Michigan State University

Livestock Judging Manual

An Introduction to Livestock Judging

Judging contests, in particular livestock judging contests, have been extremely beneficial to various components of many young people's lives. Past participants will say that involvement in a judging program was one of the single most rewarding experiences of their life. The potential benefits are numerous, but the following are the most commonly expressed by judging team alumni.

*Enhanced Evaluation Skills
*Development of Communication Skills
*Improved Teamwork Concept
*Strengthened Decision-Making Skills
*Heightened Perseverance and Commitment
*Exposure to a Competitive Environment
*Travel and Industry Exposure

Getting Involved

There are many opportunities for young people to become involved in judging events. First, there are many more contests besides the livestock events such as dairy, dairy products, horse, meats, crops and soils. The first step is contacting your county 4-H agent or specialist indicating your interest in becoming involved with a particular judging event. They should be able to inform you on the specific dates and times of such contests, as well as the rules and requirements. They will also be able to put you in contact with others in your area that have similar interests if your club or county does not have enough participation. Other than 4-H and FFA, many of the breed organizations will host judging contests at county, state, regional and national shows and events. Contact the appropriate representatives to obtain more information on these dates. There are also events in surrounding states such as the Premier Stockman, Columbia City, IN; The Main Event, Urbana, OH; and the Keystone Livestock Expo, Harrisburg, PA. Contact Ken Geuns (517-353-2924) in the Department of Animal Science at Michigan State University for more information on these contests. For further involvement past 4-H and FFA, intercollegiate judging teams are available at most universities with an animal science curriculum.

Livestock Contest Dynamics

Not every judging contest is set up the same but there are many similarities. There will be multiple classes of beef, sheep, and swine with four animals per class. The number of classes will vary dependant upon the event. For the judging contest held during the 4-H Livestock Expo, two classes of each species will be judged. Contestants can choose to participate in either the "reasons" or "questions" division. The classes will be either breeding or market classes with performance data being supplied on some of the breeding classes. Certain classes will be designated as "reasons" or "questions" classes in which you will either give an oral defense of your placing or answer up to 10 questions on the four animals in the class, respectively. On all classes, you will be

given 12 to 15 minutes to evaluate and place the animals and prepare your notes.

Scoring Procedures of a Contest

Both placing classes and reasons have a maximum score of 50 points. The scoring of reasons is a subjective procedure where experienced officials will assign scores to a set of reasons, usually in a range of 48 to 25, depending upon content, accuracy, and delivery. However, scoring a participants placing of the animals is done with an objective system. First, the official committee will assign an "official" placing with cuts. "Cuts" are a numerical value that represent the difficulty of a decision between a given pair and usually range from 2 to 7. For example, in a case where the official placing was 1-2-3-4 with cuts of 2-3-7, the officials felt that the placing of 1 over 2 was very close while the placing of 3 over 4 was very easy. To score your own placings, the following system can be used.

1. Write down your placing, the official placing and the cuts as follows:

(Your placing)	3 - 2 - 1- 4
(Official placing)	1 - 2 - 3 - 4
(Cuts)	4 - 2 - 5

2. Compare *your* placing to the *official* placing by scoring every pair, asking the question:

   On the *official* placing does:

   3 beat 2? If yes, 0 points are deducted. In this case, 3 does not beat 2 on the official placing so all cuts are added together as your point deduction for this particular pair. Here the total cuts between 3 and 2 is "**2**".

   3 beat 1? No, so your point deduction would be "4" + "2" for a total of "**6**".

   3 beat 4? Yes, so "**0**" points are deducted.

   2 beat 1? No, so your total point deduction would be "**4**".

   2 beat 4? Yes, so "**0**" points are deducted.

   1 beat 4? Yes, so "**0**" points are deducted.

3. Subtract your total point deductions from 50 to obtain your final score.

   50 - **2** - **6** - **0** - **4** - **0** - **0**= 38

Oral Reasons

Of the two components of a livestock judging contest, placing and oral reasons, the reasons portion is normally considered the most difficult and overwhelming. It is quite a challenge to develop the ability to stand in front of an official and convince him or her that your placing is the correct one. However, the benefits of doing so will far out-weigh the initial anxiety and fear that all beginning livestock judges face.

Oral reasons can be divided into two main components: content and delivery. Content is essentially **what** you say while delivery is **how** you say it. Delivery is most enhanced with practice and comes with time. Therefore, a person just beginning to give reasons should concentrate most on content. First and foremost, reasons must be accurate. The justification for your placing should only include definite advantages that one animal has over another. Describe each animal as best as you can and only use terms that are appropriate. The use of proper terminology will identify you as being more knowledgeable about the given species that you are discussing. Avoid using the same term repeatedly throughout your set. There are a number of different ways to describe a given trait, try to vary these as much as possible. Prioritize your reasons by saying the biggest, most critical points first. Be complete by including the main reasons why a particular animal places over another, yet at the same time, stay concise. If one animal excels another in essentially all areas, it is not necessary to break down and describe each area. In this case, use broad, general terms (i.e. more structurally correct, higher volumed and heavier muscled). Try to “paint a picture” of the animals with your reasons. If properly presented, a person that has not seen the class should be able to visualize the animals as you are talking. This can be accomplished by using distinct identifications (i.e. color, sex, markings) and describing the animal in an organized fashion. Try to avoid jumping from one end of the animal to the other, this makes following your reasons difficult to the official.

