

IOWA FFA LIVESTOCK EVALUATION CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

PERSONNEL

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CDE Coordinator
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EVENT OBJECTIVES

1. To motivate students to learn and practice techniques of modern livestock evaluation and selection.
2. To evaluate students' abilities in livestock selection, decision-making, and oral justification of decisions.
3. To encourage classroom lessons in meat animal selection similar to real life situations faced by producers.
4. To develop an understanding and the ability to interpret performance database on industry standards.
5. To develop the ability to select livestock that will provide increased economic returns to producers, as well as meet the needs of the industry and consumers.
6. To become proficient in communicating in the terminology of the industry.
7. To identify the criteria used in marketing livestock.

GENERAL RULES

1. Each chapter may enter a team composed of three or four participants, with the top three scores counting for the team's total score. Team members must all be members of the same FFA chapter.
2. Participants will not be permitted to handle any breeding animals. Handling of the market lamb classes will be permitted unless the CDE coordinator decides otherwise.
3. No team members or advisors are to observe livestock at any of Iowa State University's farms or facilities from July 1 until the event. (Exception: Iowa State University-sponsored events.)
4. Once FFA members are divided into groups, they must remain with their respective group and not communicate with anyone except an event official until after oral reasons are completed.
5. All classes will be judged on the Iowa State University Campus.
6. Parking will be available in a designated area only. Vehicles not parked in this area may be subject to fine or towing.
7. The event will be held at the same site and time as the Iowa 4-H Livestock Judging event. Registration, oral reasons, and award programs will be separate.
8. Placing cards, worksheets, and other written materials will be furnished for each event phase.
9. Participants will be given 10 minutes for each of the judging, keep/cull, and selection classes.
10. All classes and individual animals will be identified by numbers.
11. All breeding classes will be judged on type and/or performance.
12. Oral reasons will be required on three of the livestock classes. These classes will **not** be designated prior to the event.
13. Observers will not be permitted in the event area while the event is in progress. Some livestock classes will be left in place following the event so that FFA chapter advisors and others may view the classes and take photos of their judging team with the animals.

EVENT ACTIVITIES

The Iowa FFA Livestock Judging Career Development Event presents students with beef, sheep, and swine classes and challenges students with competitions in four areas of livestock judging.

1. **Breeding Placing Classes** (150 points possible per FFA member)
Three classes (heifers, ewes, and gilts) worth 50 points each are presented. Four animals per class.
2. **Market Placing Classes** (150 points possible per FFA member)
Three classes (one per species) worth 50 points each are presented. Four animals per class.
3. **Keep/Cull Classes** (100 points possible per FFA member)
Two classes of any of the following at the discretion of the CDE Coordinator (beef, lamb, swine) worth 50 points each are presented. Eight head are presented in the swine class, beef and lamb classes.
4. **Oral Reasons** (150 points possible per FFA member)
Three sets of oral reasons (one per species) on either market or breeding placing classes are required of students.
5. **General Knowledge Exam** (50 points possible per FFA member)
The exam will consist of fifty multiple choice questions over general livestock knowledge. 30 minutes will be allowed for the test.
A student can earn a maximum of 600 points in the event.

1. Breeding Placing Classes

Purpose – The purpose of these classes is to test a student’s ability to interpret objective performance evaluations and make selection decisions based on both the evaluations and subject live visual appraisals. Each breeding class has four head of females that may be presented with evaluation data. These livestock may be purebred or crossbred individuals. The FFA members and officials must interpret the differences between individuals and determine a ranking based on those differences.

Data Provided on Breed Classes – Commonly available performance records and genetic evaluations that are routinely used by breeders in the beef, sheep, and swine industries may be presented to students to use in their decisions. All attempts will be made to provide the genetic evaluations on each animal because these are the most objective and accurate information available to livestock breeders. Selecting predictable future parents is the expected outcome of breeding animal selection. Examples of the data that may be presented with each species are given in the following tables.

