

Dairy Cattle Judging Career Development Event

MSU Pavilion
Registration 8:00 a.m.
Contest begins at 8:30 a.m.

Contest should be completed by 3:30 p.m.

Contest will include:

- 8 placing classes
- 3 oral reasons classes

PLACING CLASSES

Each contestant will place eight classes of eight dairy animals based on type. Classes will consist of heifers, young cows, or mature cows. Classes will be selected from the five major dairy cattle breeds, Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, and Jersey. Contestants will be permitted to view the animals from all angles but will not be permitted to handle or touch the animals. Classes of animals will be numbered right to left using numbers 1, 2, 3, 4. Twelve minutes will be allowed for placing each class. Contestants will place animals showing final placing only. In judging the classes, contestants will take into consideration frame, feet, legs and body capacity.

ORAL REASONS

Oral reasons will be given on three classes. Fifteen minutes will be allowed for placing and taking notes for the oral reasons class. Notes may be used to aid the contestants in preparing their reasons, but notes will not be permitted when the contestant delivers his/her reasons. See suggestions and sample oral reasons on page 2.

FAIR COMPETITION

While the contest is in progress, communications between contestants or contestants and coaches is NOT allowed (neither written or verbal). If a contestant is caught breaking this rule they could receive a zero for that class. Neither coaches nor parents are allowed in the ring during the judging portion of the contest or in the reasons holding area.

REFERENCE

Dairy Cattle Judging Techniques, George W. Trimberger and William M. Etgen, Prentice Hall Publishing Company.

SAMPLE REASONS

In placing this class of Guernsey Aged Cows 2-3-4-1, I found an easy top in 2 followed by a close middle pair between 3 and 4, and a logical bottom with 1.

Mammary system places 2 over 3 as 2 has a more capacious udder that extends higher and wider in the rear and is longer in the fore. 2 is taller and longer and shows more depth and spring of both fore and rear rib than 3 & 4. 2 shows more breed character about the head.

I admit 3 has more functional rump as 2's pins are higher than her hips. 3 also stands on a stronger set of pasterns.

3, a more upstanding individual, places over 4 on an advantage of straightness of lines. 3 is straighter across the back and stands on a more correct set of hind legs as viewed from the side, criticizing 4 for having too much set in the hock. 3 is deeper in both fore and rear rib.

On the other hand 4 is longer and leaner through the neck and cleaner about the hocks, pins and thighs. 4 also has a stronger fore udder attachment.

Mammary system places 4 over 1 as 4 has more youthful udder which is carried higher above the hocks and is stronger in both fore and rear udder attachments. 4's shoulders blend more smoothly into the body and is more nearly level from hips to pins than 1.

However 1 shows more depth and spring of rear rib.

Although a powerful deep bodied cow, 1 places last because she has a weakly attached udder, both fore and rear, allowing the udder to extend below the hock line and also stands on a sickled set of rear legs.