

SKILLATHON



ACTIVITY

INTERMEDIATE

Current Events

Instructions: Choose one topic that you would like to present to the skillathon facilitator at this station.

Option 1

- What thoughts or ideas do you have that would help increase the consumption of pork in the United States?
- How do you think the recent lowering of pork's cooking temperature has affected the consumer's thoughts about purchasing and cooking with pork products?
- What can you do to increase the awareness to non-farm families about the good attributes of pork?

Option 2

- Animal welfare has been a controversial topic over the past several years, in what ways do you think the youth can shed a positive light on how the pork industry approaches the care and well being of the animals that we raise?
- What groups of people or organizations do you think we need to spread our message to?
- Who do you think should deliver this message?

Option 3

- How do you think high feed prices are affecting the different segments of the swine industry?
- What do you think the increase in feed prices will do to number of pigs and families that participate in swine show events?
- What do you think you can do to help maintain or increase participation in light of the price increases in feed and fuel?



SKILLATHON



KEY

INTERMEDIATE

Current Events

Option 1

- What thoughts or ideas do you have that would help increase the consumption of pork in the United States? **Increase local community awareness through cookouts, educational cooking classes, or pork cooking contests**
- How do you think the recent lowering of pork's cooking temperature has affected the consumer's thoughts about purchasing and cooking with pork products? **New pork cooking temperature is 145 degrees Fahrenheit. Lower cooking temp will help improve the tenderness of the product that has been 'cooked to death' in restaurant settings.**
- What can you do to increase the awareness to non-farm families about the good attributes of pork? **Host regional cookouts at NJSA events and go in to the community to educate about pork and its attributes.**

Option 2

- Animal welfare has been a controversial topic over the past several years, in what ways do you think the youth can shed a positive light on how the pork industry approaches the care and well being of the animals that we raise? **Educate ourselves to the proper language that the non-swine person understands. Educate others in a non controversial and accepting manner, accept that the average non-agricultural person does not understand our practices and it is our responsibility to put them at ease.**
- What groups of people or organizations do you think we need to spread our message to? **Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)**
- Who do you think should deliver this message? **All members of the NJSA and their families, sponsors of the NJSA, and NJSA staff.**

Option 3

- How do you think high feed prices are affecting the different segments of the swine industry? **High feed costs are causing producers and families to decide between what business decisions they need to make in order to adjust and manage their business in a profitable manner, their current practices might not work any longer.**
- What do you think the increase in feed prices will do to number of pigs and families that participate in swine show events? **Downsizing**
- What do you think you can do to help maintain or increase participation in light of the price increases in feed and fuel? **They are being asked to make the decision if it is a wise decision to travel to a show or not. Commercial producers are looking at more economical ways to purchase feed, manage their labor force, transportation, and possible alliances with other companies to form conglomerates that will be profitable.**



INSTRUCTIONS

SKILLATHON



INTERMEDIATE Current Events

Junior Current Events Instructions

- There are three topics that each participant can choose from.
- The purpose of this station is to evoke conversation with the participant and see how much they know about the topic that they chose, how well they present their ideas, and how well they communicate their ideas.
- Each participant will have 4 minutes maximum to discuss their topic. Please be sure that the participant speaks quiet enough that the next individual cannot hear the conversation.
- On the facilitator key are a few bullet points that you might listen for in each person's presentation. Your own key points can be used as well, these are simply for a guide.

Scoring: Below is a guide to aid in scoring each participants presentation.

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Point Values</i>
Knowledge of the Chosen Topic	5
Communication Skills – Eye Contact, Verbalization & Composure	10
General Effect of the Presentation	10

Total Points Circle the total on the participants score sheet

****This station has a total of 25 points.****

Thank you very much for volunteering to help with the skillathon. Please remember to complete the skillathon facilitator information sheet and leave it on your stations table at the end of the competition. Thank You!



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ACTIVITY

INTERMEDIATE

TIE-BREAKER

Current Events

- 1) Which country are American purebred swine being shipped to in great numbers, due to a national restocking after a severe Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak? (3 points)
- 2) Name the top two states in swine production? (2 points / state – 4 points)
- 3) Which country is the world leader in both pork production and consumption? (2 points)
- 4) Approximately what percentage of the world’s pork does the above country consume? (2 points)
- 5) Which national animal rights association, with a budget well over \$100 million, is responsible for the most aggressive action against modern pork production? (3 points)
- 6) Name two states which this entity has been at least partially responsible for the banning or phased removal of sow gestation crates? (1 point / state – 2 points possible)
- 7) Chose one of the topics currently relevant to the swine industry and provide a short discussion (limited to the space provided – (9 points).
 - a) USDA approval of the change in cooking temp – potential impact on consumer acceptance/pork demand?
 - b) Mandated corn usage for ethanol; a positive or negative for U.S. agriculture as a whole?
 - c) Methods to enhance public perception and/or knowledge of swine production – who’s our most reputable source to tell our story?



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KEY

INTERMEDIATE

TIE-BREAKER

Current Events

- 1) Which country are American purebred swine being shipped to in great numbers, due to a national restocking after a severe Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak? (3 points) **South Korea**
- 2) Name the top two states in swine production? (2 points / state – 4 points)
Iowa and North Carolina
- 3) Which country is the world leader in both pork production and consumption? (2 points) **China**
- 4) Approximately what percentage of the world's pork does the above country consume? (2 points) **50%**
- 5) Which national animal rights association, with a budget well over \$100 million, is responsible for the most aggressive action against modern pork production? (3 points)
Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
- 6) Name two states which this entity has been at least partially responsible for the banning or phased removal of sow gestation crates? (1 point / state – 2 points possible)
Florida, Arizona, California, Colorado, Michigan, Ohio
- 7) Chose one of the topics currently relevant to the swine industry and provide a short discussion (limited to the space provided – (9 points).
 - a) USDA approval of the change in cooking temp – potential impact on consumer acceptance/pork demand?
 - b) Mandated corn usage for ethanol; a positive or negative for U.S. agriculture as a whole?
 - c) Methods to enhance public perception and/or knowledge of swine production – who's our most reputable source to tell our story?



INSTRUCTIONS

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INTERMEDIATE TIE-BREAKER Current Events

Junior Current Events Tie-Breaker Instructions

- Have each participant complete the current events quiz worksheet.
- Each participant has 10 minutes to answer all five questions.
- Once 10 minutes elapses they must stop and turn in the work they have completed.
- Please write down the amount of time that it takes for them to complete the station as it will be used as a tie breaker.

Scoring: There are 25 total points possible at this station.

****This station has a total of 25 points.****

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STATION # _____

INTERMEDIATE

Current

Events