Table 1. Data that may be presented on breeding heifers

	BIRTH		WEANING		YEARLING		MATERNAL MILK
Date	Weight	EPD*	Weight	EPD	Weight	EPD	EPD

*EPD stands for Expected Progeny Difference, is expressed in pounds, and is a measure of what a heifer will contribute genetically to her offspring. If EPDs are not available, within contemporary group adjusted weights and ratios will be given instead.

Table 2. Data that may be presented on breeding gilts

Birth Date	Days to 230 Pound EPD*	Last Rib Fat EPD	21 Day Litter Weight EPD	Number Born Alive EPD	Dam's EPD for SPI
*EPD stands for Expected Progeny Deviation and is a measure of what gilt will contribute genetically to her offspring as compared to a set average. If EPDs are not available, then adjusted records and within contemporary group ratios for some or all of these traits will be presented.					

Table 3. Data that may be presented on breeding ewes

Birth Date	Grease Fleece Weight FEPD*	90 Day Weight FEPD	Maternal Lambs Born FEPD	Maternal Pounds Weaned FEPD
*FEPD stands for Flock Expected Progeny Difference and is a measure of what an ewe will contribute genetically to her offspring compared to a set average. If FEPDs are not available, then growth, ratios, and lambing type (single, twin, etc.) will be presented.				

Scenarios Defined for Breeding Classes – The student must interpret the differences between individuals and determine a ranking based on those differences. Because the differences observed between animals can be considerable, a situation statement, called a scenario, may be included with each class. A scenario is intended to give direction to the decisions a student must make by helping him/her determine priorities. A scenario is important to consider because, as in real life, different producers operate under different environments and markets. Thus, individual producers emphasize various traits differently to meet their needs. Students should learn to do this also.

A scenario may have three factors represented, regardless of species. Students should look for these factors as they interpret the scenarios, and then give emphasis in their decisions to those differences that best meet the needs of the scenario. The three factors that define a scenario are as follows:

#1 Production Environment:

“Will the selected animal(s) need to perform in a high stress or a low stress environment?”

Examples include:	<u>High Stress</u>	<u>Low Stress</u>
	Low feed input	Plentiful feed
	Adverse climate	Consistent feed available year round
	Rough grazing terrain	Moderate climate
	Low labor input	Assistance at birthing available
	Confinement on concrete	Pasture raised

#2 Performance Needs:

“What types of performance is the breeder needing from the selected animal or is the producer selling?”

Examples include:	<u>Maternal Performance</u>	<u>Paternal Performance</u>
	Fleshing ability	Rapid growth
	Milking ability	Lean composition
	Adaptability to environment	Muscle production
	Early sexual maturity	Acceptable birth weight
	Maternal birthing ease	

In general, maternal traits eventually contribute benefits to the dam side of crossbreeding systems. Paternal traits contribute to the sire side of crossbreeding systems, especially terminal crosses. Certainly functional traits (such as minimum condition, leg, mouth, and genitalia soundness, mammary soundness, etc.) are essential needs regardless of scenario.

#3 Marketing Goals

“Will the breeder sell or require the female selected for seedstock markets (as a replacement for the seedstock program where “genetic pieces” are sold)? Or will the selected female produce offspring for commercial production (i.e., feeder calf, pig, or lamb sales or retained ownership of feeders)?”

Scenarios may be written simply, such as:

“Rank these gilts as they should be kept in a herd that sells boars to terminal cross breeders. All pigs are raised in total confinement.”

In this case, seedstock sales is the market goal, paternal traits are the production needs of the consumer, and the environment is stressful on the soundness of the pig.

A more complicated scenario may read:

“Rank these heifers for use as replacements in a typical Iowa two breed crossbreeding program. All male offspring and the cull females are to be sold at weaning as feeders.”

In this case, the production needs are primarily maternal, the market goals are commercial (the sale of feeders), and the environment is basically low stress because feed resources are usually plentiful enough in Midwest operations to support extra growth and maternal performance.

