

LIVESTOCK

Purpose

The State Agriculture/FFA Livestock Judging Contest is designed to exercise and reward students for developing knowledge, reasoning, and communication skills related to livestock evaluation and selection.

Objectives

After completing activities involved in the State Agriculture/FFA Livestock Judging Contest, students should be able to:

- I. Develop skills to evaluate and select all species of livestock (cattle, hogs, and sheep).
- II. Develop skills to evaluate and select all sexes of livestock.
- III. Estimate factors which affect the grade and yield of market livestock.
- IV. Provide a set of oral reasons for placing a class of livestock.
- V. Estimate the quality grade and yield of feeder steers and slaughter cattle.

Crosswalk with Show Me Standards

Objectives – Students participating in the Career Development Event should be able to:		Show-Me Standards	
		Knowledge Standards (Content Areas)	Performance Standards (Goals)
1.	Develop skills to evaluate and select all species of livestock (cattle, hogs, and sheep).	CA.1, CA.4 CA.5, CA.6 MA.3 SC.3	1.8
2.	Develop skills to evaluate and select all sexes of livestock.		2.1, 2.2, 2.6
3.	Estimate factors which affect the grade and yield of market livestock.		3.1, 3.5
4.	Provide a set of oral reasons for placing a class of livestock.		4.1, 4.4, 4.8
5.	Estimate the quality and yield grade of feeder steers and slaughter cattle.		

Corresponding Secondary Agriculture Curriculum			
Course and/or Curriculum:	Agricultural Science I	Unit(s):	Introduction to Swine Production Introduction to Sheep Production Introduction to Beef Production
	Animal Science		Unit II – Genetics Unit III – Reproduction
	Advanced Livestock Production and Management		Unit III – Selection Unit IX – Herd/Flock Management

Event Format

The Livestock Judging Contest will consist of three components:

1. Livestock Placing Classes -

A. Six Placing Classes may represent the following species and types:

- a. Beef - bulls, heifers, market cattle, cull/keep heifers
- b. Swine - boars, gilts, market hogs, cull/keep gilts
- c. Sheep - rams, ewes, market lambs, cull/keep ewes

B. Placing classes will be designated market or breeding animals.

C. All available performance data will be given on each animal in each of the selection classes. The following lists are some examples of the type of information which could be provided to contestants.

Cattle

1. birthdate or age in days
2. adjusted 205 day weaning weight or weaning weight ratio
3. adjusted 365 day yearling weight or yearling weight ratio
4. present day weight
5. adjusted frame score at 205 days and at 365 days of age
6. EPD's

Swine

1. birthdate or age in days
2. days to 230 pounds
3. average backfat and loin eye area adjusted to 230 pounds
4. present day weight

Sheep

1. birthdate or age in days
2. adjust 90 day weights or their ratios (use like weaning weights in cattle)
3. adjusted yearling weights or ratios
4. present day weight
5. type of birth--single, twin, or triplet (multiple birth lambs are usually somewhat smaller at weaning)

D. The idea behind the selection class is very practical. This is the type of situation most breeders go through when they are selecting replacement females to put back into their own herds whether they are purebred or commercial producers. Contestants must remember that it is entirely possible that the best female, in terms of visual appraisal, could have the poorest record or vice-a-versa. Contestants may at times have to keep the female with the poorest records if she is by far the best today visually. The female that has the best records may also get culled if she is structurally incorrect or is of a very undesirable type.

E. In scoring the keep/cull classes, officials will rank all eight animals from the best to the least desirable. Then each animal would be assigned a point value with the greatest points going to the best animal and the least points going to the least desirable animal. The top four animals are the four animals which the contestants will keep and their points should equal a total of 50. Below is an example of how the scoring system should work.

Scoring the Keep/Cull Classes

1. Rank the animals from the best to the least desirable. For this example, we placed the animals:

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

2. Assign a point value to each one of the individual animals giving the most points to the best animals and the least points to the least desirable animal. In this case, our point assignment is as follows:

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
18 13 11 8 7 4 3 0

2. **Oral Reasons** –

A. Students will give 3 sets of Oral Reasons based on their placing of selected Placing Classes. The reasons classes will involve at least one set from the breeding divisions and at least one set from the market division. Each contestant will be allowed two minutes to present their oral reasons for each class.

3. **Market Animal Grading Classes** –

- A. The market animal evaluation classes will include the following activities:
 - a. Estimate feeder cattle grade for a class of five (5) feeder cattle.
 - b. Estimate slaughter cattle grade for a class of five (5) slaughter cattle.
- B. All grading will be based on USDA market cattle grades.

Event Scoring

Event	Points
Livestock Placing Classes – Six (6) classes @ 50 points	300 points
Oral Reasons – Three (3) classes @ 50 points	150 points
Market Animal Grading – Two (2) classes @ 50 points	100 points
TOTAL	550 points

1. Tie scores among teams in all events should be broken using the high individual team member's score. In case the scores are tied, the scores of the second high individual on each team should be used.

