Livestock Judging Basics

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Livestock Judging
Just the basics.
What is Livestock Judging?

- Analysis of animals and measuring them against a standard that is accepted as ideal
- Three parts
  - Making observations
  - Organizing thoughts
  - Expressing opinion via oral reasons
Steps of Judging Livestock

- Criteria
- Hormel system and scoring
- The three species
- Oral Reasons and Notes
- Terms
- Contest!
Skills Developed in Judging Livestock

- Confidence
- Decision Making
- Self Esteem
- Communication

- Critical Thinking
- Industry Knowledge
- Career Exploration
- Nomenclature
Four Steps in Judging Livestock

- **Information**
  - What is the use for the class

- **Observation or evaluation**
  - How does each animal meet the market standard

- **Comparison**
  - Each animal must be compared to the other three

- **Conclusion or placing**
  - Arrive at a logical placing
Basic Judging Criteria

- Four animals in a class
  - Numbered 1-4 from left to right when viewed from the rear when tied, in stanchions or racks.
  - Or clearly marked by
    - 1, 2, 3, 4
    - |, ||, |||, ||||
Basic Judging Criteria

Three species judged in market and breeding classes

- Beef
- Sheep
- Swine
- Meat Goats
Basic Judging Criteria

• **Strategy**
  - Evaluate from a distance of 20 to 30 feet
  - Handle animals if appropriate to confirm placing
  - Go with first impression
Basic Judging Criteria

- A Class is about 12 minutes in length
- First 2 minutes should be at a distance
- The next three minutes should be to confirm and write down placings.
- The rest of the time should be used to write down notes for reasons.
Basic Judging Criteria

- The Hormel system and the judging card.
- Each class is worth 50 points for the placing.
- Each set of reasons is worth 50 points.
- Classes are divided into three “pairs”
  - Top Middle and Bottom
Basic Judging Criteria

- The Hormel System
  - There are 24 different possibilities to place four animals.
Cuts

- What are CUTS?
  - The penalty for switching top, middle and bottom pairs.
  - These form the basis for grading or scoring the placing.
  - Will never exceed 15 points when added together
Scoring

- Class is placed 2 1 4 3
- The correct placing is 2 1 3 4
- With cuts of 2 3 5
- Score is 45
Scoring

- Class is placed 2 1 4 3
- The correct placing is 1 2 3 4
- With cuts of 3 4 6
- Score is 41
Basic Judging Criteria

What to look for?

- Structural Correctness
- Muscle
- Balance
- Finish (market classes)
- Breed and Sex Character
The Four Species

- **Beef**
  - Breeding and Market
- **Swine**
  - Breeding and Market
- **Sheep**
  - Breeding and market
- **Meat Goats**
  - Breeding and Market
The Species

- Each species has several different breeds
- There are different characteristics and therefore terminology with respect to market and breeding
Oral Reasons

- Teach you to organize your thoughts and defend your decision to a reason taker
- Maximum time is two (2) minutes
Benefits from Reasons

- Think more clearly
- State your thoughts more expertly
- Improve your speaking voice
- Develop memory
Points to Consider

- Keep reasons short and to the point
- Be descriptive and complete
- Avoid works and phrases that do not add meaning
- **Be comparative**
- Discuss only the things which you observed
- **Tell the truth !!**
Transition Terms

- Words or phrases that help your reasons flow more smoothly.
- Allows reasons taker to follow your thoughts more easily
- Use voice inflection
Transition Terms

- Plus
- Moreover
- As well as
- In addition
- Furthermore
- However

- I criticize
- I recognize
- I grant
- Additionally
Taking Notes

- Develop your own system
- So you remember
- For example
  - BT = big top
  - SS = size and scale
  - BF = bigger frame
  - VD = vertical dimension
The Grid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Placing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pair</td>
<td>Comparison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 / 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 / 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 / 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reasons Format

- Pleasant to hear
- Easy to listen to
- Easy to follow
- Cover major points in the class
- Given in comparison terms
Reasons Format

- Breaks a class of four animals into three pairs
  - Top, middle, bottom
- Each pair is discussed in three areas
  - General or broad statements
  - Reinforcements or specific statements
  - Grants or criticisms
Top Pair

- General Statement
  - Tell reason for placing 1 first and over 2 in the top pair
- Reinforcements
  - Go into more detail to further describe your general statement
- Grants
  - Was 2 better than 1 in any area?
- Criticize 2
Middle pair

• General Statement
  • Tell reason for placing 2 over 3.

• Reinforcements
  • Go into more detail to further describe your general statement

• Grants
  • Was 3 better that 2 in any area?

• Criticize 3
Bottom pair

• General Statement
  • Tell reason for placing 3 over 4.

• Reinforcements
  • Go into more detail to further describe your general statement

• Grants
  • Was 4 better than 3 in any area
Bottom animal

- Explain why it is the last place animal
- As compared to the rest of the class
- In “est” terms
  - Smallest framed
  - Lightest muscled
  - Structurally most incorrect
The end of your reasons

- Always say thank you
Performance classes

- Scenario Format
- Should answer three questions
  - What purpose
  - What situation
  - What priorities
- No reasons
Performance Classes

- Keep/Cull
- EPD’s
Question Classes

- No Reasons
- Written Questions
  - Which is heavier muscled between 1 and 2?
  - Which steer had the white tag?