

# Livestock Evaluation

## Senior & Junior Divisions

Nebraska Career Development Event  
Handbook and Rules for 2023-2027

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### 1. EVENT PURPOSE

Provide the opportunity for students to identify, evaluate, and discuss relative differences in breeding and market livestock and to apply livestock industry knowledge and production priorities through evaluation and selection of beef cattle, swine, sheep, and meat goats.

**Note:** See Section 3, Eligibility, and Section 8, Event Format, for distinctions between Senior and Junior Divisions.

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## 2. OBJECTIVES

Objectives directly taught in Intro to AFNR, Animal Science, and Large Animal Management will assist with preparing students for this event.

- a. Analyze historic and current trends impacting the animal systems industry
- b. Classify, evaluate, and select animals based on anatomical and physiological characteristics
  - I. Classify animals according to taxonomic classification systems and use
  - II. Apply principles of comparative anatomy and physiology to assess within animal systems
  - III. Select animals for specific purposes and maximize performance based on anatomy and physiology
- c. Speak using strategies that ensure clarity, logic, purpose, and professionalism in oral reasons
- d. Produce clear and reasoned oral communication by writing and presenting oral reasons
- e. Evaluate a class of livestock, using resources provided, to arrive at a decision placing/ranking the livestock from best to worst in the class
- f. Apply principles of animal reproduction to achieve desired outcomes for performance, development, and/or economic production.
  - I. Evaluate animals for breeding, soundness, and readiness
  - II. Apply scientific principles to select and care for breeding animals
- g. Students' knowledge will be measured in:
  - I. Making accurate observations of livestock
  - II. Instilled understanding of desirable selection, production, management, and marketing techniques for livestock
- h. Reference and use performance data-based industry standards (i.e. EPDs) when selecting and evaluation livestock
- i. Accurately communicate using livestock, industry, and consumer terminology in oral reasons
- j. Develop employability skills for agricultural career choices, such as:

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| I. Ability to verbally defend a decision | VI. Problem solving   |
| II. Animal industry knowledge            | VII. Self-confidence  |
| III. Decision-making                     | VIII. Self-discipline |
| IV. Oral communication                   | IX. Self-motivation   |
| V. Organizational skills                 | X. Teamwork           |

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### 3. ELIGIBILITY

- a. **Junior Division** - Each team consists of four individuals that are currently high school freshmen or sophomores. High school juniors and seniors are not eligible for the junior division.
- b. **Senior Division** - Each team consists of four individuals that are currently high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors.
  - I. In addition, two alternates may be pre-registered for the event. Thus, no more than 6 potential contestants may be pre-registered for the event. Teams may substitute PRE-REGISTERED alternates for PRE-REGISTERED team members the morning of the event. **No other substitutions will be allowed.** Unless substituted for pre-registered team members, alternates will not judge.
- c. To avoid any issues related to registered team members or alternates at registration time, an advisor or his/her designee **MUST** accompany each team to registration/check in for the event.
- d. The top 25% of schools per district are invited to compete in the state CDE.

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### 4. RECOMMENDED ATTIRE

- a. Students are encouraged to wear FFA Official Dress, which includes an FFA Jacket, button-up collared shirt, tie/scarf, and dark slacks. Boots are encouraged due to the livestock-centric nature of the event. Hats, t-shirts, and/or jeans are discouraged.

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### 5. REQUIRED SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

- a. Pen or Pencils—Scoring Sheets can be marked in pen or pencil.
- b. CLEAN Notebooks (such as Steno Pads) for taking notes to aid in study and preparation for questions and reasons. Paper may be "pre-gridded" to facilitate note-taking however pre-written notes and supplementary materials (terms, pictures, formulas, etc.) are *NOT* allowed and may result in disqualification from the event.
- c. Absolutely NO electronic devices, including cell phones, electronic notebooks, readers, tablets, iPods, etc. may be used during this event. Please assign ONE member to be the contact person for each team. The contact person is to be the **ONLY** member with a device inside of the contest.

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### 6. EVENT SCHEDULE

- a. All portions of the contest are completed individually
- b. Schedule for the day:
  - I. 6:00 am - 6:30 am --- Event check in (Advisor/Chaperone must accompany teams)
  - II. 6:30 am - 7:00 am --- Contest instructions
  - III. 7:00 am - 2:00 pm --- Contest takes place
- c. Animal Science will be providing lunch for the contestants. (Teachers will be asked for

their students' pizza selection during convention/contest registration.) and there will be bussing provided from the Animal Science Complex to PBA at the conclusion of the contest. There will be a charge of \$30 per team, in addition to the existing CDE fee, to cover lunch and the additional bussing.

- d. Because of the length and continual nature of this event combined with the number of contestants involved, it is NOT possible for us to accommodate any individual scheduling adjustment requests. Contestants must be able to commit to the entire time-frame of this event. If a scheduling conflict exists with another event for which the contestant is registered, that contestant should contact the superintendent of the other event to see if a scheduling adjustment is possible.

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## 7. ANNUAL THEME

There is no annual theme or topic for this CDE.