Event Rules and Regulations

1. The superintendent and judges will select the classes of livestock to be judged and make the official placings.
2. Each animal will be clearly numbered for identification (i.e., 1, 2, 3, or 4).
3. Contestants will not be allowed to communicate with one another. Infractions of this rule will be cause for elimination or a point penalty at the superintendent's discretion.
4. Only the superintendents, official judges, and approved proctors will be permitted within the building when the livestock is being judged.
5. Teachers will be permitted to exit through the livestock holding area after checking in their team.
6. In keep/cull classes, contestants will select the four best animals from the eight in the class using both visual and performance records.
7. Contestants and officials will not be allowed to handle the livestock with the exception of market lambs.
8. In the cattle and sheep selection classes, the age spread should not exceed two months and would, preferably, be less. In the swine classes, the ages of the gilts should not exceed a 30-day spread.

References

Information on USDA feeder cattle grades can be obtained at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/> .

MU Guidesheet:

2952--Livestock Judging Teaching

2906--Purebred Livestock Registry Association

2910--Heritability and Its Importance in Animal Breeding

2950--Oral Reasons in Livestock Judging

“Learning to Judge Angus Cattle” (free), American Angus Association, 3201 Frederick Boulevard, St. Joseph, MO 64501.

Also, for further information regarding the use of performance criteria in placing and cull/keep classes, you should contact the following:

Mr. Toby Wright
Supervisor of Domestic Marketing
Market Development Division
Missouri Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 630
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(314) 751-4339

Mr. Mike Davis
Marketing Specialist
Market Development Division
Missouri Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 630
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(314) 751-5528

Beef Improvement Federation
C/O Charles McPeak
Animal Science Department
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078

National Swine Improvement Federation
101 Peters Hall
University of Minnesota
1404 Gortner Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108

Sheep Industry Development Program, Inc.
200 Clayton Street
Denver, CO 80206

Forms

See following for Form2, Form6, Form15, Form20, and Form24.

STANDARD FFA PLACING CARD

		Placings	Check Placing
Contestant Number		1-2-3-4	A
		1-2-4-3	B
		1-3-2-4	C
Class Number		1-3-4-2	D
		1-4-2-3	E
		1-4-3-2	F
Class Name		2-1-3-4	G
		2-1-4-3	H
		2-3-1-4	I
School Name		2-3-4-1	J
		2-4-1-3	K
		2-4-3-1	L
Student Name		3-1-2-4	M
		3-1-4-2	N
		3-2-1-4	O
		3-2-4-1	P
		3-4-1-2	Q
		3-4-2-1	R
Placings Score	Reasons Score	4-1-2-3	S
		4-1-3-2	T
		4-2-1-3	U
		4-2-3-1	V
		4-3-1-2	W
		4-3-2-1	X

**Beef Cattle Grading Card
FEEDER CATTLE**

Class Name: _____ Class Number: _____

Name: _____ Contestant Number: _____

School: _____ School Number: _____

Animal Number	Frame Size				Muscle Thickness				SCORE	TOTAL
	Large	Medium	Small	Inferior	1	2	3	4		
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
TOTAL SCORE										

For Feeder Cattle Grading, the contestant is to place a check mark in the proper grade standard for Frame Size and a check mark in the grade standard for Muscle Thickness. No cattle over 36 months of age will be used. Perfect score is 50.

SCORING: 6 points will be allowed for the correct frame size
 2 points will be allowed if the animal is graded - one grade above or one grade below the correct frame size.

4 points will be allowed if the correct muscle thickness is identified.
 2 points will be allowed if the animal is graded - one grade above or one grade below the correct muscle thickness

Livestock Selection Class

Name: _____

Contestant Number: _____

School: _____

School Number: _____

List below the numbers of
the four animals you would
KEEP!

--	--	--	--

Score: _____

Oral Reasons *

Name: _____ Contestant Number: _____

School _____ School Number: _____

SCORING FACTORS:**

- 1. Appearance and Delivery 12 points _____
- 2. Proper Use of Terms 10 points _____
- 3. Accuracy of Statements 10 points _____
- 4. Importance of Points Covered 18 points _____

Perfect Score = 50 points

Judges Comments: _____

Total Score: _____

*This card will be used for scoring all oral reason classes.

**Note: Contestants are not penalized for the format used in presenting reasons, but an introductory statement on how the class was placed and a summary at the end is in order.

Form 15

Slaughter Cattle

Class Name _____

Class Number _____

Contestant Name _____

Contestant Number _____

Animal Number	Quality Grade								Yield Grade									Score			
	PRIME		CHOICE		SELECT		STANDARD		(Cutability)									Quality	Yield	Total	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0				
1																					
2																					
3																					
4																					
5																					

Contestants will use this grading card for slaughter cattle. Slaughter grades used in the contest are prime, choice, select and standard. No slaughter cattle over 42 months of age will be used; therefore, the “commercial” grade is not shown.

For slaughter cattle, the contestant is to place a check mark in the quality grade subdivision and also the correct cutability (yield grade) rating number for each animal.

Credit of six points will be allowed for the correct cutability rating. Four points will be allowed if an animal is graded one-half grade above or one-half grade below the correct yield.

Two points for each full grade above or below the correct yield grade and the score will be zero for more than one full grade above or below the designated yield grade.

Credit of four points is allowed for the correct quality grade. A deduction of one point will be made for each one-half grade above or below the official grade. Two points are deducted for one full grade above or below the official grade and the score will be zero for more than one full grade above or below the official grade.

Perfect score is 50 points.