

Description of the

Iowa 4-H

Livestock Judging Contest

at the

Animal Science Department

Iowa State University

Ames, Iowa

Description of Rules and Eligibility

As with any 4-H competition, rules are designed to provide guidelines for the contest, and to encourage the accomplishment of objectives. These rules are periodically reviewed, and your suggestions as a person interested in the total development of youth are always welcome. The following rules apply to the Iowa State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.

Entries

1. Entry must be made to the State 4-H office by a deadline established by the State 4-H Office and communicated through the County Office.
2. This contest is open to teams and individuals.
3. Counties may enter any number of teams and any number of individuals.
4. Each county team may consist of three to four contestants. The top three point totals from that team will comprise the team score. Top ten individuals in sheep, beef, swine, reasons, evaluation, and overall will be recognized.
5. Counties are not required to enter a team, but may enter individuals only.
6. Contestants must be bonafide 4-H members in the county in which they represent at this state contest during the calendar year of the contest.
7. Two divisions will be offered. The Junior 4-H division will include 4-H'ers who have completed the 7th grade and under. The Senior 4-H division will include those completing 8th grade and above. Contestants must not have graduated from high school prior to January 1 of the contest year.
8. A contestant who has participated in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky is not eligible to participate in this contest.
9. Substitutions in entries may be made during contest day registration.
10. Contestants must not have worked with or viewed livestock at the Iowa State University Animal Science farms from July 1 until the date of the contest. Violation of this rule constitutes automatic disqualification of the 4-H member and possible disqualification of the county team at the discretion of the superintendent.
11. Ten minutes or less will be allowed for Junior 4-H'ers on each class. Twelve to fifteen minutes will be allowed for Senior 4-H'ers to work on each class.
12. Contestants shall only be allowed to take clean writing paper into the contests for note taking but will not be allowed to use notes when presenting a set of oral reasons.
13. While the contest is in progress there shall be no communication among the contestants, or between the contestants and anyone else except as directed by the superintendent or his/her representative. Also, all contestants shall remain with their assigned groups and will not leave the contest area for lunch or any other reason.
14. There will be eight classes to judge. Seniors will give three sets of oral reasons. Juniors will have three sets of questions. A written exam of 50 questions will also be administered to Senior 4-H'ers.
15. The high scoring team wins the right to represent Iowa in the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, Kentucky. The second place team has the option of representing Iowa in either the contest at the National Western Livestock Show in Denver, Colorado, or the American Royal Livestock Show in Kansas City, Missouri. The second team must notify the state 4-H office as to their decision no later than 3 weeks after the announcement of the state contest winners. The third place team is eligible to represent Iowa at the contest not chosen by the second team. If no more than two of the four members of a winning team decide for themselves that they wish not to attend a national level contest, the coach may substitute 4-H judges in their place. However, these substitutes will not longer be eligible for future state contests. The substitutes must be eligible under the same rules

and must be from the same county 4-H program as the rest of the team. If, for any reason, three of the four members of these top teams are unable to represent Iowa in the contests, the privilege will then pass on to the next highest placing teams. For example, the second place team might go to Louisville and the third place team to Kansas City and the fourth place team to Denver.

16. The above rules of the state contest take precedence over those printed in the Iowa State Fair Premium Book. Violation of any of the above rules and procedures will be grounds for disqualification of the individual or team. Interpretation of these rules is at the sole discretion of the superintendent, and the superintendent may impose additional rulings as necessary for smooth contest operation and/or improved youth development potential. Entry of a team by a county implies complete acceptance of the rules and guidelines of the contest by all connected with the county program including coaches, contestants, and extension staff.

Description of the Iowa 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

Purpose

This publication has been prepared for leaders and coaches of 4-H livestock judging programs. Its purpose is to describe the classes that will be presented at the Iowa 4-H Livestock Judging Contest held each August at the Animal Science Department at Iowa State University in Ames. However, these descriptions would be valuable if applied to any 4-H livestock judging event, contest or otherwise, that strives to accomplish the following objectives.

