

# INTRODUCTION TO LIVESTOCK JUDGING

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## Importance of Judging Contests

- ▣ **Improve decision-making skills**
- ▣ **Increase public speaking ability**
- ▣ **Improve evaluation skills**
- ▣ **Enhance confidence**
- ▣ **Meet people and make lifelong friends**
- ▣ **Have fun**

## Types of Judging Contests

- ▣ Livestock
- ▣ Dairy
- ▣ Horse
- ▣ Meats
- ▣ Crops
- ▣ Soils
- ▣ Wool
- ▣ Poultry

## How to get involved

- ▣ County contests
- ▣ 4-H clubs
- ▣ FFA chapters
- ▣ Breed associations
- ▣ State contests
- ▣ Regional events
- ▣ National contests
- ▣ University teams

## Livestock Contest Dynamics

- ▣ **Classes of beef, sheep, swine, and goats**
- ▣ **Four animals per class**
- ▣ **Classes numbered left to right**
- ▣ **All classes are “placing classes”**
- ▣ **Designated classes are “reasons classes”**
- ▣ **Usually 10-15 minutes per class**

## Scoring a Contest

- ▣ **An official placing is put on each class**
- ▣ **Official “cuts” are assigned**
  - **“Cuts” represent how close a decision is between two animals**
    - ▣ **A small “cut” of 2 represents a close decision**
    - ▣ **A large “cut” of 6 represents an easy decision**
- ▣ **Both placing classes and reasons have a 50 point maximum score**

## Example of Official Placing and Cuts

- ▣ Official Placing:  
1 - 2 - 3 - 4
- ▣ Official Cuts:  
4 - 2 - 5

## Scoring Example

Your placing: 3 - 2 - 1 - 4  
Official placing: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4  
Official cuts: 4 - 2 - 5

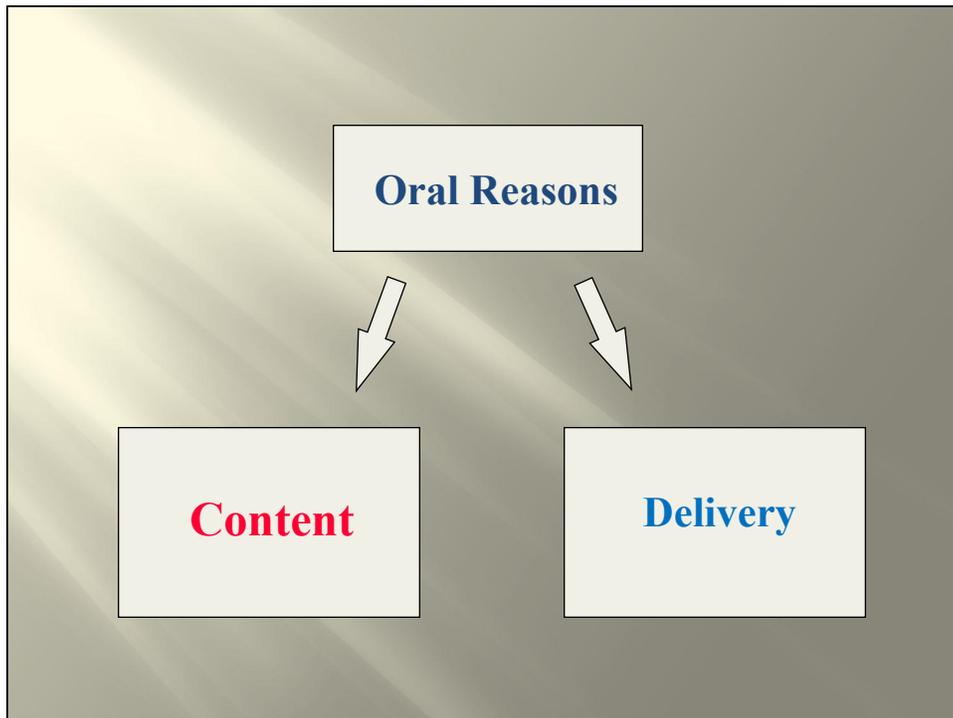
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| On the Official Placing does: | Final Score = |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 3 beat 2? No: -2              | 50            |
| 3 beat 1? No: -6              | -2            |
| 3 beat 4? Yes                 | -6            |
| 2 beat 1? No: -4              | -4            |
| 2 beat 4? Yes                 |               |
| 1 beat 4? Yes                 | <u>38</u>     |

# INTRODUCTION TO ORAL REASONS

Pop Quiz:  
What is the #1 fear among all  
American people?

