

ohio state fair skillathon

ohio state fair skillathon is a prominent educational competition held annually at the Ohio State Fair, designed to test and showcase the agricultural knowledge and skills of youth participants. This event draws young individuals interested in various aspects of agriculture, ranging from livestock management to crop production, allowing them to demonstrate their expertise in a hands-on and engaging environment. The ohio state fair skillathon not only encourages learning but also fosters a spirit of competition and community among future agricultural leaders. Participants prepare extensively to answer questions, identify equipment, and solve practical problems related to agriculture. This article will provide an in-depth overview of the ohio state fair skillathon, including its structure, categories, eligibility criteria, preparation tips, and the benefits of participating. The article will also explore the significance of this event within the broader context of agricultural education and youth development.

- Overview of the Ohio State Fair Skillathon
- Categories and Areas of Competition
- Eligibility and Participation Requirements
- Preparation and Study Tips for Participants
- Benefits of Participating in the Skillathon
- Impact on Agricultural Education and Youth Development

Overview of the Ohio State Fair Skillathon

The ohio state fair skillathon is an educational contest that focuses on assessing the practical and theoretical knowledge of youth involved in agriculture. This competition is typically held during the Ohio State Fair, one of the largest state fairs in the United States, providing a prestigious platform for young agricultural enthusiasts to demonstrate their skills. Participants engage in a series of stations or activities where they answer questions, identify plants, animals, tools, and equipment, and solve real-world agricultural problems. The skillathon emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and hands-on learning, making it an integral part of youth agricultural programs such as 4-H and FFA (Future Farmers of America). The event attracts hundreds of participants each year, ranging from beginners to advanced competitors, highlighting the importance of agricultural education in Ohio's rural and urban communities.

Categories and Areas of Competition

The ohio state fair skillathon covers a wide range of agricultural topics to accommodate various interests and expertise levels among participants. The competition is divided into multiple categories, each designed to test specific skills and knowledge within the agricultural sector. These

categories ensure a comprehensive evaluation of participants' abilities and provide opportunities for specialization.

Livestock Identification and Management

This category requires participants to identify different breeds of livestock, understand animal nutrition, health management, and basic husbandry practices. Competitors may be asked to recognize parts of animals, interpret feed labels, and solve health-related scenarios.

Crop Science and Plant Identification

Participants demonstrate their knowledge of crop types, plant diseases, pest management, and soil science. Identification of seeds, plants, and crop diseases is common, alongside questions related to planting techniques and crop production.

Agricultural Tools and Equipment

Recognizing and understanding the use of various agricultural tools and machinery is essential in this category. Participants identify equipment parts, explain functions, and discuss maintenance practices.

Soil and Water Conservation

This area focuses on sustainable agriculture practices, soil types, erosion control, and water management strategies. Competitors learn about conservation techniques that protect the environment while maximizing productivity.

Food Safety and Nutrition

Some skillathon stations include questions about food processing, safety standards, and nutritional content, reflecting the importance of these topics in modern agriculture.

- Livestock Identification and Management
- Crop Science and Plant Identification
- Agricultural Tools and Equipment
- Soil and Water Conservation
- Food Safety and Nutrition

Eligibility and Participation Requirements

The Ohio state fair skillathon is primarily aimed at youth involved in agricultural education programs, including 4-H clubs, FFA chapters, and other youth organizations. Eligibility criteria typically vary depending on age groups, membership status, and regional qualifications. Most participants are between the ages of 8 and 19, divided into junior, intermediate, and senior divisions to ensure fair competition.

To participate, individuals usually need to be enrolled in an approved agricultural education program and may have to qualify through local or county-level skillathons or contests. Registration deadlines, entry fees, and specific rules are established by the Ohio Department of Agriculture and cooperating organizations. The structure promotes inclusivity while maintaining a competitive environment that encourages skill development and personal growth.

Preparation and Study Tips for Participants

Success in the Ohio state fair skillathon requires thorough preparation and a strategic approach to studying. Participants should focus on building a strong foundation in agricultural sciences and practical skills relevant to the competition categories. Effective preparation often involves a combination of classroom learning, hands-on experience, and participation in local contests.

Utilize Study Guides and Resources

Many organizations provide official study materials, including manuals, flashcards, and practice quizzes. These resources cover key topics such as livestock breeds, plant identification, soil types, and agricultural equipment, helping participants familiarize themselves with the content.