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## 8. EVENT FORMAT

- a. The students will compete in the following as a part of the contest using a Placing Card (See Appendix 1):
    - I. Rank 8 classes of livestock (cattle, swine, sheep, and meat goats) (See Appendixes 2, 3, 4)
    - II. Evaluate 2 sets of keep/cull breeding animals (See Appendixes 5, 6, 7)
      - a) These will be breeding animals (male or female).
      - b) Two different species (beef, swine, sheep, or goat) will be represented.
      - c) For each animal, contestants should identify KEEP or CULL on the Placing Card. Contestants should KEEP the 4 most desirable animals and CULL the 4 least desirable animals. Failure to keep exactly 4 animals and to cull exactly 4 animals will result in a score of zero!
    - III. **Senior division** will deliver 3 sets of oral reasons – 1 set per specie (beef, swine, sheep/goat). The specific classes will be determined the day of the contest.
    - IV. **Junior division** will only deliver 1 set of oral reasons.
  - b. Every effort will be made to maintain an even split in the number of classes of each species and in the number of market and breeding classes that students evaluate. The exact split will be dependent on the livestock available.
  - c. **Card style and Cull/Keep availability will be announced prior to the State FFA Convention**, but it is recommended participants are familiar with both card styles and how to judge a cull/keep class.
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## 9. SCORING

| <b>Senior Events</b>   | <b>Point Breakdown</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Placing Classes     | 8 Classes x 50 Points  | 400          |
| 2. Oral Reasons        | 3 Sets x 50 Points     | 150          |
| 3. Keep/Cull           | 2 Classes x 50 Points  | 100          |
| Total individual score |                        | 650          |

| <b>Senior Team Scoring</b>   | <b>Point Breakdown</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Total of 4 Individual Scores | 4 Scores x 800 Points  | 2600         |

| <b>Junior Events</b>   | <b>Point Breakdown</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Placing Classes     | 8 Classes x 50 Points  | 400          |
| 2. Oral Reasons        | 1 Set x 50 Points      | 50           |
| 3. Keep/Cull           | 2 Classes x 50 Points  | 100          |
| Total individual score |                        | 550          |

| <b>Junior Team Scoring</b>   | <b>Point Breakdown</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Total of 4 Individual Scores | 4 Scores x 700 Points  | 2200         |

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## 10. TIEBREAKER

- a. Individual and team
  - I. 1<sup>st</sup> tie-breaker: Reasons Total Score
  - II. 2<sup>nd</sup> tie-breaker: Lower scores on reasons classes
    - a) Lower placing scores with higher oral reason scores indicates a student presented better reasons with incorrect placings.

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## 11. RESOURCE MATERIALS

- a. Selected chapters from *Modern Livestock and Poultry Production*; 8<sup>th</sup> edition.
  - I. Animal Reproduction – Unit 10
  - II. Beef – Units 13-19
  - III. Swine – Units 20-25
  - IV. Sheep and Goats – Units 26-30
- b. National FFA Livestock Evaluation CDE resources

c. Oral reasons scoring guidelines

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 45-50 Points | Completely accurate, correct organization, excellent delivery                                     |
| 40-44 Points | Mostly accurate, correct organization, adequate delivery  |
| 30-39 Points | Inaccurate in places, improper organization in spots, need more specific detail, average delivery |
| 20-29 Points | Completely inaccurate, prioritization unclear, marginal detail, poor delivery                     |
| <20 Points   | Minimal effort, did not appear to care or be involved in the event                                |

d. EPD Basics and Definitions –

- I. **EPD Basics and Definitions** - <https://go.unl.edu/epdbasics>
  - II. **Economic Indexes for Beef Sire Selection** - <https://go.unl.edu/economicindexesforbeefsireselection>
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## 12. EXAMS


- a. This event will no longer have exams or questions on classes.
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## 13. POST-CDE DEBRIEFING OPPORTUNITY

- a. Advisors and other students are encouraged to attend the debriefing with the contestants following the event at the Animal Science Complex on UNL East Campus
- b. The debriefing will provide the official placings for the contest and answers to questions, at the completion of the Senior Livestock Evaluation Contest, at approximately 2:00 pm.
- c. The team and individual awards will be presented at the completion of the CDE debriefing.

# Appendix

# Appendix 1: Example Placing Cards


Form 0-17-75

**PLACING CARD**

Contestant No. \_\_\_\_\_ Class No. \_\_\_\_\_

Placing \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate your placing by an "X" in the middle column.

|        |  |  |        |  |  |
|--------|--|--|--------|--|--|
| 1234-A |  |  | 2134-G |  |  |
| 1243-B |  |  | 2143-H |  |  |
| 1324-C |  |  | 2314-I |  |  |
| 1342-D |  |  | 2341-J |  |  |
| 1423-E |  |  | 2413-K |  |  |
| 1432-F |  |  | 2431-L |  |  |
| 3124-M |  |  | 4123-S |  |  |
| 3142-N |  |  | 4132-T |  |  |
| 3214-O |  |  | 4213-U |  |  |
| 3241-P |  |  | 4231-V |  |  |
| 3412-Q |  |  | 4312-W |  |  |
| 3421-R |  |  | 4321-X |  |  |

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Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