- A. Heights
- B. Flying in an airplane
- C. Spiders
- D. Snakes
- E. Math tests
- F. Speaking in front of people



- Content**  
*What you say*
- ▣ **Accurate**
  - ▣ **Descriptive**
  - ▣ **Proper terminology used**
  - ▣ **Prioritized**
  - ▣ **Complete**
  - ▣ **Concise**

## **Delivery**

### How you say it

- ▣ **Professional**
  - Appearance
  - Grammar
  - Posture
- ▣ **Confident**
- ▣ **Convincing**
- ▣ **Flow**
- ▣ **Voice**

## **Oral Reasons Format**

- ▣ **Opening statement**
  - “1-2-3-4 is my alignment of the Angus heifers”
- ▣ **Introduce top pair**
  - “In my opening decision it is 1 over 2.”
- ▣ **Reasons why 1 places over 2**

## Oral Reasons Format

- ▣ Grants to second place animal
  - Reasons why 2 could place over 1
- ▣ Criticisms of 2nd place animal
- ▣ Introduce middle pair
  - “Yet in my intermediate decision it is 2 over 3”
- ▣ Reasons why 2 places over 3

## Oral Reasons Format

- ▣ Grants to 3rd place animal
- ▣ Criticisms of 3rd place animal
- ▣ Introduce final pair
  - “Despite these criticisms, it is 3 over 4 in my final decision”
- ▣ Reasons why 3 places over 4

## Oral Reasons Format

- ▣ Grants to 4th place animal
- ▣ Criticisms of 4th place animal
  - “Yet I left her fourth as she is the lowest volume, lightest muscled, most structurally incorrect heifer of the four.”
- ▣ “Thank you”

## Common Mistakes

- ▣ Inaccuracy
- ▣ Trying to memorize
- ▣ Talking too fast
- ▣ “Um”s and “Uh”s
- ▣ Numbers mixed-up
- ▣ Gender mixed-up
- ▣ Using species specific terms incorrectly
- ▣ Taking too long
- ▣ Moving feet excessively

# TAKING PROPER NOTES FOR LIVESTOCK JUDGING

## Taking Notes

- ▣ **Excellent notes will allow you to recreate the class in your mind**
- ▣ **Be accurate, but keep it simple**
- ▣ **Start taking notes as soon as the class starts**

| Class Name      | Placing 1-2-3-4 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1/2<br>Reasons  | 2/1 Grants      |
|                 | 2 Criticisms    |
| 2/3<br>Reasons  | 3/2 Grants      |
|                 | 3 Criticisms    |
| 3/4<br>Reasons  | 4/3 Grants      |
|                 | 4 Criticisms    |
| 1 Notes and IDs | 2 Notes and IDs |
| 3 Notes and IDs | 4 Notes and IDs |

## Beef Judging: Breeding Stock

- ▣ **Structural correctness**
- ▣ **Volume and Capacity**
- ▣ **Muscle**
- ▣ **Style and Balance**
- ▣ **Performance or Growth**
- ▣ **Femininity/Masculinity**

## Beef Judging: Market

- ▣ **Muscle**
- ▣ **Finish**
- ▣ **Style and Balance**
- ▣ **Structural Correctness**

## Swine Judging: Breeding Stock

- ▣ **Structural correctness**
- ▣ **Frame/Growth**
- ▣ **Volume**
- ▣ **Leanness**
- ▣ **Muscle**
- ▣ **Femininity/Masculinity**

## Swine Judging: Market

- ▣ **Muscle**
- ▣ **Leanness**
- ▣ **Frame**
- ▣ **Structural correctness**

## Sheep Judging: Breeding Stock

- ▣ **Structural correctness**
- ▣ **Style and Balance**
- ▣ **Frame/Growth**
- ▣ **Volume and Capacity**
- ▣ **Front End Quality**