The Iowa 4-H Livestock Judging Contest encourages

***4-Hers to learn modern livestock evaluation methods.**

***4-Hers to practice decision making and communication skills.**

***4-Hers to select livestock appropriate for a defined production purpose.**

Certainly the ability to visually recognize and interpret differences between individual meat animals are valuable skills for 4-Hers to learn. However, to make successful selection decisions they also must learn to interpret objective performance records. With the use of situation statements, 4-Hers learn to make selection decisions based on what contributions the selected animals would be expected to make to that situation. Perhaps most important, 4-Hers must learn to communicate the logic of their selection decisions to others. A well planned judging program in your county will easily prepare your 4-Hers for

this contest. Contact your county extension office for help in working with youth, and for specific information on how to train young people to evaluate livestock and relate their decisions to others.

Class Divisions at the Iowa Contest

The Iowa 4-H Livestock Judging Contest presents contestants with groups (called “classes”) of beef, sheep and swine. Contestants compete in four divisions: placing classes (breeding and market), market evaluation classes, and oral reasons. Each division carries 25% of the point total.

Class Divisions and Point Totals for the Iowa 4-H Livestock Judging Contest

I. Breeding Placing Classes (150 points possible per 4-Her)

Three classes (heifers, ewes and gilts) worth 50 points each are presented.
Four animals per class.

II. Market Placing Classes (150 points possible per 4-Her)

Three classes (one per species) worth 50 points each are presented.
Four animals per class.

III. Keep/Cull Classes (100 points possible per 4-Her)

Two classes (gilts, ewes) worth 50 points each are presented.
Five head per class.

IV. Written exam (Senior 4-H'ers only) worth 50 points

V. Oral Reasons and/or Questions (150 points possible per 4-Her)

Three sets of (one per species) on either market or
breeding placing classes are required of contestants.

Total Points Per 4-Her - 600 points

Description of Breeding Placing Classes

Each breeding class has four head of females present with performance evaluation data. These livestock may be purebred or crossbred individuals. The contestants and officials are instructed to rank females in each class as they would best serve as replacements in a producer's herd or flock. In addition to the data, contestants are provided a situation statement (or "scenario") that describes the purpose of the livestock in the class and the environment in which the livestock are expected to perform. These situations will help to clarify which traits the 4-Hers and officials should concentrate on when making decisions. A variety of information may be included in a scenario to clarify the situation. This may include definitions of the breeds involved, or the type of environment (stressful or not, amount of feed available) in which the replacements are expected to produce. The performance evaluation records used for the breeding classes is listed next for each species, followed then by a more detailed description of scenarios.

Breeding Heifer Class

Records

These evaluation records are commonly available from most major breed associations. They will be presented with the heifer classes.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Weaning</u>	<u>Yearling</u>	<u>Maternal Milk</u>		
<u>Weight</u>	<u>EPD*</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>EPD</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>EPD</u>	<u>EPD</u>

*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 ratios will be give instead.

Scenarios

A scenario will be considered by the judges on contest day while ranking the heifers.

Examples of such statements include:

Example #1: *Rank the heifers as they should be kept as replacements in an operation that profits from seedstock sales to rotational crossbreeding programs. Weather can be harsh, and grazing land for these cattle has low productivity..*

Example #2: *Rank the heifers as they would be kept as replacements in an operation that profits from seedstock sales to terminal crossbreeding programs. Some calves are also sold to other seedstock producers. You produce your own replacements.*

Breeding Gilt Class

Records

These evaluation records will be presented with the breeding gilt classes. They are promoted through application of genetic evaluation programs by boar tests in Iowa and national swine associations.

<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Days to 230 Pounds EPD*</u>	<u>Last Rib Fat EPD</u>	<u>21 day Litter Weight EPD</u>	<u>Number Born Alive EPD</u>	<u>Maternal Line Index EPD</u>	<u>Terminal Line Index EPD</u>
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*EPD stands for Expected Progeny Deviation and is a measure of what a 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 the single traits will be presented, and perhaps dams sow productivity index.

Scenarios

A scenario will be considered by the judges on contest day while ranking the gilts.

Example #1: *Rank the gilts as they should be kept in a herd that sells seedstock to terminal crossbreeders. Your customers operate farrow to finish systems and you both raise hogs in total confinement. You produce your own replacements.*

Example #2: *Rank the gilts as they should be kept in a herd that sells seedstock to rotational crossbreeders. You also produce your own replacements, and all hogs are raised in confinement.*

Breeding Ewe Class

Records

These evaluation records will be presented with the breeding ewe classes. They are promoted through the National Sheep Improvement Program and national breed associations.

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

Scenarios

A scenario will be considered by the judges on contest day while ranking the ewes.