The proper delivery of a set of reasons has many of the same characteristics as any oral presentation or speech. You must be professional in your appearance. Though a coat and tie may not always be necessary, proper attire should be worn (i.e. no hats or shorts). Having good posture and using proper grammar are also vital components of professionalism. Stand up straight with your shoulders square, your hands behind your back and your feet stationary. Be confident and convincing in your mannerisms and actions. One can think of a set of reasons as an attempt to sell your placing to the official. Consequently, you must be confident in your decision. Maintain eye contact with the official throughout your reasons and talk slowly with an appropriate voice level. You must speak loud enough for the official to hear and understand you, yet you do not want to overpower them with excessive volume. If you are in a large room, it may be necessary to speak louder than normal as your voice will carry. Keep some personality in your voice, do not speak monotone. Fluctuate your voice to bring out important or key components of your reasons.

There are a tremendous number of components that go into a successful set of reasons. No one component can compensate for a deficiency in another area. However, when starting out, emphasize the accuracy of your reasons. Keep your reasons simple and only discuss the differences that are relevant to the placing of the class. With time and practice, your flow and confidence will improve. Make up sets of reasons and give them into a mirror. Continue practicing with friends and family. Tape record or video tape yourself and critique yourself. Don't get frustrated. Everyone that has ever given oral reasons knows that the first sets are the most difficult. The more you practice and the more sets you give, the better you will be.

One way to maintain better flow throughout your reasons is to use a consistent format. There are many different formats to oral reasons. The one I will outline is the one used by the livestock judging teams at Michigan State.

1. Introduce the class and state your placing
   "1 - 2 - 3 - 4 is my alignment of the Angus heifers."
2. Introduce the top pair
   "In my opening decision it is 1 over 2."
3. Reasons why animal in first places over animal in second
   "1 is a heavier muscled, thicker made heifer who is deeper ribbed and bolder sprung. In addition she is more nearly level in her hip and stands more correct at her hock.
4. Grants to second place animal over animal in first
   "Admittedly, 2 is smoother shouldered and longer necked"
5. Criticisms of second place animal
   "But at the same time is narrower made, lighter muscled and stands somewhat cow-hocked."
6. Introduce middle pair
   "Yet in my intermediate decision, it is 2 over 3."
7. Reasons why animal in second places over animal in third
   "2 is the longer bodied, higher performing heifer of the pair. She is also nicer balanced being stronger in her top, straighter in her lines and more feminine fronted."
8. Grants to third place animal over animal in second
   "Yes, 3 is wider based and easier fleshing"
9. Criticisms of third place animal
   "But is shorter coupled, weaker topped and coarser fronted."
10. Introduce final pair
    "Despite these criticisms, it is 3 over 4 in my final pair."
11. Reasons why animal in third places over animal in fourth
    "3 is more structurally correct. She has more slope to her shoulder, more set to her hock, and consequently takes a longer, easier stride. More over, she is stouter in her hip, wider based, and bolder sprung in her forerib."
12. Grants to fourth place animal
    "4 is longer bodied and heavier boned, but she places fourth.
    She is the poorest structured, shortest striding heifer who is tight ribbed and

narrow made."

13. Statement of closure
    "Thank you"

Note Taking

Unless you are blessed with a photographic memory, it will be essential to take good notes on the classes you will give reasons on. Though you will not be able to read off these notes when giving your reasons, they will be critical in recreating the livestock in your mind. There are many ways to take notes. Most prefer to use a small (6" X 8") spiral notebook. To best follow the reasons format outlined previously, it is suggested to divide the page as shown below.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Class Name Placing (1-2-3-4)</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">1/2
Reasons
(why 1 places over 2)</td><td>2/1
Grants to 2</td></tr>
<tr><td>2
Criticisms of 2</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">2/3
Reasons
(why 2 places over 3)</td><td>3/2
Grants</td></tr>
<tr><td>3
Criticisms</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">3/4
Reasons
(why 3 places over 4)</td><td>4/3
Grants</td></tr>
<tr><td>4
Criticisms</td></tr>
<tr><td>1
Notes and IDs</td><td>2
Notes and IDs</td></tr>
</table>

3 Notes and IDs	4 Notes and IDs

Understanding Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) for Breeding Cattle

To be a successful at selecting and judging breeding cattle with performance data, it is crucial that you understand the EPDs you will be presented. EPDs are estimates of how a bull or heifer's progeny (calves) will perform, on average, for a given trait. This is not to say we know exactly how many pounds difference there will be between two sire's calves for a given trait. Rather it is the expected difference between the average of two populations or groups of progeny. For example, if Sire A has a Birth Weight EPD of +5 and Sire B has a Birth Weight EPD of -2, we would expect Sire A's calves to average 7 pounds heavier at birth as compared to Sire B when the two sires were bred to a large number of comparable cows.

It is also important to remember that EPDs can only be compared between animals of the same breed. Because each breed works off a different base year, you must keep in mind the average EPD value for that particular breed. Below are the breed average EPDs for calves born in 1996. The four EPDs given are the most commonly used across all the breeds.