The student should understand the major factors discussed above as they are critical to successful selection and breeding programs in livestock.

2. Market Placing Classes

Purpose – The purpose of the market placing classes is to test a student’s ability to evaluate market livestock on those factors that influence both packer and producer profitability.

Description – Each of the three placing classes (market beef, lambs, and hogs) has four head of any breed or breed combination. They may be male castrates or females. The officials are

instructed to rank the individuals in the class from first to fourth, as they would best fulfill a producer's need for fast growing livestock that are appealing to a packer buyer.

3. Keep/Cull Classes

Purpose – The purpose of the Keep/Cull classes is to test a student's ability to evaluate the individual merit of a breeding animal (based on replacement qualities) from a breeders viewpoint.

Description of the Keep/Cull Class – There will be two of any of the following female selection classes, beef, sheep and hogs made up of eight animals. At the discretion of the CDE Coordinator, participants will be required to select the four best animals from the eight, using visual appraisal and performance data. Performance data will be provided. All two of the female selection classes will be made up as an individual activity.

KEEP/CULL CLASS SAMPLE CARD

Beef/Sheep/Swine							
Participant/Team Name:							
Participant/Team Number:							
Circle or list the numbers of the 4 animals you want to keep as replacements.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Event officials will assign a point value to each one of the individual animals, giving the most points to the most desirable animal and the least points to the least desirable animal. If the participant selects the best four animals, full credit will be given.

EXAMPLE KEEP/CULL CLASS OFFICIAL PLACING CARD

Official Placing Keep/Cull							
Animal Number							
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Animal Score							
18	13	11	8	7	4	3	0

Animals selected are shown in regular font with point values for that particular animal shown in bold font. Point values are established by official judges and will differ with each class.

EXAMPLE KEEP/CULL CLASS STUDENT SCORES

	Selection 1	Selection 2	Selection 3	Selection 4	SCORE
Student A Selection	8	7	6	5	
Student A Score	18	13	11	8	50
Student B Selection	6	4	1	8	
Student B Score	11	7	0	18	36
Student C Selection	7	3	6	2	
Student C Score	13	4	11	3	31

If a student selects the four correct animals to keep, then the student will receive a score of 50

points. All other combinations of animals to keep will receive scores based upon the value assigned each animal by the judges.

4. Oral Reasons

Purpose – Oral reasons are considered the most important training that occurs in livestock judging activities. The purpose is to motivate students to develop proficiency in discussing livestock and to test their ability to defend decisions with a brief oral presentation.

Description – Three sets of oral reasons are to be given by each student on the placing classes. The specific classes chosen for reasons will be announced the day of the event. FFA members should be trained and encouraged to take notes on reasons classes. They should bring a clean notebook (no writing). They may use the notes they take during the event to study, but may not use them while they actually give reasons. A set of reasons should last no longer than 2 minutes and the official, at his/her discretion, may ask the FFA member questions concerning the class. The score assigned to a reasons set, ranging from 0 to 50 points, will be dependent upon these factors (in approximately this order of importance).

- A. Accuracy;
- B. Organization of thoughts, completeness, and conciseness; and
- C. Manner of presentation (articulation, mannerisms, appearance).

*These students are expected to dress neatly. T-shirts, faded jeans, shorts and hats should be discouraged. FFA members are not expected to be professional speakers in order to score well, and no specific “style” of giving reasons will be preferred unless it contributes to accuracy, organization, and mannerisms. However, an organized format is often helpful to a FFA member in giving reasons.

Each oral reasons class will have two cards to be filled out – one placing card and one reasons card that the student will hold and turn in when they give their presentations. They may use their reasons card to reference their placing if no other notes are made on the card.

