Tips for Completing a Successful Ohio State Fair Skillathon

1. **Find out the date, time, and location of the skillathon(s) you plan to attend.** Information about the date, time, and location of all state fair skillathons is posted at [go.osu.edu/OSFskillathon](go.osu.edu/OSFskillathon).

2. **Know your 4-H age and birth date. Bring an adult along to verify.** 4-H age is determined by your age on January 1 of the current year. All youth participating in any state fair skillathon must write their 4-H age and date of birth (month/day/year) at the top of their score sheet. An adult, representing you, must be present at the skillathon to verify your age is correct by signing the skillathon score sheet. If your parent/guardian is not the person signing, and you are not 100% sure of your 4-H age and birth date, ask your parent/guardian to write this information on a piece of paper and give it to you to give to the adult signing for you. If your 4-H age is 18, you do not need an adult to sign your score sheet. Refer to the next page for examples of how to complete the top portion of a skillathon score sheet.

3. **Be aware of any materials you need to bring prior to starting the skillathon.** The Outstanding Market Exhibitor (OME) animal skillathons (beef, goat, sheep, swine, poultry) have a record book competition in which any 4-H or FFA member can compete. Record books are required to achieve the maximum amount of points for that skillathon. Record books must follow strict guidelines regarding format and rules (refer to [go.osu.edu/OSFskillathon](go.osu.edu/OSFskillathon)).

4. **Follow the rules.** Youth found in violation of state skillathon rules can be disqualified. Study materials or electronic devices, such as cell phones, are not permitted in the skillathon evaluation area. Ohio State Fair Junior Livestock rules (including skillathons, record books and showmanship) can be found at [ohiostatefair.com/livestock](ohiostatefair.com/livestock).

5. **Give yourself plenty of time.** State skillathons are open during a set time period only. Remember, other youth will also be participating, so expect a waiting period. Once you register, you are expected to stay in the waiting area until your turn. Give yourself a minimum of 30 minutes to complete a skillathon. Skillathon stations are timed, and you will have 3-5 minutes to complete each station. Each skillathon has four stations along with a tiebreaker station. Once you enter the skillathon evaluation area, you cannot leave. If you do leave, you forfeit any further participation in that skillathon.

6. **Study!** Review the station topics at [go.osu.edu/OSFskillathon](go.osu.edu/OSFskillathon) and study the appropriate resource guides and links.
Score Sheet Examples for OME (e.g., Beef) and Non-OME (e.g., Rabbit) Animal Skillathons

Exhibitor # _________

OHIO STATE FAIR BEEF SKILLATHON - Junior
August 3, 2017

First Name ___________________________________ Last Name ___________________________________
Address ___________________________________ City ___________________________ Zip ______
County of 4-H Enrollment _____________________________________ Circle One: 4-H  FFA  BOTH

Your age on January 1, 2017 ______________________  Date of Birth ______________________

Age Division (according to your age on January 1, 2017)
Circle One:  8/9  10  11

Did you bring market beef to OSF?  YES  NO   Did you bring breeding beef to OSF?  YES  NO

As the signing adult, I verify the above information is true and accurate. I accept responsibility if there are any errors in information resulting in participant disqualification.

Adult Signature ___________________________ Phone ___________________________

OHIO STATE FAIR RABBIT SKILLATHON
August 4, 2017

First Name ___________________________________ Last Name ___________________________________
Address ___________________________________ City ___________________________ Zip ______
County of 4-H Enrollment _____________________________________ Circle One: 4-H  FFA  BOTH

Your age on January 1, 2017 ______________________  Date of Birth ______________________

Age Division (according to your age on January 1, 2017)
Circle One:  8/9  10  11  12  13  14  15  16  17  18

Did you bring a market rabbit to OSF?  YES  NO   Did you bring a breeding rabbit to OSF?  YES  NO

As the signing adult, I verify the above information is true and accurate. I accept responsibility if there are any errors in information resulting in participant disqualification.

Adult Signature ___________________________ Phone ___________________________