Livestock Judging

Revised 6/2023

**Purpose and Standards**

* To understand and to interpret the value of performance data based on industry stan­dards.
* To measure the students' knowledge in the following categories:
  + to make accurate observations of livestock
  + to determine the desirable traits in animals
  + to make logical decisions based on these observations
  + to discuss and to defend their decisions for their placing
  + to instill an appreciation for desirable selection, management and marketing techniques
* To develop the ability to select and market livestock that will satisfy consumer demands and provide increased economic returns to producers. Provide positive economic returns to producers as well as meet the needs of the industry.
* To become proficient in communicating in the terminology of the industry and the consumer.
* To provide an opportunity for participants to become acquainted

Foundation Standards: 2.4, 2.7, 5.0, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 9.0, 9.1

Agricultural Pathway Standards: D 5.1, D10**5**

Contestants

Teams consist of four members, with all four individual scores counting as the team score. All team members are eligible for individual awards.

Classes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Individual Points** | **Team Points** |
| Beef 1 | 50 | 200 |
| Beef 2 | 50 | 200 |
| Beef 3 | 50 | 200 |
| Sheep 1 | 50 | 200 |
| Sheep 2 | 50 | 200 |
| Sheep 3 | 50 | 200 |
| Meat Goats 1 | 50 | 200 |
| Swine 1 | 50 | 200 |
| Swine 2 | 50 | 200 |
| Swine 3 | 50 | 200 |
| Keep/Cull | 50 | 200 |
| Beef or Beef Performance Reasons | 50 | 200 |
| Sheep Reasons | 50 | 200 |
| Swine or Swine Performance Reasons | 50 | 200 |
| Goat Reasons | 50 | 200 |
| TOTAL | 750 | 3000 |

Tie Breaker

1. The team or individual scoring the highest total reason score(s) will be the winner.
2. If a tie still exists, the total score of the individual or team will be used to determine the high individual or team.

Sub-contest Awards

Sub-contest awards will be given for high teams and individuals in the following areas: Beef, Goats, Sheep, Swine, and Reasons. (Beef, Goats, Sheep and Swine include Keep/Cull, and Reasons if applicable to that species. Reasons sub contest **includes** all reason scores.)

Rules

1. All contestants shall be allowed 12 minutes for placing each class. Two minutes will be allowed for each set of reasons.
2. There will be ten (10) classes judged consisting of three classes each of the following: beef cattle, sheep and swine. The tenth class judged will be meat goats, either breeding or market animals.
3. One judging class will be based on EPD performance data. Each year the class will be rotated from beef to swine. The following data will be used for the EPD class:
   1. Swine: EPD’s or live animal data (derived from the Stages program) representing litter size, backfat, line eye area, and days to 250#. A management statement will include only the intent of progeny and what females will be mated with.
   2. Cattle: birth date, EPD’s, and accuracy percentages for Birth Weight (BW), Calving Ease (CE), Weaning Weight (WW), Yearling Weight (YW) Milk (MILK), Total Maternal (TM), Scrotal Circumference (SC), Fat Thickness (FT), Rib Eye Area (REA), and Marbling (MARB).
   3. A management statement will include only the intent of progeny and what bulls or females will be mated with.
4. In addition, there will be one keep/cull class made up of eight (8) animals. The contest organizer will designate the species to be used. The top four animals used in the keep and cull class will total 50 points. Any of the remaining animals may receive points.
5. Oral reasons will be given on four of the ten classes of livestock, one in each species with one being either swine or beef performance. The four classes of livestock on which oral reasons will be given will not be announced until after the contestants receive their contest numbers. One of the four reasons classes will be based on the performance data class. A minimum of three different judges will listen to and score reasons for each class on which reasons are given.
6. All contestants will be graded as follows:
   1. Correct placings will be fifty points each.
   2. Reasons will be on a basis of 50 points per presentation.
   3. Keep/Cull will have a maximum point value of 50 points each.
7. The host university and contest coordinator will release the following information through an email by 6 p.m. the Friday before State Finals:
   1. Names and types of classes to be judged, including reasons classes. \* Subject to change.
   2. Special instructions (i.e. injured animals, judging site conditions, last minute changes, requests for special needs, etc.)
8. The first team in the State Championship contest is eligible to represent the State of California at the National FFA Competition, or at any other contest accepted as a substitute by the CATA, and the second team is eligible to represent the State of California at the Denver Stock Show FFA Judging Contest in Denver, Colorado or at any other contest accepted as a substitute by CATA. In any case, the first team is barred from further competition within the state in livestock contests. If the second or third team(s) represent the State in out-of-state competition, they are not eligible for further competition. No team placing lower than third will be permitted to represent the State at the National FFA Contest.
9. The contestants will use the JudgingCard #476-4 scan sheet, for all livestock judging classes, including reasons.
10. The contest will be administered, planned, organized and facilitated by a committee of California college and university livestock educators and professionals selected by the current State FFA Advisor at his discretion.

Sample Score Cards

A blue and white form with numbers and symbols

Description automatically generated with medium confidence