REFERENCES

1. Videos available in 3/4” or 1/2” format from ISU Media Resources include:
 - (a) Lamb Evaluation/Ewe Evaluation (75019)
 - (b) Beef Cattle Judging (75216)
 - (c) Swine Judging (75340)
2. Understanding Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs)-Virginia Cooperative Extension
<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/beef/400-804/400-804.html>
3. Understanding and Using Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs)-University of Arkansas
http://www.uaex.edu/Other_Areas/publications/PDF/FSA-3068.pdf
4. Using Expected Progeny Difference (EPD) and Scenarios in Livestock Judging Contests
<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/ansc/publications/youthpubs/usingepd.html>
5. Livestock Judging Techniques-University of Missouri Extension
<http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/ansci/g02952.htm>

6. www.judging101.com
Gives information about what to look for in livestock judging and provides practice classes.
7. For additional questions and/or instructional materials on the classes, write Jeff Thayne, 109 Kildee, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50111 (or call (515) 294-2240).
8. The National FFA Career Development Events – 2006-2010 (National FFA Organization rules) will apply in general way to this state event.

SCORING AND RANKING OF TEAMS AND PARTICIPANTS

1. Each of the 12 event classes will have a value of 50 points, for a total of 600 points.
2. To determine the individual and team winners, the participants will be ranked on the basis of the total score for:

Phases	Scoring
Breeding Classes (3 classes worth 50 points)	150 points
Market Classes (3 classes worth 50 points)	150 points
Keep/Cull Classes (2 classes worth 50 points)	100 points
Oral Reasons (3 classes worth 50 points)	150 points
General Knowledge Exam	50 points

<u>Total Individual Points possible</u>	<u>600 points</u>
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<u>Total Team Points (3 participants)</u>	<u>1800 points</u>
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3. Only the top three-team members' scores will count for overall team score. The top three scores will count for recognition in each division or category regardless of the individual team members' rankings in the overall team score computation. All team members are eligible for individual awards.
4. Overall team and individual tie scores will be broken: (a) first by the total score on oral reasons; (b) second by the greatest number of "50" scores in all classes; and (c) third by the total score in breeding and market classes. Overall team/individual scores will break ties in species and oral reasons classes.
5. Teams will be ranked into groups designated "Gold Emblem," "Silver Emblem," and "Bronze Emblem." Teams which do not have three members will be listed a "Participants." Teams, which violate any rule, will also receive a "Participation" rating.
6. The team winner on all classes combined will be designated the "Iowa Champion FFA Livestock Team" and will represent Iowa in the National FFA Livestock Career Development Event at Indianapolis the following October.
7. The second place team will be certified to participate in the Junior National Western Livestock Judging Career Development Event at Denver. The third place team will have the opportunity to participate in the American Royal Livestock Judging Contest in Kansas City, MO. The fourth place team will have the opportunity to participate in the Western Agribition in Regina, SK. Each team starting with 2nd place will be asked if they would prefer to participate in the National FFA Poultry CDE instead of the assigned event listed above. If no team accepts the Poultry CDE, then the top Poultry Chapter from the Iowa State Fair will be asked to participate in the National

FFA Poultry CDE. If any of these teams choose not to participate, the next team in line will be asked to fill the openings until registration for the events are passed.

AWARDS

Awards listed below are at the discretion of the sponsor and pending availability of sponsorship. It is vitally important that participants write thank you letters to sponsors in order to retain their support. A thank you list naming current sponsors will be provided to each participating chapter at the event site.

Award sponsored through the National FFA Foundation:

Champion Team	Plaque
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Awards sponsored through the Iowa FFA Foundation as sponsorship is available:

Champion Team	Cash award for travel to the National FFA Livestock CDE
Reserve Champion Team	Plaque and Cash award to participate in the National Western Contest
Top 10 Teams	Rosettes
Members of Top 10 Teams	Rosettes
Top 10 Individuals	Rosettes
1st and 2nd Place Individuals	Plaques
Top Team and Top Individual	Plaques
a. Beef	
b. Sheep	
c. Swine	
d. Oral Reasons	

The Iowa FFA Association will award certificates to all Livestock teams and participants.