## Sheep Judging: Market

- ▣ **Muscle**
- ▣ **Finish**
- ▣ **Style and Balance**
- ▣ **Structural Correctness**

## Meat Goat Judging Breeding Stock

- ▣ **Structural correctness**
- ▣ **Style and Balance**
- ▣ **Frame/Growth**
- ▣ **Volume and Capacity**
- ▣ **Front End Quality**

## Meat Goat Judging Market

- ▣ **Muscle**
- ▣ **Finish**
- ▣ **Style and Balance**
- ▣ **Structural Correctness**

## Livestock Judging Success

- ▣ **Know How to Complete Judging Cards**
- ▣ **Read and Study on All Species**
- ▣ **Workout on All Species**
- ▣ **Always Mark Your Card**
- ▣ **Organize Oral Reasons**
- ▣ **PRACTICE!**

## **Learning Objectives**

**Why We Evaluate Livestock**

**Current Meat Animal Types**

**Sample Livestock Evaluation  
Classes**

## **Why Evaluate Livestock?**

- ▣ **To Predict Efficiency**
- ▣ **To Predict Maternal Traits**
- ▣ **To Predict Longevity**
- ▣ **To Predict Carcass Merit**

## To Predict Efficiency

**Rate of gain – Amount of weight gained compared to the amount of feed eaten**

- a. Livestock that eat more gain more
- b. Difficult to predict from visual appraisal only
- c. Production and performance records are the best indicators

## Predicting Efficiency

**Growth Potential – Eventual mature weight**

- a. **Comparison of Frame Size**
- b. **Factors affecting ideal weight:**
  - 1) **Economy – feed prices, supply and demand**
  - 2) **Consumer – portion size and fat content**

# To Predict Maternal Traits

## **Beef Cattle**

### **1. Calving Ease- Indicators are**

- width of hooks and pins**
- levelness of rump**
- average to above average body size**

### **2. Milking Ability**

- udder development**
- femininity and angularity**

# Example of Femininity and Angularity



## **Maternal Traits**

### **Sheep And Goats**

**Milking and Mothering ability determined by**

- 1. Femininity in young ewes**
- 2. Breed character**
- 3. Refinement and angularity**
- 4. Freedom from excess flesh**

## **Maternal Traits**

### **Swine**

**Milking Ability determined by**

- 1. Udder development (gilt should display a prominent udder at puberty)**
- 2. Teat spacing, number, and placement**

## To Predict Longevity

**Structural Correctness:** The animals feet and legs should indicate a long productive life

1. Feet and Legs - heaviness of bone and structural correctness is important for easy movement and longevity in confinement
2. Body - Balance and body size help determine growth, health, and mobility.

## To Predict Carcass Merit

**Visual evaluation helps determine**

- amount of muscling
- amount of fat

## Which Hog Is?

▣ Too Fat?



## Which Steer is Heavier Muscled?



# The Ideal Meat Animal

## **Ideal Market Beef**

- **quality grade choice, adequate marbling, and under 24 months of age**
- **yield grade 1 or 2 = muscular with minimum fat**
- **rib eye area of 10 to 12 square inches**
- **yield a carcass between 500 and 750 lbs**

## Sample Market Beef



# The Ideal Meat Animal

## Ideal Market Hog

- lean with superior belly thickness
- width of ham  $\geq$  width through shoulder, and both wider than back
- 1.0 to 1.5 in. backfat and ideal carcass length 27-36 in.
- yield grade U.S. #1

## Sample Market Hog



# The Ideal Meat Animal

## **Ideal Market Lamb**

- **heavily muscled with superior conformation and correctness**
- **minimum 2.5 square inch loin**
- **uniform fat cover of 0.1-0.2 in. back fat at market weight**
- **uniform thickness from head to dock**

## Sample Market Lamb



# Sample Judging Class



# Angus Breeding Heifers



# Market Hogs



# Market Steers



# Market Lambs



QUESTIONS?