Engage in Hands-On Practice

Practical experience is invaluable. Handling livestock, working with crops, visiting farms, and learning to identify equipment in real life enhances understanding and retention. Field trips and workshops organized by agricultural educators are beneficial.

Participate in Mock Skillathons

Practicing under competition conditions with mock skillathons or practice stations helps participants improve their speed, accuracy, and confidence. It also aids in time management, a crucial element during the actual contest.

Collaborate with Peers and Mentors

Group study sessions and mentorship from experienced agricultural educators or past participants provide guidance and feedback. Sharing knowledge and discussing challenging topics can deepen comprehension.

Maintain Consistent Study Habits

Regular study sessions, rather than last-minute cramming, lead to better mastery of material. Setting a study schedule and sticking to it ensures steady progress.

1. Utilize Study Guides and Resources
2. Engage in Hands-On Practice
3. Participate in Mock Skillathons
4. Collaborate with Peers and Mentors
5. Maintain Consistent Study Habits

Benefits of Participating in the Skillathon

Participation in the ohio state fair skillathon offers numerous educational and developmental advantages for youth. Beyond the immediate competition, the skillathon serves as a catalyst for learning, leadership, and career exploration in agriculture.

Enhancement of Agricultural Knowledge

The skillathon challenges participants to deepen their understanding of agricultural sciences, fostering expertise that can be applied in academic settings and future careers.

Development of Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills

By working through practical scenarios and identification tasks, participants improve their analytical abilities and learn to make informed decisions in agricultural contexts.

Opportunities for Scholarships and Awards

Top performers in the ohio state fair skillathon often receive scholarships, trophies, and recognition, which can support further education and motivate continued involvement in agriculture.

Networking and Community Building

The event connects youth with peers, educators, and industry professionals, promoting collaboration and mentorship within the agricultural community.

Preparation for Future Agricultural Careers

Experience gained through the skillathon can be advantageous for careers in farming, agricultural science, agribusiness, and related fields, providing a competitive edge in college admissions and job applications.

- Enhancement of Agricultural Knowledge
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Impact on Agricultural Education and Youth Development

The Ohio State Fair Skillathon plays a significant role in promoting agricultural education and supporting the growth of youth involved in farming and related industries. It serves as a practical learning platform that complements classroom instruction and experiential learning.

By encouraging young people to engage deeply with agricultural topics, the skillathon helps sustain interest in agriculture as a vital sector of Ohio's economy and culture. It also contributes to the development of responsible, knowledgeable citizens who understand the importance of agriculture in food production, environmental stewardship, and rural development.

Furthermore, the Ohio State Fair Skillathon fosters essential life skills such as discipline, teamwork, communication, and leadership. These competencies are valuable not only within agriculture but also in broader personal and professional contexts. The event's emphasis on hands-on learning and real-world application aligns with modern educational approaches, making it a model for experiential agricultural education nationwide.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Ohio State Fair Skillathon?

The Ohio State Fair Skillathon is a competitive event where youth participants demonstrate their knowledge and skills related to agriculture, livestock, and related industries.

Who is eligible to participate in the Ohio State Fair Skillathon?

Youth participants typically aged 8-18 who are enrolled in 4-H, FFA, or other youth agricultural programs in Ohio are eligible to participate.

What types of skills are tested in the Ohio State Fair Skillathon?

Skills tested include animal identification, breed characteristics, animal health, nutrition, equipment identification, and general agriculture knowledge.

How can I prepare for the Ohio State Fair Skillathon?

Preparation can include studying species-specific materials, attending workshops, practicing with skillathon kits, and reviewing Ohio State Fair guidelines.

When is the Ohio State Fair Skillathon held?

The Skillathon is usually held during the Ohio State Fair, which takes place annually in late July to early August.

Are there different divisions or age groups in the Ohio State Fair Skillathon?

Yes, the Skillathon is divided into different age groups or divisions to ensure fair competition among participants of similar ages.

What awards can participants win at the Ohio State Fair Skillathon?

Participants can win ribbons, trophies, scholarships, and other prizes based on their performance and ranking in the competition.

Is there a registration fee for the Ohio State Fair Skillathon?

Registration fees vary by year and category, but typically there is a nominal fee to participate, which covers materials and event costs.

Can teams participate in the Ohio State Fair Skillathon or is it only individual?

Both individual and team participation are often allowed, with some awards given for team performance and collaboration.

Where can I find study materials or resources for the Ohio State Fair Skillathon?

Study materials are available through Ohio 4-H Extension offices, the Ohio State Fair website, agricultural education programs, and local FFA chapters.

