



Jr. Fair - Outstanding Market Exhibitor

## Outstanding Record Books

# Items for consideration when selecting age group award recipients

### Completeness & Accuracy

- When selecting the participant's record book to receive the award, above all, first evaluate each record book which receive all of the possible "skillathon points" for its completeness and accuracy.
  - COMPLETENESS
    - Review each section and each page of the book to make certain that all appropriate components have completed. Realizing that some totals and other calculation may not be completed as those items are done at the completion of the project and many participants will not their project until their county fair which may not have occurred by the point the record book is being reviewed.
      - Items frequently overlooked/omitted by participants or where only partial information is provided:
        - Item(s) on the cover page
        - "Checking" which project(s) is/are being documented in the book
        - Stating project goals
        - An agreement, appropriate signatures on agreement, signature date without year
        - Dimensions, images, or answer to the questions
        - Identification information for ALL animals, when the record book is for multiple
        - Providing requested photos, feed tags, and/or receipts
        - Treatment record (frequently left completely blank)
        - A project budget
        - Growth or production records
        - Appropriate inventories
        - Feed expenses (complete dates, description, amount, and price)
        - Totals (row, columns, page) in addition to profit and loss calculations/statements where appropriate
  - ACCURACY
    - Review accuracy of each section. Check calculations and make certain the participants have adhered to the instruction provided within the book.
      - Frequently inaccuracies by participants:
        - Addition and multiplication errors
        - Making calculations for a single animal when the record book is for multiple
        - **Calculating** and **graphing** growth, rate of gain, and feed efficiency
        - Stating that all expenses are being incurred by another party, thus not tracking or recording any expenses for the project
        - Unrealistic numbers/values being used (i.e. a bale of hay costing \$0.50, the inventory value of brush of \$100.00 or a steer with a 9.5lb ADG) - record books are to reflect sound production and management practices

### Legibility

- Entries in the book must clear enough to read.
  - But don't confuse "legibility" with "neatness"
    - Realize a well-used record book may have been work on at the kitchen table resulting in food or beverage stains or it may have been taken out to the barn and gotten wet.
    - Not all participants have the developed their fine motor skills to the point of have exceptional penmanship but this should not be a primary consideration as the submitted book is "clear enough to be read"

- Also, even many of the youngest participants are more comfortable using a computer to generate printouts which are used to produce the entries for their book
  - This is acceptable **but NOT PREFERRED**

## Supplemental & Supportive Material

- *Project record books will be allowed no more than ten (10) additional sheets of paper (single- or double-sided), and those pages must pertain directly to activities or records required for the book. These additional sheets may be placed in the binder at the youth's discretion – either before or after the intact project record book. **Youth will be ineligible for the Outstanding Record Book award if more than ten additional sheets are added, although they will still receive points towards their Skillathon score.***
  - Additional supplemental materials might include such items as:
    - Documentation materials from the completion of a quality assurance training program
    - Copies of registration papers
    - Written summaries, artifacts, materials, and/or visuals created as an element of (or from) one of the members learning experiences
    - Artifacts that support the use of, or demonstrate the employment of, sound production and management practices

## Neatness & Aesthetics

- How aesthetically “pleasing” the book looks.
  - **ONLY COMES INTO CONSIDERATION AS A TIE-BREAKER**
    - If all factors, listed below are equivalent between two or more project record books then, and only then, are the element of “neatness” and aesthetic appeal to come into consideration.
      - Completeness
      - Accuracy
      - Legibility
      - A demonstration of sound production and management practices as reflected throughout the project record book and submitted additional materials