

Livestock Evaluation

A Special Project of the South Dakota FFA Foundation

Important Note:

Please thoroughly read the General Rules at the beginning of this handbook for complete rules and procedures that are relevant to all South Dakota FFA Career Development Events.

Purpose

The purpose of the Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event is to provide a competitive event for agricultural education students which emphasize skills in livestock management and evaluation.

Objectives

- Understand and interpret the value of performance data based on industry standards.
- Measure students' knowledge in the following categories:
 - o to make accurate observations of livestock.
 - o to determine the desirable traits in animals.
 - o to make logical decisions based on these observations.
 - o to discuss and to defend their decisions for the placing.
 - o to instill an appreciation for desirable selection, management, and marketing techniques.
- Develop the ability to select and market livestock that will satisfy consumer demands and provide increased economic returns to producers, as well as, meet the needs of the industry.
- Become proficient in communicating the terminology of the industry and the consumer.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to associate with professionals in the industry.
- Utilize correct technology as it relates to the livestock industry.

Event Rules

Each team will be comprised of three or four members.

The top three individual scores will be used to determine the final team score.

Event Format

The Livestock Evaluation CDE shall consist of nine parts, outlined below.

Placing Classes – 300 points

There will be a total of six placing classes consisting of four animals each, to be placed first, second, third, and fourth.

Placing classes will be beef, sheep, swine, and/or meat goats.

One of these classes will have production data provided for each animal which will be utilized in the final placing of the class.

This will be one of the oral reasons classes, and production data should be utilized in the reasons.

Ten to thirteen minutes will be given per class, including those with questions asked.

Oral Reasons – 150 points

Oral reasons will be presented on three placing classes (three different species).

When oral reasons are to be given will be announced prior to the placing of the class.

Oral reasons scores will be recorded for the participant by the judge.

Questions – 75 points

Five questions will be asked on placing classes for three different species.

The questions will be asked immediately following the placing of that class and will be answered utilizing the animals' assigned class numbers.

Questions are worth five points each.

Written Test – 50 points

A 25-question test will be given to each individual.

Each question is worth two points.

Female Selection Class (Individual Activity) – 50 points

Participants will be required to select the four best animals from a class of eight ewes, gilts, or beef heifers.

Participants will use performance data and visual appraisal to complete the activity.

The participants will fill in the bubbles of the animals' numbers to be kept and to be culled on their scorecard.

Scoring

	Possible Points
6 Placing Classes X 50 points per class	300
3 Sets of Question X 25 points per set	75
3 Sets of Oral Reasons X 50 points per set	150
Written Exam	50
Female Selection Class	50
Total Possible Individual Score	625
Total Possible Team Score (3 members count)	1875

Tiebreakers

In the case of a team tie, the order to break the tie will be:

1. Total Team Oral Reasons Score
2. Total Team Placing Score
3. Total Team Test Score

In the case of an individual tie, the order to break the tie will be:

1. Individual Oral Reasons Score
2. Individual Placing Score
3. Individual Test Score

References and Resources

National FFA Core Catalog – Past CDE Materials (<http://shop.ffa.org/cde-materials-c1289.aspx>)

Gillespie. *Modern Livestock and Poultry Production, 8th Edition*. Delmar Publishers, Inc., 1989.

SDSU Livestock Judging Manual, 2nd edition.

([https://afs.ca.uky.edu/files/south_dakota_state_university_livestck_judging_manual_yd4h402.](https://afs.ca.uky.edu/files/south_dakota_state_university_livestck_judging_manual_yd4h402.pdf))
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