Additional Resources

1. *Mastering the Ohio State Fair Skillathon: A Comprehensive Guide*

This book serves as an all-in-one resource for participants preparing for the Ohio State Fair Skillathon. It covers various topics including animal science, agriculture, and fair competition rules. With practice quizzes and expert tips, readers can build confidence and increase their chances of success at the fair.

2. *The Ultimate Ohio State Fair Skillathon Workbook*

Designed for hands-on learners, this workbook offers interactive exercises and activities focused on the skillathon's key subjects. It includes detailed explanations, diagrams, and practice questions to help teens and young adults excel. The workbook is ideal for both individual study and group preparation sessions.

3. *Agriculture and Animal Science for Ohio State Fair Skillathon*

Focusing specifically on agriculture and animal science, this book provides in-depth information on livestock breeds, nutrition, and care. It's tailored to meet the knowledge requirements of the Ohio State Fair Skillathon. The clear, concise chapters help participants understand complex concepts in a straightforward manner.

4. *Ohio State Fair Skillathon Study Guide: Tips and Strategies*

This guide offers strategic advice on how to approach the skillathon, manage time, and handle different types of questions. It includes sample questions and answers based on previous fairs. The book is perfect for competitors who want to refine their test-taking skills and improve their overall performance.

5. *Exploring Ohio Agriculture: A Primer for Skillathon Participants*

This primer introduces readers to Ohio's rich agricultural heritage and current farming practices. It ties state-specific information to the skillathon topics, helping participants relate what they learn to real-world applications. The engaging writing style makes it accessible for readers of all ages.

6. *Livestock Judging and Skillathon Preparation for Ohio Youth*

Targeted at young competitors, this book breaks down the livestock judging process and how it relates to the skillathon. It provides practical tips on observation, evaluation, and decision-making. The book includes photos and case studies from past Ohio State Fair events.

7. *Skillathon Success Stories: Ohio State Fair Champions Share Their Secrets*

This inspiring collection features interviews and stories from past Ohio State Fair Skillathon winners. Readers gain insight into their study habits, challenges, and strategies for success. It's a motivational read that encourages perseverance and dedication.

8. *Hands-On Science for Ohio State Fair Skillathon*

This book emphasizes experiential learning through projects and experiments related to skillathon

topics. It encourages participants to engage actively with science concepts in agriculture and animal care. The step-by-step instructions help build practical knowledge alongside theoretical understanding.

9. Preparing for the Ohio State Fair Skillathon: A Parent's Guide

Aimed at parents supporting their children's skillathon journey, this guide offers advice on how to help with study schedules, resources, and encouragement. It explains the skillathon's structure and what to expect on competition day. The book also suggests ways to foster a positive learning environment at home.

Ohio State Fair Skillathon

Ohio State Fair Skillathon: A Deep Dive into Ohio's Premier Youth Competition

Ebook Title: Mastering the Ohio State Fair Skillathon: A Comprehensive Guide for Young Competitors

Author: Amelia Hernandez, Agricultural Education Expert

Contents:

Introduction: The allure and importance of the Ohio State Fair Skillathon.

Chapter 1: Understanding the Skillathon Competitions: A detailed breakdown of each competition area (e.g., livestock, horticulture, food science).

Chapter 2: Preparing for Success: Strategies for project selection, research, record-keeping, and presentation.

Chapter 3: Advanced Techniques and Expert Tips: In-depth guidance on specific skills, showcasing best practices and common pitfalls.

Chapter 4: Showmanship and Presentation Skills: Mastering the art of effectively communicating project details to judges.

Chapter 5: Post-Competition Analysis and Future Growth: Reflecting on performance, identifying areas for improvement, and planning for future participation.

Conclusion: Celebrating achievements and encouraging continued learning and participation in the Ohio State Fair Skillathon.

Ohio State Fair Skillathon: A Comprehensive Guide

Introduction: The Heart of Agricultural Excellence

The Ohio State Fair Skillathon isn't just a competition; it's a vibrant testament to the dedication, ingenuity, and hard work of Ohio's youth. This annual event provides a platform for young

agricultural enthusiasts to showcase their skills, knowledge, and passion within a wide range of disciplines. From meticulously cultivated gardens to expertly raised livestock, the Skillathon celebrates the dedication required to excel in agriculture and related fields. This comprehensive guide delves into the intricacies of the Skillathon, providing aspiring participants with the knowledge and strategies necessary to achieve their full potential. The competition fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication abilities—skills invaluable beyond the fairgrounds. It's a springboard for future careers in agriculture, science, and beyond. Understanding the significance of the Skillathon is the first step to success.