	BW	WW	YW	Milk
Angus	+3.3	+25.8	+42.2	+10.2
Charolais	+0.6	+12.9	+19.0	+1.6
Hereford	+3.8	+27.0	+47.0	+8.0
Simmental	+0.7	+5.8	+9.7	+0.6
Limousin	+1.5	+8.2	+15.1	+1.0
Gelbvieh	+0.4	+5.3	+9.6	+1.4

The following is a brief definition of the EPDs utilized in beef cattle.

Birth Weight (BW)
Birth Weight EPDs are expressed in pounds. This is the expected average difference in birth weight expected in an animal's offspring when compared to other animal's within the breed. Birth weight is primarily used as an indicator of calving ease. Normally, a lighter calf will cause less calving problems than a heavier calf. The age and size of the female to be bred will determine how much birth weight can be tolerated.

Weaning Weight (WW)
Weaning Weight EPDs are expressed in pounds and predict the average differences in weight at 205 days of age between animals within the same breed. This predictor does not account for differences in weaning weight due to milk.

Yearling Weight (YW)

Yearling Weight EPDs are expressed in pounds and predict the average differences in weight at 365 days of age between animals within the same breed.

Milk
Milk EPDs are expressed as pounds of calf weaned (not pounds of milk) by the daughters of a given bull or heifer. They reflect the average differences in weaning weight due to the daughter's milking ability.

Total Maternal (TM) (also called Maternal Weaning Weight or Milk and Growth)
Total Maternal EPDs are also expressed as pounds of calf weaned by the daughters of a given bull or heifer. They, however, reflect a bull or heifers's ability to transmit milk production and growth rate through their daughters. These EPDs are calculated by adding an animal's Milk EPD to one-half of it's Weaning Weight EPD.

Calving Ease Direct (CE)
Predicts the average difference in calving ease of a sire's calves when bred to first-calf heifers. Represented as percent unassisted births with a higher EPD indicating greater calving ease.

Calving Ease Maternal (CE)
Predicts the average difference in calving ease of an animal's daughters at first-calving. Represented as percent unassisted births with a higher EPD indicating greater calving ease.

Scrotal Circumference (SC)
Scrotal Circumference EPDs are expressed in centimeters. They predict the average difference in scrotal circumference of an animal's male progeny. Scrotal Circumference is highly related to age at puberty and fertility of a sire's daughter.

Gestation Length (GL)
Predicts the average difference in gestation length in days. Shorter gestation lengths are associated with less calving problems quicker rebreeding.

Yearling Hip Height
Reported in inches. Predict the average difference in hip height at one year of age when compared with the progeny of another animal.

Mature Daughter Height and Weight
Predict the average differences that can be expected in mature daughter size in inches and pounds, respectively. These EPDs can be used to match mature cow size to forage resources.

Stayability
Expressed as the probability that an animal's daughters will remain in production to at least six years of age when compared to the daughters of another animal. A higher

value represents a higher likelihood of staying in production.

Carcass Weight (CW)
Estimate average differences that will be seen in carcass weight in an animal's progeny. Expressed in pounds.

Marbling (Mb)
Expressed as a fraction of a USDA marbling score (1 point = 1 USDA marbling score). Predicts the expected differences in USDA Quality Grade between animal's progeny.

Ribeye Area (REA)
Expressed in square inches. Predicts the average difference in ribeye area of an animal's progeny when compared to progeny of another animal.

Fat Thickness (BF)
Expressed in inches. Estimates the average difference that is expected in fat thickness at the 12^{th} rib between progeny of different animals.

Percent Retail Product (Percent Retail Cuts)
Expressed as a percent. Estimates the average difference in cutability between progeny of different animals.

Interpreting Beef Performance Scenarios

With all performance data you will be provided with a scenario. The purpose of the scenario is to inform you of the type of operation the animals will be utilized in. It may inform you of a particular emphasis the farm has towards correcting or improving a certain trait or traits. It may describe the environment or feed availability the animals will be subjected to. Even though the scenario may ask for improvement in one area, remember that other important traits (i.e. calving ease) can not be ignored. When putting your final placing on a performance class, you must decide how well the animals fit the given scenario.

Below are beef scenario statements and their implications.

Limited Labor
Put a higher emphasis than normal on calving ease.

Limited Feed
This scenario would select for more moderately framed, easier fleshing cattle with average milk production. There is not enough feed to support the increased energy needs of large framed and/or heavy milking females. These females would not be able to maintain their condition and more than likely, not breed back as quickly.

Bulls used on first calf or virgin heifers
High emphasis on calving ease.

Bulls used on mature cows
Less emphasis on calving ease.

Bulls/ Heifers used in purebred operation that markets through shows
Balance trait selection with slightly more emphasis on phenotype.

Bulls/ Heifers used to produce bulls and heifers for commercial sale
Again a balance trait selection is needed. Slightly less emphasis on “eye appeal” and more emphasis on maternal, growth, and carcass traits.

Bulls used only to produce feedlot cattle
No emphasis needs to be put on the bull’s genetics for maternal characteristics (i.e. Milk). Main emphasis on growth and carcass traits.

Heifers used only to produce feedlot cattle
Balanced trait selection. Keep in mind that even though only market cattle are being produced, these heifers are still being used as brood females and must be maternal.

