LIVESTOCK EVALUATION
3 or 4 Member Team

I. PURPOSE

This event is designed to teach students the desirable trait of livestock today. Students must observe details, see individual animals in the context of a class and make generalizations of individual traits to the industry, be knowledgeable of external anatomy, market and performance standards, performance data, breed character, make logical decisions and use generally accepted industry terminology. Students will be able to select livestock that will satisfy the demands of the consumer.

II. EVENT FORMAT

A. Team Make-up

Three or four individuals per school form a team. All members will be scored and the top three scores will count towards the team total.

B. Event Schedule

Contestants will be given 12 minutes at each station to complete the evaluation or answer the questions provided.

C. Placing Classes (300 points)

1. Contestants will evaluate classes of livestock
2. There will be six (6) classes of livestock.
    - 1 Breeding Beef
    - 1 Market Beef
    - 1 Breeding Swine
    - 1 Market Swine
    - 1 Breeding Sheep or Goat
    - 1 Market Lamb or Goat

    (A maximum of one goat class can be used)
3. Each class shall have a possible value of 50 points.

D. Questions (75 points)

1. Five questions per class will be developed within the parameters of the state-adopted “Class Characteristics for Livestock Questions.”
2. Five points are awarded for each correctly answered question
3. Questions are derived from three of the market or breeding placing classes (one beef, one swine, one sheep/goat).
4. At least one class of questions must be concerning a breeding class and one must pertain to a market class.
5. Questions regarding a specific placing class will be answered immediately following that class.
6. Students may use their own notes taken during judging

E. Female Selection Classes (150 points)

1. One class each of beef, swine, sheep (eight animals per class).
2. Contestants should designate the four best animals, using visual appraisal and performance data.

3. Performance data provided.
4. Each class shall have a possible value of 50 points.
5. A scenario (description of production objectives) should be provided for the beef, swine, and sheep female selection classes. Performance data that may be provided orally or in writing may include: Beef: Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) may be given for birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, milk and carcass merit. Date of birth, birth weight, weaning weight (actual or adjusted), and weight (actual or adjusted) may also be provided. Swine: Date of birth, days to 250 pounds, estimated backfat (inches), loineye area (square inches,) number of pigs born in litter, number of pigs weaned in litter, and dam's Sow Productivity Index (SPI Value) may be included for the gilts in this female selection class. Sheep: Date of birth, weaning weight (60 or 120 days), maternal pounds weaned, type of birth and rearing (single, twin, or triplet), fleece weight (finewools), and spinning count (finewools) may be provided for ewes in this female selection class. Performance criteria, when used, shall be based on standards developed and used by the Beef Improvement Federation, the Sheep Industry Development Program, Inc., and the National Swine Improvement Federation.
6. 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 student selects the best four animals, full credit will be given (50 points).

   Animal Numbers - Sample for Scoring

   8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
   Sample Class
   (18) (13) (11) (8) (7) (4) (3) (0)
   Point Value

   Animal Numbers Selected - Example Scoring

   Score
   Student A 6 8 4 2
   (11) (18) (7) (3) 39
   Student B 8 7 6 5
   (18) (13) (11) (8) 50
   Student C 7 6 5 1
   (13) (11) (8) (0) 32
   Student D 1 2 3 4
   (0) (3) (4) (7) 14

   Point values are shown in parentheses above. Point values are established by official judges and may differ on each class.

F. Grading Classes (100 points)

1. Official judges may use all mechanical and electronic devices available to assist in placing and grading.
2. More than one breed may be used in the grading classes.
3. A USDA grader will be used for all grading classes.
4. Grading Classes are worth 50 points each.

5. Beef Cattle Grading - Slaughter Cattle
    a. Contestants will grade one class of Slaughter Cattle (five head)
    b. Grading based on the latest USDA market grades and cutability
    c. All grades not necessarily represented
    d. 50 points for slaughter cattle grading class
    e. Slaughter grades used in the event are prime, choice, select, and standard. No slaughter cattle over 42 months of age will be used; therefore, the "commercial" grade is not shown.
    f. For slaughter cattle, the student is to mark (bubble in) the quality grade subdivision and also the correct cutability (yield grade) rating number for each animal.
    g. Credit of four points is allowed for correct quality grade. Three points will be allowed for each 1/2 grade above or below the official grade. Two points are allowed for one full grade above or below the official grade, and the score is zero for more than one full grade above or below the official grade.
    h. Credit of six points will be allowed for correct cutability rating. Four points will be allowed if an animal is graded 1/2 grade above or 1/2 grade below the correct yield grade. Two points will be allowed 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.
6. Beef Cattle Grading -Feeder Cattle
    a. Contestants will evaluate one class of Feeder Cattle. (five head)
    b. Grading based on the latest USDA market grades.*
    c. All grades not necessarily represented.
    d. 50 points for feeder cattle grading class.
    e. For Feeder Cattle Grading, the student is to mark (bubble in) the proper grade standard for Frame Size and bubble in the grade standard for Muscle Thickness. No cattle over 36 months of age will be used. Texas will not use the "Inferior Grade."
    f. Five points will be awarded for the correct frame size, three points will be awarded if the animal is graded one grade above or one grade below the correct frame size, and one point will be awarded if the animal is graded two grades above or two grades below the correct frame size.
    g. Five points will be awarded for the correct muscle thickness, three points will be awarded if the animal is graded one grade above or one grade below the correct muscle thickness, and one point will be awarded if the animal is graded two grades above or two grades below the correct muscle thickness. Zero points will be awarded if the animal is graded three grades.
    h. Above or below the correct muscle thickness.

