



Premier Livestock Exhibitor Award

INTRODUCTION

Thanks to an inspired bill passed during the 2020 4-H Legislature event, South Dakota 4-H is re-launching the Premier Livestock Exhibitor Award beginning with the 2022 season. This award recognizes a more comprehensive development of livestock project knowledge in alignment with the 4-H Livestock Management Triangle* (see reverse side). The awards are presented at a ceremony immediately following the annual state skillathon event in mid/late September.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Initially there are two categories and three age divisions (beginner, junior, senior), including:

- 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.

	State Fair Showmanship Score	State Skillathon Adjusted Score	State Fair Market/Breeding Score
1st Overall in Age Division	100	Uses each youth's five best stations; 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 Brookings skillathon is quite challenging, which is why only the top five stations count.
 - Note: If other state-level skillathons are offered (e.g., rabbit), the scores from that event will count on an equitable curve basis. If youth participate in both skillathons, we use the higher score.
- Youth are eligible in any species category in which they show.
- **Tie-breaker order:** showmanship → skillathon → 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.

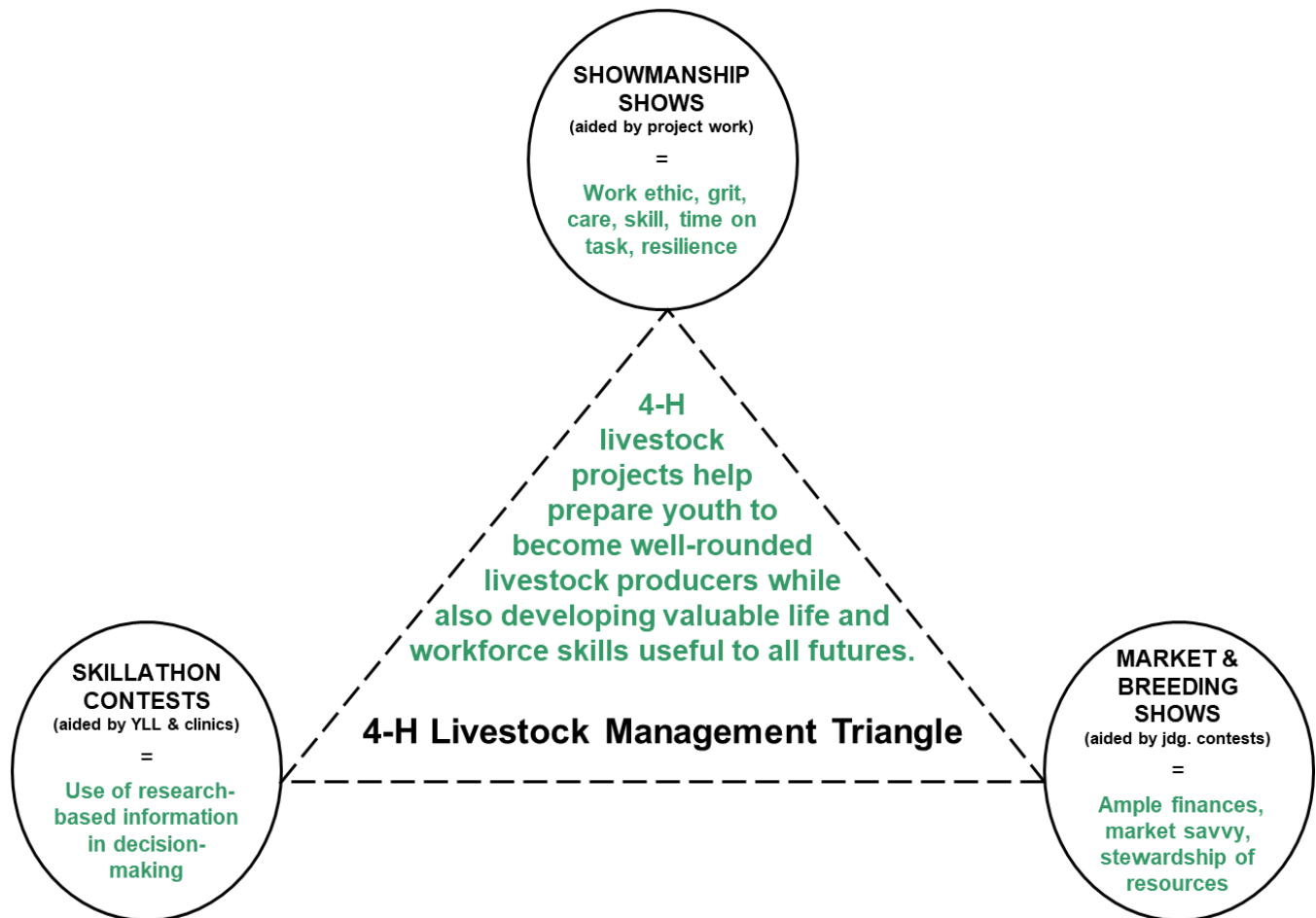


South Dakota 4-H Information Sheet



*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.



Future Note: As described in *Vision 2025: Lives of Possibility*, we hope to begin a merit-based 4-H honors scholarship program in the next few years. Should that occur, the Premier Livestock Exhibitor Award will serve as an honor award category.

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