



Rockingham County 4-H & FFA Market Livestock Program 2025 Premier Exhibitor Program Application



This award program is designed to recognize 4-H & FFA Livestock Show and Sale market animal show and sale exhibitors who exhibit proficiency and interest in their show species. Additionally, the Premier Exhibitor program recognizes individual exhibitors involved in breeding their project species (bred & owned) as part of their greater 4-H livestock program as stated in traditional definitions of bred and owned category. The contest also includes elements of show placing, showmanship placing, species skill-a-thon including live meat cut identification and skills and knowledge exam. A study packet for the skill-a-thons has been developed and is available at the Extension office upon request.

The applicant must be a bonafide 4-H and/or FFA member of Rockingham County and an officially registered participant in the current year's 4-H & FFA Livestock Show and Sale for the species that the award is being applied. A junior and senior exhibitor will be recognized per species. Applicants must submit an application as described in #1 to be eligible to compete. *An applicant can win the junior or senior division only once in the same species. An applicant may win in more than one species in a given year.*

Applications are due no later than August 6, 2025 to the Rockingham Extension Office, 965 Pleasant Valley Road, Harrisonburg VA 22801. Applications may be turned in via paper or online at this link: <https://forms.gle/NGZBYX4QhMixFkkHA>

The process and judging criteria are as follows:

1) Application Content 5%

- Application completed in entirety and turned in by August 6th (Pen Set up)
- Must indicate on application which species contest(s) exhibitor is applying for
- All nominees will be contacted by Monday of fair week by phone or email

2) Skill-A-Thon 50%

- Species Specific Quiz General knowledge & management questions (multiple choice)
- Practical
 - i) Feed identification, equipment identification, meat cut ID, breed ID
 - ii) Quality Assurance and Medicine Label questions
- Livestock Calculations (fill in the blank)-Calculations such as average daily weight gain, etc.
- Species Specific Class – Hay (Beef, Goat, Sheep) – Wool (Sheep) – Chops/Steaks (Beef, Lamb, Pork) – Keep/Cull (all)
- **Skill –A-Thon & Quiz will be held on Monday, August 11th from 9:00AM-5PM Time subject to change, Location: Show Ring**

3) Showmanship Placing 30%

- Class Placing in Showmanship classes

4) Best Live Placing (Including Bred & Owned) 15%

- Class Placing in Bred and Owned Classes

5) Marketing and Project Interview (Sr. Only Top 3)

- Interviews will be performed in the barns on Friday so the project animals can be present, and youth can tell the committee about their animals
- Interviews will be performed in the barns on Friday, August 15th starting at 8AM.

6) Awardees will be announced during the 4-H/FFA Buyers Appreciation Dinner.

Each component will take place at the Fairgrounds. Please contact the Rockingham Extension office at 564-3080 or John Benner at (540)245-0240 or benner89@vt.edu if you have any time conflicts or questions.

Please fill out the necessary information on the next page and return to the Extension Office or fill in the above google forms link.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Which species would you like to submit a premier exhibitor application? (Please circle ALL that apply)

- Hog
- Lamb
- Steer
- Goat
- Dairy Beef

Are you a Junior or Senior? (Please circle one)

Junior (9-13 years old as 9/30/25)

Senior (14-19 years old as 9/30/25 or 2025 H.S. grad)

Please complete the information requested below. Please do not add additional pages.

Please list the reasons why you consider yourself to be a good herdsman.

4-H/FFA Participation and Leadership from this Project Year

Activity	Role	What I Did/Learned
Meats Judging Contest	Participant	Learned to identify retail meat cuts

School/Community Group Involvement and Leadership Roles

Activity	Role	What I Did/Learned
Ex: National Honor Society	Service Comm.	Organized school-wide recycling project

Please list anything else you would like us to know about you. (Please feel free to add pages if desired).