G. Written Exam (50 points)

1. Contestants will complete a 25-question general knowledge exam. The exam will cover livestock breeds, nutrition, health, marketing, evaluation

and management.
2. Questions will be taken from a bank of questions posted on the Texas FFA Association website. These questions will be reviewed periodically by an event subcommittee appointed by the state CDE advisory committee.
3. Two points are awarded for each question answered correctly.

III. SCORING

Placing Classes ……..……300
Questions ……..75
Female Selection Classes ……150
Grading Classes ……100
Written Exam…… 50
Total Points
Individual……675
Team ……2,025

IV. TIEBREAKER

Ties for team awards shall be broken as follows:

1. The team with the highest score in the six placing classes wins.
2. If still tied, the team with the highest alternate score will be the winner.
3. If still tied, the advisors shall match for the high award.

Ties for individual awards will be broken by substituting the word "individual" wherever the word "team" appears.

V. REFERENCES

Test References:

Livestock and Poultry Production, Gillespie, 4th Edition
Instructional Materials Service: Complete Materials for AgSc 332, Animal Science
and AgSc 336, Advanced Animal Science
Oklahoma State University Breeds of Livestock web pages:
http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/

Materials Available from IMS:

Printed Materials

0401 Standards for Grades of Slaughter Swine, USDA
0403 Standards for Grades of Slaughter Cattle, USDA
0404 Quality Grades of Slaughter Steers, USDA
0405 Yield Grades of Slaughter Steers, USDA
0406 Standards for Grades of Feeder Cattle, USDA
4032 Livestock Evaluation Handbook, IMS
8399 Selecting Beef Cattle, IMS
8400 Selecting Swine, IMS
8401 Selecting Sheep, IMS
8651 Complete Set AgSc 231 - Animal and Plant Production, IMS
8831 Complete Set AgSc 332 - Animal Science, IMS
8846 Complete Set AgSc 332H - Advanced Animal Science, IMS

Color Slides

5168 1992 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging, HLSR, IMS
5169 1992 Area Cattle & Sheep, TAMU, IMS
5170 1992 Area Swine Classes, TAMU, IMS
5171 1992 Livestock State Classes, TAMU, IMS
5175 1993 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging, HLSR, IMS
5180 1993 Area Event - Cattle Classes, TAMU, IMS
5181 1993 Area Event - Swine Classes, TAMU, IMS
5182 1993 Area Sheep Classes, TAMU, IMS
5183 1993 State Event - Cattle Classes, TAMU, IMS
5184 1993 State Event - Swine Classes, TAMU, IMS
5188 1994 4-H/FFA Livestock Judging, HLSR, IMS
5189 1994 Area Cattle Classes, TAMU, IMS
5190 1994 Area Swine Classes, TAMU, IMS
5191 1994 Area Sheep Classes, TAMU, IMS
5192 1994 State Cattle Classes, TAMU, IMS
5193 1994 State Swine Classes, TAMU, IMS
5194 1994 State Sheep Classes, TAMU, IMS
5197 1995 HLSR Livestock Contest, IMS
5026 1995 Area Cattle Classes, TAMU, IMS
5027 1995 Area Swine Classes, TAMU, IMS
5028 1995 Area Sheep Classes, TAMU, IMS
5029 1995 State Cattle Classes, TAMU, IMS
5030 1995 State Swine Classes, TAMU, IMS

5031 1995 State Sheep Classes, TAMU, IMS
5034 1996 HLSR Livestock CDE, IMS
5038 1996 Area CDE Cattle Classes, TAMU, IMS
5039 1996 Area CDE Swine Classes, TAMU, IMS
5040 1996 Area CDE Sheep Classes, TAMU, IMS
5041 1996 State CDE Cattle Classes, TAMU, IMS
5042 1996 State CDE Swine Classes, TAMU, IMS
5043 1996 State CDE Sheep Classes, TAMU, IMS
5046 1997 HLSR Livestock CDE, IMS
5047 1997 Area CDE Cattle Classes, TAMU, IMS
5048 1997 Area CDE Swine Classes, TAMU, IMS
5049 1997 Area CDE Sheep Classes, TAMU, IMS
5050 1997 State CDE Cattle Classes, TAMU, IMS
5051 1997 State CDE Swine Classes, TAMU, IMS
5052 1997 State CDE Sheep Classes, TAMU, IMS

VHS Videos

9558 Practice Livestock Judging III, CEV
9559 Practice Livestock Judging IV, CEV
9589 Practice Cattle Judging, CEV
9704 Area and State Feeder Cattle Grading, IMS
9705 Area and State Slaughter Cattle Grading, IMS
9706 Area and State Beef Heifer Selection, IMS
9807 Practice Livestock Judging V, CEV
9808 Slaughter Lamb Evaluation, CEV
9811 Practice Feeder Cattle Evaluation, CEV
9812 Practice Slaughter Hog Evaluation, CEV
9834 Breeding Cattle Evaluation, CEV
9835 Market Cattle Evaluation, CEV
9836 Market Swine Evaluation, CEV
9837 Breeding Swine Evaluation, CEV
9838 Market & Breeding Sheep Evaluation, CEV
9996 Practice Livestock Judging XIV, CEV
9997 Practice Slaughter Cattle Evaluation, CEV