

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 (beef cattle, hogs, sheep, and meat goats).
- 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.

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 (beef cattle, hogs, sheep, and meat goats).	CA.1, CA.4 CA.5, CA.6 MA.3 SC.3	1.8 2.1, 2.2, 2.6
2.	Develop skills to evaluate and select all sexes of livestock.		3.1, 3.5
3.	Estimate factors which affect the grade and yield of market livestock.		4.1, 4.4, 4.8
4.	Provide a set of oral reasons for placing a class of livestock.		

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** –

All classes (reasons and non-reasons) are allowed 10 minutes for judging.

A. Seven (7) Placing Classes may represent the following species and types:

- a. Beef cattle - bulls, heifers, market cattle, keep/cull heifers
- b. Swine - boars, gilts, market hogs, keep/cull gilts
- c. Sheep - rams, ewes, market lambs, keep/cull ewes
- d. Meat Goats – bucks, does, market goats, keep/cull does

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

C. Animals in traditional market judging classes that are restrained by halter or rack may be handled by contestants.

D. 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.

Beef 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 250 pounds
3. average backfat and loin eye area adjusted to 250 pounds
4. present day weight
5. EPD's

Sheep

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

Meat Goats

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

5. EPD's

E. 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.

F. 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 1

2. Oral Reasons –

A. Students will give 3 sets of Oral Reasons based on their placing of selected Placing Classes. 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. All grading will be based on USDA market cattle grades.

Event Scoring

Event	Points
Placing, Keep/Cull, & Grading Classes – Eight (8) classes @ 50 points (*Minimum of 1 grading class, maximum of 2 grading classes)	400 points
Oral Reasons – Three (3) classes @ 50 points	150 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, sheep, and meat goat 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.
9. The Livestock CDE will consist of eight (8) classes worth 50 points each and three (3) reasons classes with a maximum of two (2) grading classes and a minimum of one (1) grading class. Reasons classes may be for any of the species in the contest.
10. Contestants will be allowed to bring steno-pads, but must be CLEAN or NOT WRITTEN ON prior to the start of the contest.

Training References

Information on USDA feeder cattle grades can be obtained at:

http://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Feeder_Cattle_Standard%5B1%5D.pdf

MU Guidesheet:

Livestock Judging Teaching (Guide 2952)

Using Performance Data in Judging Classes: BIF Fact Sheet

Heritability and Its Importance in Animal Breeding (Updated November 2018)

“Learning to Judge Angus Cattle” (free), American Angus Association, 3201 Frederick Boulevard, St. Joseph, MO 64501. <https://www.angus.org/Pub/Judging.pdf>

US Standards for Grades of Feeder Cattle

https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Feeder_Cattle_Standard%5B1%5D.pdf

Forms

See following for Form 2, Form 6, Form 20, and Form 24.

FORM 2			
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!

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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: _____