Chapter 1: Understanding the Skillathon Competitions: A Diverse Landscape of Skills

The Ohio State Fair Skillathon encompasses a multitude of competitions, each demanding unique skills and knowledge. A thorough understanding of the available categories is crucial for selecting a project that aligns with your interests and capabilities. Some key areas typically include:

Livestock Projects: This often involves raising and caring for animals like pigs, sheep, cattle, or poultry. Competitors are judged on animal health, growth, and overall management. This requires extensive knowledge of animal husbandry, nutrition, and disease prevention. Specific breed standards and showmanship techniques are vital for success.

Horticulture Projects: This category focuses on plant cultivation, encompassing everything from flower gardening to vegetable production. Competitors are evaluated on the quality and presentation of their plants, demonstrating knowledge of soil science, plant physiology, pest management, and sustainable gardening practices.

Food Science Projects: This area tests competitors' understanding of food preparation, preservation, and processing. Projects may involve creating innovative recipes, developing new food products, or conducting experiments related to food safety and nutrition. A strong understanding of culinary techniques, food science principles, and presentation is crucial.

Other Potential Areas: The Skillathon may also include categories like agricultural mechanics, environmental science, and leadership development. The specific competitions may vary from year to year, so consulting the official Ohio State Fair website for the most up-to-date information is essential. Each area has its own specific judging criteria, requiring dedicated preparation and practice.

Chapter 2: Preparing for Success: A Roadmap to Excellence

Preparation is the cornerstone of success in any Skillathon competition. A well-structured plan, encompassing project selection, research, record-keeping, and presentation development, is paramount.

Project Selection: Choosing the right project is crucial. Select a project that genuinely interests you, aligns with your skills, and allows for sufficient time for dedicated work. Research different project areas thoroughly to make an informed decision.

Thorough Research: Once a project is chosen, in-depth research is vital. Understand the scientific principles underlying your project, explore best practices, and identify potential challenges. Utilize reputable sources like agricultural extension publications, scientific journals, and expert advice.

Meticulous Record-Keeping: Maintain detailed records throughout the project's duration. This includes tracking expenses, documenting growth or development, noting observations, and recording any challenges encountered and how they were overcome. This documentation is not just for the competition; it's a valuable learning experience in itself.

Presentation Preparation: Your project's presentation is just as important as the project itself. Prepare a clear, concise, and engaging presentation that effectively communicates your project's goals, methods, and results. Practice your presentation thoroughly to ensure a smooth and confident delivery.

Chapter 3: Advanced Techniques and Expert Tips: Refining Your Skills

Mastering the Skillathon requires more than just basic knowledge. This chapter explores advanced techniques and expert tips to elevate your project and presentation to the next level.

Livestock Management: Understanding animal behavior, health monitoring, and advanced feeding techniques can significantly improve your livestock project's success. Seek mentorship from experienced livestock breeders and attend workshops to enhance your skills.

Horticultural Techniques: Explore advanced horticultural practices like hydroponics, grafting, or precision fertilization to maximize plant growth and quality. Utilize soil testing to optimize nutrient levels and disease prevention techniques to safeguard your plants.

Food Science Innovations: Develop innovative food preservation techniques or explore the use of functional ingredients to create unique and healthy food products. Master food safety protocols to guarantee the quality and safety of your creations.

Data Analysis and Interpretation: Learn to effectively analyze your data, draw meaningful conclusions, and present your findings in a clear and compelling manner. Understanding statistical analysis can strengthen your project's scientific rigor.

Chapter 4: Showmanship and Presentation Skills: Communicating Your Passion

Effective communication is key to success in the Skillathon. Your presentation is your opportunity to showcase your project's significance and your expertise.

Confidence and Enthusiasm: Project confidence and enthusiasm when presenting your project. Passion is contagious and can significantly impact the judges' perception of your work.

Clear and Concise Communication: Organize your presentation logically and use clear, concise language. Avoid technical jargon and explain complex concepts in an accessible manner.

Visual Aids: Utilize visual aids like charts, graphs, and photos to enhance your presentation and make it more engaging. Ensure your visuals are high-quality and easily understood.

Handling Questions: Prepare for questions from the judges and practice answering them confidently and thoroughly. Anticipate potential questions and develop thoughtful responses.