Bulls/ Heifers put in operation where all calves are sold as feeders
More emphasis on Milk and WW EPDs

Bulls/ Heifers put in operation where all calves are fed out in retained ownership
Retained ownership is when a producer maintains ownership of the cattle as they are fed through a custom feedlot. The producer's profit in the feeding phase is determined by performance along with yield and quality of the carcasses. For selection of bulls, a large emphasis can be put on the EPDs that correspond to these traits. For female selection, again, all traits must be considered but with an increased emphasis on growth and carcass EPDs if possible.

Heifers kept as replacements with an emphasis to improve milk (or any trait)
Balanced trait selection with high consideration to milk EPDs (or EPDs for the given trait)

Bulls used in commercial cowherd to improve carcass quality (or any trait)
Balanced trait selection with high consideration to Marbling EPDs (or EPDs for the given trait)

Bulls used in a rotational crossbreeding system
Here a given breed of bull will be used in a rotation with one, two, or three other breeds to produce both replacement heifers and feedlot cattle. It is important to understand the importance that each breed has in the rotation. Normally, British cattle are used to improve maternal characteristics and carcass quality while Continental cattle are used for growth and muscling. Make sure the animals you are placing will offer these traits expected for the rotational system.

Bulls or heifers will be raised in large acreage, range pastures
Structurally sound cattle are imperative to this scenario

The following are particular problems identified in a scenario and the appropriate EPDs or traits to emphasize.

Poor weaning weights
Milk, Weaning Weight, and Total Maternal

Cows not rebreeding quickly, increased calving interval
Mature Daughter Size (decrease), Milk (lower), Gestation Length (shorten)

Increased calving problems
Birth Weight and Calving Ease

Daughters not cycling (reaching puberty) early enough
Use bulls with improved Scrotal Circumference EPDs

CATTLE PERFORMANCE REASONS

Birth Weight/ Calving Ease:

+Potentially an easier calving sire as he combined a lower BW EPD with a smoother shoulder
+Would be expected to project less dystocia (dystocia is the technical term for calving difficulty) into this minimum labor scenario
+Possessed a lower BW EPD and should sire calves with less incidence of dystocia
+Would potentially be the calving ease sire
+Would potentially sire calves requiring less assistance at birth
+Potentially an easier calving sire more acceptable for use on heifers
+Would be the easier calving sire when mated to virgin heifers in this 3 breed rotation
+His BW EPD/ CE EPD is better suited for the limited labor in this operation
+He should require fewer assisted births (Direct CE advantage)
+His daughters should require less assistance at first-calving (Maternal CE advantage)

Weaning Weight and Yearling Weight:

+Due to his advantage in WW and YW, should be expected to produce faster growing offspring
+Due to his advantage in growth numbers, would potentially sire higher performing commercial bulls
+He should simply transmit more pure growth into his offspring
+Project more genetic strength for growth
+His calves should enter the feedlot at heavier weights and continue a growth advantage to a year of age
+Sire offspring requiring fewer days on feed
+Sire the heavier calves at weaning
+Produce calves that should experince more post-weaning gain through the feedlot and potentially be more profitable
+Project more post-weaning growth
+Sire faster growing bulls with more commercial appeal
+Sire cattle that would reach market at an earlier age through the feedlot phase

Calving Ease and Growth:

+He has a more desirable relationship/ spread between his BW and YW EPDs
+He should enhance growth without sacrificing calving ease
+His calves should be born lighter and weigh heavier when weaned

Value-based Marketing:

+Because of his more muscular composition, I would expect his progeny to receive more premiums in this marketing system
+His progeny should hang higher yielding carcasses and thus be more profitable when sold through a value-based marketing system
+His carcass EPDs would suggest that his progeny be more valuable in this formula marketing system

+I would expect him to sire faster growing feedlot cattle, more muscular in their composition
+Due to his advantage in growth and carcass EPDs, I would expect him to sire the faster gaining cattle that when hung on the rail, should expose the larger, higher quality ribeyes
+Should sire the cattle more apt to reach the Choice grade

Maternal:
+A more maternal oriented bull that should sire heavier milking daughters
+Produce heavier milking females that should bring in heavier calves at weaning
+Produce the higher quality, more maternal replacement heifers
+Sire offspring with more genetic strength for milk
+He is better suited to improve maternal traits
+He is the more maternal bull
+His daughters should wean off more pounds of calf due to milk
+He offers more pure milk to his replacements

Maternal Calving Ease and Milk:
+He should sire the easier calving, heavier milking replacement heifers

Maternal Calving Ease and Maternal Weaning Weight:
+His daughters should have fewer problems when calving and wean more pounds of calf due to milk

Milk and Growth:
+His daughters should wean off more pounds of calf
+His calculated milk and growth EPD suggest that his daughters will wean heavier calves
+His daughters should be more valuable as replacements and wean off heavier calves

Milk and Structure:
+He is the sounder moving, bigger bodied bull with higher maternal EPDs and I would expect his replacements to have more longevity in this operation
+He should sire the more structurally correct, heavier milking replacements with more longevity

Limited Feed/ Rotation:
+Lower in his milk numbers and would potentially sire the daughters requiring less maintenance and rebreed quicker as mature cows
+A more moderate framed, easier fleshing bull that would potentially sire daughters more ideally suited for this limited feed scenario.
+A moderately framed bull that would be expected to produce females of a more ideal mature size
+Because he is more conservative in his frame size and higher volumed, I would expect his replacements to be lower maintenance

