluation

Stuarts Draft FFA—Silver

- Hailey Preuss
- Meredith Gebhardt
- Analise Eddins
- Emma Vance

### Livestock Evaluation

East Rockingham FFA—Silver

- Connor Davis
- Wyatt Holloway
- Emily Hammer
- Avery Hilbert

### Meats Evaluation

MTC FFA—Gold

- Sarah Craun
- Malaina Ritchie
- Carrie Miller
- Grayson Long

### Poultry

Broadway FFA—Silver

- Romney Ritchie
- Ayla Janney
- Gabriella Garlock
- Madison Morales

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### NOVEMBER

11/9 Eastern National 4-H Horse Round Up, Louisville, KY

11/9 National 4-H/FFA Youth Dairy Judging Contest, Louisville, KY

11/9 National 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest, Louisville, KY

11/18 National 4-H Skilathon, Louisville, KY

11/19 National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, Louisville, KY

11/21 National 4-H Poultry Judging Contest

### DECEMBER

12/7 Hokie Dairy Day, Blacksburg, VA

## SAVE THE DATE

1/25 Block and Bridle Meats and Horse Clinics, Blacksburg, VA

2/7-8 Block and Bridle Horse Weekend, Blacksburg, VA

2/21-22 Block and Bridle Live stock Weekend, Blacksburg, VA

[Calendar](#)



## State Fair Youth Livestock Shows: Recapped

The 2024 State Fair Youth Livestock shows held on October 2-6, 2024 in Doswell, Virginia were a culminating, end of year event for 4-H and FFA Youth across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Along with the livestock shows, youth had the opportunity to compete in species-specific skillathons and promotional displays.

In the livestock shows, 341 youth representing 49 units competed in their species' livestock show, including participating in showmanship, market, and breeding shows. Champion Individuals in each specie showmanship division were invited to return to the show ring on Saturday afternoon to compete for Supreme Show-

man, where they have to exhibit an animal of each species.

The culmination of the Market shows is the Sale of Champions held on Saturday evening, where they Grand and Reserve Champion Market Animals are auctioned to raise money for the exhibitor, as well as youth scholarships given by the State Fair of Virginia. Governor Glenn Youngkin visited with livestock ambassadors and exhibitors prior to the Sale, and remained to play a role in the purchase of the Grand Champion Market Steer, exhibited by Landon Marshall.

Exhibitors and non-exhibitors also had the opportunity to compete

in species specific skillathons to demonstrate their livestock knowledge and earn prizes.

Youth who excelled in all areas, showmanship, animal classes, and skillathons had the opportunity to win "Premier Exhibitor" for each species. This honor is accompanied by premiums, scholarships, and belt buckles awarded to the individuals with the highest scores and/or placings in all areas.

Please see photos below and a quick snapshot of some results. Skillathon results are also available online at [judgingcard.com](http://judgingcard.com).

### Supreme Showmanship:

Champion: Chloe Delozier, Sheep, Pittsylvania  
1st Runner Up: Avery Deacon, Goats, Rockbridge  
2nd Runner Up: Reagan Dean, Swine, Page  
3rd Runner Up: Kyle Prince, Beef, Appomattox

### Senior Premier Exhibitors:

Swine: Emory Seal, Augusta  
Meat Goat: Sarah Myers, Culpeper  
Sheep: Kelli Garrett, Washington  
Beef: Isaac Miller, Wythe



## All-Star 4-H Judging Teams Hit the Road!

Youth involved in 4-H Judging, whether it is Dairy, Livestock, or Equine, can earn the opportunity to be a part of an All-Star Judging Team at their respective state judging contests. While exact numbers differ, top individuals from these contests, regardless of unit of enrollment, earn the opportunity to travel, practice, and compete with State Level Judging Teams during the summer and fall.

Leadership of these teams is held with State Youth Animal Science Extension Faculty, often with assistance from volunteers, agents, and industry experts.

The Livestock Judging team, determined at the State Contest in Blacksburg this past June, has had multiple practices and two competitions this fall. These competitions include the Professor Lidvall Judging Contest in Cookeville, Tennessee, where the team earned the title of High Team Overall. They also competed at the Boilermaker Judging Contest in Purdue, IN, where they earned 5th High Team out of 26 teams.

The State Horse Judging Team was determined as the top 8 individuals in the Equismartz Horse Judging Contest held in Lexington, VA in April. The

team practiced over the summer and competed in the Southern Regional Contest in Perry, GA (results in September issue) and recently, the All American Quarter Horse Congress Contest in Columbus, OH. The team earned 3rd High Team Overall out of 24 teams.

Congratulations to the many individuals who are part of the 2024 All Star Judging Teams. Up next, the Livestock Judging Team will be competing in the National 4-H Contest at Naile in mid-November! We are wishing them lots of luck!



## “Meat”ing Goals - Frederick 4-H Meats Team Excels Nationally!

The National Meat's Judging Contest was held in conjunction with the American Royal, on October 16, 2024. The 4-H Team from Frederick County represented Virginia in the national contest.

This team earned the opportunity to compete in March, at the State 4-H Meats Contest hosted by the Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club in Blacksburg, Virginia.

The contest consists of 2 retail classes, 2 beef classes, 2 pork classes, oral reasons, and identification of retail cuts. The Beef and Pork classes may utilize carcasses and/or Wholesale/Primal/Subprimal Cuts. Three of the classes,

chosen from beef, pork, and retail, will be selected for contestants to give oral reasons on.

The team from Frederick County included Keller Cooley, Emily Vincent, Emma Wisecarver, and Rebecca Stout. The team is co-coached by 4-H volunteers: Ruth Boden and Matt Hartley. Overall, the team earned 6th place overall. Emma Wisecarver was the 4th high individual in Pork Evaluation and the 10th high individual overall.

Congratulations team and coaches! Thank you to those who have worked to provide opportunities and leadership to this group.



## Save the Date! Hokie Dairy Day

Save the date for Hokie Dairy Day, to be held on Saturday, December 7th, 2024 in Blacksburg, VA.

This event is sponsored by the Dairy Club at Virginia Tech. The program will be held from 10 AM—3 PM, and is open to all 4-H and FFA members 9-19 years of age. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the dairy industry through guest speakers and experiential learning through hands on activities in the

classroom and at the Virginia Tech Dairy Complex.

Past topics have included Dairy Research, Herd Health, Food Safety, Farm Safety, and Dairy Careers.

Please contact Katie Powell, event chair ([kpowell26@vt.edu](mailto:kpowell26@vt.edu)) or Dave Winston ([dwinston@vt.edu](mailto:dwinston@vt.edu)) for more information.



## Meet The Youth Animal Science Team



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