Chapter 5: Post-Competition Analysis and Future Growth: Learning from the Experience

The Skillathon experience extends beyond the competition itself. Reflecting on your performance and identifying areas for improvement is vital for future growth.

Self-Assessment: Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses objectively. Identify what went well and where you could have improved.

Feedback Analysis: Utilize feedback from judges and mentors to pinpoint areas needing further development. Consider their suggestions and incorporate them into future projects.

Future Planning: Develop a plan for future Skillathon participation. Set realistic goals, identify areas for improvement, and seek out opportunities for continued learning and skill development.

Mentorship and Networking: Connect with other Skillathon participants, mentors, and agricultural professionals to expand your knowledge and network. Seek out advice and guidance from experienced individuals.

Conclusion: Embracing the Journey of Agricultural Excellence

The Ohio State Fair Skillathon offers an invaluable opportunity for young agricultural enthusiasts to develop their skills, showcase their talents, and connect with a vibrant community. It's a journey of learning, growth, and self-discovery. By embracing the challenges, learning from the experiences, and continuing to refine your skills, you can achieve your full potential and make a significant contribution to the future of agriculture.

FAQs

1. What age groups are eligible for the Ohio State Fair Skillathon? Eligibility varies by project category; check the official rules.
2. How do I register for the Skillathon? Registration details are available on the Ohio State Fair website.
3. What are the judging criteria for each competition? Detailed criteria are outlined in the official rulebook available on the Ohio State Fair website.
4. Are there any entry fees? Check the official website for fee information, which may vary by project.
5. What kind of support is available for participants? Many county extension offices and agricultural organizations provide guidance and support.
6. What are the prizes or awards? Awards vary; check the official website for details.
7. What happens if my project doesn't win? The focus is on learning and development; participation itself is a valuable experience.
8. How can I find a mentor? Contact your local 4-H club or agricultural extension office.
9. Where can I find more information about the Skillathon? The official Ohio State Fair website is the best resource.

Related Articles:

1. Ohio State Fair Skillathon: Livestock Project Guide: A detailed guide to preparing and exhibiting livestock projects.
2. Mastering Horticulture for the Ohio State Fair Skillathon: Advanced techniques for horticultural success.
3. Winning Food Science Projects at the Ohio State Fair Skillathon: Innovative project ideas and recipes.
4. Effective Presentation Skills for the Ohio State Fair Skillathon: Tips for creating a winning presentation.
5. Record-Keeping Best Practices for Skillathon Competitors: Essential tips for detailed and organized record-keeping.
6. The Importance of Mentorship in the Ohio State Fair Skillathon: How mentors can guide participants to success.
7. Ohio State Fair Skillathon: Common Mistakes to Avoid: Learn from the experiences of previous participants.
8. Showmanship Techniques for Livestock and Horticulture Projects: Refining your presentation skills for maximum impact.

9. Post-Skillathon Reflection: Analyzing Your Performance and Planning for the Future: Learning from experiences to improve future outcomes.

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ohio state fair skillathon: *Food Safety and Preservation* Alexandru Mihai Grumezescu, Alina Maria Holban, 2018-04-18 Food Safety and Preservation: Modern Biological Approaches to Improving Consumer Health explores the most recent and investigated hot topics in food safety, microbial contamination, food-borne diseases and advanced preservation methods. It brings together the significant, evidence-based scientific progress of various approaches to improve the safety and quality of foods, also offering solutions to help address food industry challenges. Recent studies and technological advancements in biological control are presented to control foodborne pathogens. In addition, analytical methods for reducing potential biological hazards make this book essential to researchers, scientists, technologists and grad students. - Covers all aspects of food contamination, from food degradation, to food-borne diseases - Examines validated, biological control approaches to reduce microbial and chemical contamination - Includes detailed discussions of risk and safety assessments in food preservation

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ohio state fair skillathon: Lamb Crop Report United States. Crop Reporting Board, 1937

ohio state fair skillathon: Steak Mark Schatzker, 2010-04-29 The definitive book on steak has never been written-until now Of all the meats, only one merits its own structure. There is no such place as a lamb house or a pork house, but even a small town can have a steak house. So begins Mark Schatzker's ultimate carnivorous quest. Fed up with one too many mediocre steaks, the intrepid journalist set out to track down, define, and eat the perfect specimen. His journey takes him

to all the legendary sites of steak excellence-Texas, France, Scotland, Italy, Japan, Argentina, and Idaho's Pahsimeroi Valley-where he discovers the lunatic lengths steak lovers will go to consume the perfect cut. After contemplating the merits of Black Angus, Kobe, Chianina, and the prehistoric aurochs-a breed revived by the Nazis after four hundred years of extinction-Schatzker adopts his own heifer, fattens her on fruit, acorns, and Persian walnuts, and then grapples with ambivalence when this near-pet appears on his plate. Reminiscent of both Bill Bryson's and Bill Buford's writing, *Steak* is a warm, humorous, and wide-ranging read that introduces a wonderful new travel and food writer to the common table.