Testicular Development /Scrotal Circumference EPD:
+Displayed more testicular development and should sire daughters reaching their first estrus at an earlier age
+Possessed a larger scrotal size and would be expected to produce females reaching puberty at an earlier age
+His larger scrotal circumference suggests that he could service more cows
+He showed more testicular development, possessed a larger scrotal circ. EPD and I would expect his daughters to reach first estrus at the earlier age

Testicular Development and Frame:
+He is a more moderately framed bull with more testicular development and I would expect his daughters to reach first estrus at a younger age

Testicular Development and Structure:
+A more range ready bull who showed more testicular development, was structurally more correct and consequently should be able to cover more cows
+He is a longer striding, bigger footed, more structurally correct sire with a larger scrotal size, suggesting he will be a sounder breeding bull for this environment
+He is a sounder breeding bull being more structurally correct and larger testicled

Type and Kind:
+He is more moderate in his frame and bigger bodied and I would expect his progeny to be easier feeding through the feedlot phase
+He is simply more practical in his kind being more moderately framed, bigger bodied and sounder moving
+More conservative in his frame
+More sensibly sized

Balance of Traits:
+More correct in his genetic profile
+A balanced trait bull better suited for this seedstock scenario
+Possessed a more desirable balance of traits
+Potentially sire the faster growing, heavier milking, higher quality replacement heifers
+Should transfer more genetic strength for growth and milk while maintaining birth weight
+Best spreads birth and yearling weight EPDs
+A more scenario adaptable bull in terms of .....

CATTLE TERMINOLOGY:

I. Breeding Cattle

General:

+More correctly balanced; Better balanced
+Nicer profiling, patterened; More eye appealing
+Higher/est quality
+Stronger topped; Straighter lined

-Poorly balanced
-Lower/poorest quality
-Easy/ weak topped

Muscle:

+Heavier muscled; Thicker made; More natural width and thickness
+Possessed a higher volume of muscle throughout/ through his/her rump
+Wider/thicker topped
+Longer/ smoother/ more correct in his/her muscle pattern
+More muscle shape down his/her top and out his/her rump
+Stouter hipped; Thicker rumped

-Lighter muscled; Narrower made
-Flatter muscled
-Rounder/tighter in his/her muscle pattern

Capacity:

+Bigger ribbed; Bigger bodied; Higher volumed
+A more capacious, broodier appearing female
+Bolder sprung in his/her forerib/heart girth
+Wider sprung; Bolder ribbed
+Deeper bodied/ flanked
+Exhibited more spring of rib
+Possessed more natural width through his/her center 1/3
+Potentially easier fleshing
+Wider based/tracking
+Bolder/wider chested
+Wider built
+Wider from hooks to pins; More skeletal width

-Shallower ribbed; Shallower bodied
-Tighter/flatter ribbed
-Higher flanked
-Tighter in his/her forerib/heart girth
-More extreme in his/her rib/ type and kind
-Potentially harder keeping
-Narrower based/ tracking

-Narrower chested

Capacity: (cont.)

-Tapered from hooks to pins
-Narrower at his/her pin set

Structure/ Movement:

+More structurally correct; More correct on his/her feet and legs
+More nearly level from hooks to pins
+Stood more correctly on his/her feet and legs
+Stood and tracked more correct from behind
+Sounder moving/striding
+Took a longer/freer/more correct stride off both ends
+More correct in the set and travel of his/her hind legs
+More correct in the set and angle to his/her hock
+More correct slope and angle to his/her shoulder allowing him/her to move out with a longer, freer stride
+Sounder in his/her hocks
+Toed straighter out of his/her front end
+Freer moving with more reach of stride
+Stood wider at his/her hock from behind
+Cleaner/flatter in his/her joints

-More structurally incorrect
-Lower in his/her pin set; steeper hipped
-Stood sickle hocked
-Stood and traveled cow hocked
-Stood close in his/her hock from behind
-Straighter hocked
-Shorter striding
-Restricted in his/her movement out of his/her frontend/hip
-Rotated in his/her hocks when viewed on the move
-Splay fronted
-Straight shouldered
-Swollen hocked
-Coarse in his/her joints

Length, Frame, Growth:

+Longer bodied; Longer hipped; Longer from hooks to pins
+More moderately framed, potentially easier fleshing
+More conservative in his/her kind
+More functional in his/her frame
+Growthier with an apparent advantage in WDA
+Higher performing
+Pounds heavier

-Shorter bodied; Shorter hipped; Shorter from hooks to pins
-Shorter coupled

Length, Frame, Growth: (cont.)

-Larger framed, potentially harder keeping
-More extreme is his/her kind
-Slower performing
-Lighter weight

Bone:

+Heavier boned
+Stouter structured/made
+Bigger footed

-Lighter boned
-Frailer made
-Smaller footed

Condition:

+More correct in his/her body condition
+Cleaner in his/her composition
+Easier fleshing and potentially easier keeping

-Excessive in his/her condition
-Poorer fleshing and potentially harder keeping

Femininity:

+Flatter shouldered; Laid in smoother about her shoulder
+Longer fronted/necked; Cleaner about her head and neck
+More refined/extended through her front 1/3
+More refined in her bonework/ joints
+Blended smoother in her neck and shoulder junction
+More developed in her udder/vulva

-Coarser/rounder/open shouldered
-Shorter fronted/necked; Shorter faced
-Heavier fronted
-Coarser boned/ jointed/ headed
-Smaller in her vulva
-Plainer fronted