Example #1: *Rank the ewes as they should be used in a commercial crossbreeding program (rotational or terminal may be specified). Feeder lambs are sold after weaning in the commercial operation, and wool sales do contribute significantly (25%) to the commercial income.*

Example #2: *Rank the ewes as they should be kept to produce seedstock for a commercial crossbreeding program (terminal or rotational may be specified). The commercial program sells their lambs at slaughter weight. Also, an occasional ram or ewe is sold to other seedstock producers.*

Scenarios Defined for Breeding Classes

A scenario is intended to give focus to the variety of differences that may be noted between animals. They are intended to assist the contestant in establishing priorities to these many differences.. 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. A scenario may be defined by three factors represented, regardless of species. Contestants should look for these factors and then give emphasis in their decisions to differences that best meet the needs in the scenario.

Factors That Determine a Scenario:

#1. Production Environment:

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

Examples include:

High Stress

low feed input
adverse climate
rough grazing terrain
low labor input
confinement on cement

Low Stress

plentiful feed
consistent feed available year round
moderate climate
assistance at birthing available
pasture raised

#2. Performance Needs:

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

Examples include:

Maternal Performance

fleshing ability
milking ability
adaptability to environment
early sexual maturity
maternal birthing ease

Paternal Performance

rapid growth
lean composition
muscle production
acceptable birth weight

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 crossbreeders. All pigs are raised in total confinement”.

In this case, seedstock sales is the market goal, paternal traits are the production needs of the customer, 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.

Description of Market Placing Classes

Each of the three market placing classes has four head of any breed or breed combination. They may be male castrates or females. Live weights, average daily gains, and/or days taken to reach current weight may be presented with the livestock. Each placing class will have four head, and contestants should rank the livestock from best to poorest making sure to consider all information provided about the class. The livestock will be numbered 1, 2, 3 or 4 within a class, and in order from left to right as viewed from the rear (if held).

The officials are instructed to rank the individuals in the class from first to fourth, as they would best meet the producer situation described for each class as follows.

Market Beef

Situation

Assume you are a commercial cattle producer. You have produced and fed these market cattle to slaughter weight. Your goal is to raise fast growing efficient cattle that also appeal to a packer buyer.

Rank the cattle on how they have met your goals.

Market Lambs

Situation

You are a farm flock producer. You have produced and fed these market lambs. Your goal is to raise fast growing efficient lambs that have packer appeal.

Rank these lambs on how they have met your goals.

Market Hogs

Situation

Assume you are a feeder to finish operator. You have produced and fed these hogs. Your goal is to raise fast growing efficient hogs that are appealing to a packer buyer.

Rank these hogs on how they have met your goals.

A contestant's score will be assigned between zero and fifty points per class for all placing classes. The score is determined by comparing the contestants ranking to that of an official committee. Contestant's ranking will be recorded and their rankings on a standard placing card. Details on scoring may be obtained from your county extension office. Forms used in the Iowa contest may be obtained from your county extension office by asking for publication AS-583 entitled *Scenario and Performance Worksheets for Iowa Youth Livestock Judging Contests*.

Description of Oral Reasons

Three sets of oral reasons are to be given by each contestant: one on a beef class (market or breeding), one on a sheep class (market or breeding), and one on a swine class (market or breeding). The specific classes chosen for reasons will be announced the day of the contest. The contestants should be trained and encouraged to take notes on reasons classes. They may bring a clean notebook with no marks or notes of any kind. They may use the notes they take during the contest to study, but may not use them while they actually deliver their reasons. A set of reasons should last no longer than 2 minutes, and the official, at his or her discretion, may ask the contestant questions concerning the class. The score assigned to a reasons set, ranging from 0 to 50 points, will be dependent upon the following factors (in approximately this order of importance).

1. accuracy
2. organization of thoughts, completeness, and conciseness
3. manner of presentation (articulation, mannerisms, appearance)

The contestants are expected to dress neatly. T-shirts and faded jeans, etc. should be discouraged. Contestants 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 4-Her in giving reasons. Help in teaching contestants how to develop effective oral reasons can be obtained from your county extension office.

Written Exam

New for 2009: A written exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. The exam will be for the senior division only. Questions will cover beef, sheep and swine. Topics may include general livestock knowledge, nutrition, reproduction, management, health issues, current industry issues, etc. The exam will be administered at the start of the contest before the judging of classes.

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