ohio state fair skillathon: *The New Complete Dog Book* The American Kennel Club, 2014-11-11 The most successful dog book ever published, with over two million copies sold, *The New Complete Dog Book* is the American Kennel Club's bible of dogs, the one book that every purebred dog aficionado and expert cannot live without. The *Complete Dog Book* first appeared 85 years ago and now for the first time has been reformatted and published in full color. A celebration of every breed of dog recognized by the American Kennel Club—over 200 breeds—this volume offers readers: Official standard for every AKC-recognized breed—over 50 more than previous edition—including seven variety Groups and the Miscellaneous Class Newly written breed histories, puppy-buying tips, and pet attributes, each breed written by one of the 200 AKC national parent clubs Over 800 exceptional color photographs of adults and puppies illustrate each four-page breed entry Spotlight on finding well-bred puppies, sports and activities for dogs and owners, AKC programs, and canine anatomy Illustrated glossary of canine terminology I-5 Press is proud to take the helm as the publisher of the longest, continually published dog book in history, following in the footsteps of G.H. Watt Publishers, Halcyon House, Garden City Publishing, Doubleday NY, Howell Book House (Wiley) and Ballantine Books (Random House). This 21st edition of *The American Kennel Club's New Complete Dog Book* belongs in every dog lover's home, the library of every town and institution, and dog club reference section in America.

ohio state fair skillathon: *You Don't Need a Title to Be a Leader* Mark Sanborn, 2006-09-19 In his inspiring new book, *You Don't Need a Title to Be a Leader*, Mark Sanborn, the author of the national bestseller *The Fred Factor*, shows how each of us can be a leader in our daily lives and make a positive difference, whatever our title or position. Through the stories of a number of unsung heroes, Sanborn reveals the keys each one of us can use to improve our organizations and enhance our careers. Genuine leadership – leadership with a “little I”, as he puts it, is not conferred by a title, or limited to the executive suite. Rather, it is shown through our everyday actions and the way we influence the lives of those around us. Among the qualities that genuine leaders share: • Acting with purpose rather than getting bogged down by mindless activity • Caring about and listening to others • Looking for ways to encourage the contributions and development of others rather than focusing solely on personal achievements • Creating a legacy of accomplishment and contribution in everything they do As readers across the country discovered in *The Fred Factor*, Mark Sanborn has an unparalleled ability to explain fundamental business and leadership truths through simple stories and anecdotes. *You Don't Need a Title to Be a Leader* offers an inspiring message to anyone who wants to take control of their life and make a positive difference.

ohio state fair skillathon: *In Herriot's Shadow* Bill Stork (Veterinarian), 2014 Intending to tell stories about dogs, cats, cows, sunrises, sunsets and music, a small town veterinarian, raised by a git 'er done dad and a pathologically kind stay-at-home mom, wrote a book about humanity. *In Herriot's Shadow* is a celebration of chivalry in a grocery store parking lot, generosity in a farm field, and gratitude in two packs of sandwich cookies. Dr. Bill Stork has fully evolved the notion that a person who is kind to animals is inherently good, often in the face of public perception to the contrary. Working alongside men and women whose physical strength is dwarfed by their superhuman depth of character and family values, he has felt the anguish of a corn crop spiking, turning brown and begging for a drop of water, and shared the unbridled exuberance when the million dollar rain came just in time. Embracing the notion that the human-animal bond applies to all creatures, great and small, Dr. Stork was centered and rededicated in his profession by a 70-year-old farmer openly

weeping and hugging a 21-year-old cow named Iris as the sun rose on her last day. Shed a tear for a dog called Buck, hold your belly from laughing as Dr. Stork survives Jack going for his jugular, ponder how Pumpkin developed her outer rind, and make the acquaintance of the Amazing Dick Bass - In Herriot's Shadow weaves together stories about B.B. King, temperamental cows, biking through Texas, therapy cats and life-saving dogs.

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