Masculinity:

+More rugged; More massive; More masculine
+More masculine headed
+More testicular development; Larger scrotal circumference; Larger in his testicular size

Masculinity (cont.):
+Moved out more boldly on a larger, squarer foot
+Cleaner/tighter sheathed
+More even in testicular placement/carriage/size

-More refined
-Less testicular development/size
-Smaller footed
-Heavier/looser sheathed
-Uneven in his testicular size
-Twisted in his scrotum

II. Market Steers

Muscle:
+Heavier muscled; More muscular; Thicker made; Exhibited more natural thickness
+Thicker topped; More muscular topped
+More expressively muscled down his top and/or out through his quarter and stifle
+Longer hipped; Deeper quartered; Deeper in his twist
+Wider based steer with more center and lower dimension of quarter
+Possessed a wider, more muscular hip and top
+More center quarter/stifle dimension
+More total muscle volume
+Thicker quartered steer with more bulge of stifle
+Carries his thickness more uniformly from front to rear
+More expressively muscled with more shape to his top, loin and quarter
+Exhibited more shape and dimension of muscle
+Handled a greater volume of muscle down his top

-Lighter muscled; Narrower made
-Narrower topped
-Flatter muscled/stifled
-Shallower quartered
-More tapered through his rump/quarter
-More angular in his top

Finish:
+A more correctly finished steer handling/appearing more uniform over his loin edge and upper and lower rib
+More market ready/packer acceptable
+Fresher handling/appearing
+More optimum in his amount of finish

+More advanced in his degree of kill
+Handled with/appeared to have a greater degree of cover/finish over his rib
+More correctly covered
+More advanced in his finish exhibiting a greater amount of cod and pin fat
+Showed more evidence of finish in his brisket and cod
+More likely to reach the Choice grade

Finish: (Cont.)

+A more correctly finished steer which would likely attain a lower, more desirable yield grade
+A more properly finished steer who was trimmer over his loin edge and rib
+A trimmer patterned, higher cutability steer freer of excess finish through the lower 1/3 of his body
+Displayed/ handled with more finish over his last rib

-A greener appearing steer who was more open in his rib
-A barer appearing/handling steer less likely to reach the Choice grade
-A bare ribbed steer further from his optimal endpoint
-More uneven in his cover
-Patchier/rougher in his finish
-Staler handling/appearing
-Softer/wastier handling
-Over/excessive in his finish
-Wastier through the lower 1/3 of his body

*See Breeding Cattle terms for structure, length, etc.

Carcass:

*Always start these terms with "Would potentially", "Would be expected to", "When projected to the rail, would", “when hung on the rail”, etc.
+Hang/rail a heavier muscled, more uniformly covered carcass of a higher quality grade
+Hang/rail a heavier muscled carcass with more total pounds of round and loin/ muscle
+Hang/rail a more shapely, properly covered carcass with more packer appeal
+Yield more total pounds of end/edible product
+Hang a more industry acceptable carcass in terms of quality grade/yield grade/carcass weight
+Hang a leaner, higher yielding carcass with less waste and trim
+Hang a leaner carcass with a more desirable yield grade

-Hang up a lighter muscled, poorly covered carcass less likely to reach the Choice grade
-Rail a lighter weight carcass with less total pounds of product
-Rail a lower cutability carcass requiring excess fat trim
-Rail a lighter muscled, lower yielding carcass

SHEEP TERMINOLOGY

I. Breeding Sheep

General:
+Nicer balanced; nicer profiling; nicer patterned
+More upheaded
+Higher quality

-Poorer balanced
-Poorer quality

Frame and Performance:
+Larger/bigger framed
+Larger patterned/ profiling
+More upstanding
+More skeletally extended
+Longer bodied/ patterned
+Taller fronted and longer topped
+Longer in his/her hindsaddle
+Stood taller at the shoulder
+Possessed more skeletal size
+Growthier appearing
+Appeared pounds heavier
+Appeared faster growing/ performing

-Smaller framed
-Smaller patterned/ profiling
-Shorter coupled/ bodied
-Shorter hipped
-Appeared slower growing/ performing

Muscle:
+Heavier muscled; Thicker made
+Showed more natural thickness down her top and out her rump
+Exhibited more width and dimension of muscle to his loin and leg
+Thicker topped
+Thicker through her rump and/or leg

-Lighter muscled
-Narrower made/ topped/ rumped

Volume:
+Higher volumed; bigger bodied; more capacious
+Deeper ribbed/ bodied
+Bolder sprung

+More expanded at the base of her rib
+Broodier appearing (qualify with femininity)
+Showed more depth and spring of rib
+Wider based/ tracking
+Displayed more skeletal width and dimension
+Wider hipped
+Stood wider both front and rear

-Tighter ribbed
-Lower volumed
-Flatter ribbed
-Shallower bodied
-Narrower based/ tracking
-Narrower chested/ rumped
-More tapered out her hip

Structure:

+More structurally correct; more correctly patterned
+Straighter lined/ topped
+Stronger topped
+Leveler docked/ rumped
+More correct on her feet and legs
+Stood wider and squarer at her hock
+Toed straighter out of her front end
+Stood stronger on her pasterns
+More correct in the set and travel to her hind legs

-Weaker topped
-Steeper hipped/ rumped
-Cowhocked; sickle hocked
-Stood weaker in her pasterns
-More incorrect in the set and travel to her hind legs

Femininity/ Front end quality:

+Longer, more feminine fronted/ headed
+Sharper fronted
+More feminine featured
+Flatter boned
+Smoother shouldered
+More neatly laid in about her shoulder

Femininity/ Front end quality: (cont.)

+More refined about her head, neck and shoulders
+Higher in her neck-shoulder junction

-Shorter fronted/ headed

-Coarser fronted/ shouldered
-Rounder shouldered/ made
-Coarser boned
-More down-headed
-More ewe-necked
-Open fronted/shouldered

Masculinity:

+More masculine appearing/ featured
+Showed more testicular development
+Possessed the larger scrotal circumference
+Bolder featured

-Showed less testicular development
-Smaller testicled

Condition:

+Trimmer patterned/ fronted
+Cleaner patterned/ conditioned
+More proper in her condition
+Potentially easier fleshing

-Higher conditioned
-Heavier fronted
-Harsher conditioned; potentially harder keeping

Breed Character:

+Showed more strength and character about her head
+Showed more Suffolk breed character, being darker about her points
+Possessed a larger, more bell-shaped ear (Suffolk)
+A wider muzzled ewe with a shorter, thicker ear (Dorset)

Note:

*Use dark fiber to identify, do not use as advantage or disadvantage
**Use wool caps only as identification (open vs. closed)

II. Market Lambs

General:

+More upstanding
+Nicer balanced
+Fresher appearing

+Tighter hided
+More product oriented

-Looser hided/ pelty hided
-Staler appearing
-Poor balanced

Muscle:

+More muscular/ shapely
+Heavier muscled
+Thicker topped/ ended
+Possessed a thicker leg
+More expressively muscled through his rack, loin and leg
+Meatier topped
+Handled with a wider, deeper loin
+Met my hand with a deeper, fuller loin
+Handled progressively wider from front to rear
+Displayed more shape and dimension of muscle
+Handled with more product in his/her rack/loin/leg
+Handled a fuller leg
+Handled with more circumference of leg
+Displayed more inner and outer leg
+Displayed more outside shape and dimension of leg
+Shows more inner bulge and outer flare to his/her leg
+Handles with more shape and dimension of rack
+Met my hand with more dimension of rack and fullness of loin

-Lighter muscled
-Flatter, less muscular shape
-Narrower made/ topped
-Possessed a lighter, less shapely leg
-More funnel-shaped in his leg
-Flatter stifled
-Sharper in his rack and loin
-Shallower loined

Extension:

+Longer topped
+Longer loined
+Handled longer from his last rib back

Finish:

+Fresher handling
+Firmer/ harder handling
+Cleaner breasted
+Trimmer middled

+Firmer handling over his forerib and loinedge
+Firmer handling at the base of his leg
+Handled with less finish down his spine
+More correctly finished

-Softer handling
-Handled with more finish to his top and loinedge
-Heavier breasted
-Heavier middled
-Fatter handling
-More predisposed of fat through the lower 1/3 of his body
-Harsher handling/ finished (use when a lamb is too lean; less than .08")

*See also Breeding Sheep terms for structure and frame.

Carcass:

*Start these terms with “Would potentially”, “Would likely”, “Should be expected to”, “When hung on the rail”, etc.

+Hang a heavier muscled, more shapely carcass
+Hang a carcass with more pounds of leg and loin
+Produce a carcass of a higher percent hindsaddle
+Hang a higher yielding carcass with less fat trim
+Yield a leaner carcass with more packer appeal
+Hang a trimmer carcass with a lower numerical yield grade
+Yield more total pounds of product/ lean product
+Hang a cover more ideal in fat cover

-Yield a lighter muscled carcass with less total product
-Hang a less shapely, fatter carcass with less packer appeal
-Produce a lower cutability carcass requiring excess fat trim
-Hang poorer yielding carcass

SWINE TERMINOLOGY:

I. Breeding swine

General:

+More production oriented
+More productive in her appearance

+Higher quality
+More correctly balanced
+More youthful appearing
+Later maturing

-Earlier maturing
-Quicker in her maturity
-Poorer quality

Muscle:

+Heavier muscled; thicker made
+Possessed more natural thickness and muscularity down his top
+Worked a greater volume of muscle throughout
+Thicker hipped
+Exhibited more lean muscle
+Worked more width and dimension through her hip
+Opened with a squarer, more muscular top
+Thicker ended
+Laid a bigger, squarer loin down his top
+Worked a deeper, more muscular groove to her top
+Showed more dimension of muscle from front to rear

-Narrower made/ topped
-Lighter muscled
-Displayed less muscle shape and dimension throughout

Leanness:

+Leaner designed/ shaped
+Leaner bladed/ topped
+Possessed a more correct shape and turn to her top
+Exhibited less condition through the lower portion of her body
+Worked a cleaner blade
+Showed more blade action on the move
+Cleaner fronted/ jowled
+Read with a leaner turn to her loinedge
+Displayed a leaner, crisper turn to his top
+Cleaner profiled

Leanness (cont.):

-Appeared the deepest probing
-Worked more cover over her blade
-Showed more condition through his elbow
-Wastier/ more predisposed of fat through the lower 1/3 of her body
-Higher conditioned

Capacity:

+Higher volumed

+Broodier appearing (females only; qualify with femininity)
+More pulled apart at her blades and carried that advantage back to more center width of body cavity
+Wider bladed with more dimension of chest floor
+More opened through her blades
+Showed more depth and spring to her rib
+Exhibited more shape and arch to her rib
+Bolder sprung
+Deeper sided/ ribbed
+Wider/ deeper centered

-Tighter ribbed
-Shallower bodied
-Narrower made/ based/ designed
-Flatter ribbed
-Narrower chested
-More tapered through his lower rib cage

Size, Growth and Extension:

+Bigger framed/ outlined
+Larger scaled/ versioned
+Growthier in her appearance
+Longer sided
+More skeletally extended
+Longer hipped/ rumped

-Smaller framed
-Smaller scaled/ versioned
-Lower fronted
-Lower performing
-Shorter sided/ coupled
-Shorter hipped

Structure and Soundness:

+More correctly designed; leveler designed
+Sounder structured/ moving/ traveling
+More structurally correct; More functionally designed
+Leveler rumped/ topped
+Higher in her tail set
+Deeper set in her spine
+Looser structured/ hipped
+Moved out with more give and cushion to her hock, knee and pastern
+More correctly structured through her front end being set further back in her knee

+Longer, freer striding
+More correct in her toe size
+Stood down with more spread to her toes
+Stood squarer of his rear legs
+Moves with more flex to her spine
+More confinement adaptable (qualify)

-More structurally incorrect
-Poorly designed/ structured
-Higher topped
-Straighter fronted/ structured
-Tighter hipped
-Steeper rumped
-More uneven in his toe size
-Off in his rear legs
-Straighter in her hock and knee
-Weaker in her pasterns
-More illstructured

Bone:

+More durable in her appearance
+Heavier boned/ structured
+Stouter structured
+More durably designed
+Worked off a bigger blade and forearm
+Stood on more circumference of bone
+Bigger footed

-Frailer made
-Lighter boned
-Smaller footed

Femininity:
+Longer more feminine fronted/ headed
+Flatter boned
+Higher quality, more evenly spaced underline
+More complete in her underline
+Finer textured, further reaching underline
+More prominent in her underline
+More desirable in her teat count
+More desirable in her teat size and placement
+More correct in her vulva size and placement
+More feminine featured
+More maternal in her appearance as she combined a longer, more feminine head and neck with a higher quality underline

-Shorter faced/ fronted
-Poorer quality underline (qualify)
-Possessed a pin nipple (on her right side)
-Short in her underline count (on her left side)
-Possessed a small/ tipped vulva

Masculinity:
+More masculine appearing
+More aggressive
+Stouter designed, bigger footed
+More massive in his design
+Exhibited more testicular development
+More even in his testicular carriage
+Tighter/ cleaner sheathed
+More desirable in his teat count
+Finer textured, more evenly spaced underline

-Smaller in his testicle size
-Showed less testicular development
-Heavier sheathed
-Possessed a poorer quality underline shorter in teat count on the left side

II. Market Hogs

Muscle:
+Heavier muscled; thicker made
+Possessed more natural thickness and muscularity down his top
+Worked a greater volume of muscle throughout
+Thicker hipped
+Exhibited more lean muscle
+Worked more width and dimension through her hip
+Opened with a squarer, more muscular top
+Thicker ended
+Laid a bigger, squarer loin down his top
+Worked a deeper, more muscular groove to her top

+Showed more dimension of muscle from front to rear
+More expressively muscled
+Showed more center and lower dimension of ham
+Wider from stifle to stifle
+Showed more bulge of stifle
+Showed more muscle through his shoulder, down his top and out his ham
+Displayed more total volume of ham
+Showed more muscle shape down a wider top and carried that advantage back through all portions of her hip and stifle
+Worked more shape/ product from blade to hip

-Narrower made/ topped
-Lighter muscled
-Displayed less muscle shape and dimension throughout
-Flatter through her ham and stifle

Leanness:

+Possessed a leaner, crisper turn to her top
+Leaner designed/ shaped
+Leaner bladed/ topped
+Possessed a more correct shape and turn to her top
+Worked a cleaner blade
+Showed more blade action on the move
+Cleaner fronted/ jowled
+Showed less fat through his elbow and lower 1/3
+Cleaner through the seam of his ham
+Read with a leaner turn to her loinedge
+Cleaner profiled

-Appeared the deepest probing
-Worked more cover over her blade
-Showed more fat through his elbow
-Wastier/ more predisposed of fat through the lower 1/3 of her body

Frame and Maturity:

+A bigger framed, later maturing barrow that possessed more market weight flexibility

*See also Breeding Swine terms for frame, extension and structure.

Carcass:

*Start these terms with “Would potentially”, “Would likely”, “Should be expected to”, etc.

+Hang a heavier muscled/ longer carcass with more total pounds of merchandisable product
+Rail a leaner, more shapely carcass with more packer/ industry appeal
+Calculate higher in the percent muscle formula due to his advantages in muscle and leanness
+Hang a leaner/ higher yielding/ higher cutability carcass with less fat trim
+Yield a heavier muscled carcass with more total pounds of lean
+Yield more pounds of ham and loin

-Produce a lighter muscled carcass with less total product
-Rail a poorer cutability carcass requiring excess fat trim
-Hang with a lower yielding carcass