



12.008
3/24

Livestock Evaluation

Purpose

The livestock evaluation career development event provides the opportunity to learn and apply livestock industry and production priorities through evaluation and selection of beef cattle, swine, sheep and meat goats.

Objectives

Participants in the National FFA Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event will be able to

- Make accurate observations of livestock.
- Determine the desirable traits in market and breeding livestock.
- Make logical decisions based on these observations.
- Discuss and defend their decisions for their placings.
- Understand desirable selection, production, management and marketing techniques for livestock.
- Understand and interpret the value of performance data based on industry standards.
- Select and market livestock that will satisfy consumer demands and provide increased economic returns to producers while meeting the needs of the industry.
- Proficiently communicate using the terminology of the industry and the consumer.
- Associate with professionals in the industry.
- Utilize current technology as it relates to the livestock industry.
- Develop employability skills for future agricultural career choices.

Event Rules

NOTE: All rules and format are subject to change by discretion of the PA FFA Day officials and event coordinators. Those changes will be communicated through the event coordinators prior to the event. Please use this handbook as a guide, not as a guarantee of format.

The complete rules, policies and procedures relevant to all New Jersey FFA Career and Leadership Development Events may be found in the CDE & LDE Event Participation Policy: https://nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/ffa/activity/CDE_LDE_Policy.pdf

- Teams will consist of four members, and all four scores will count toward the team score.
- The team score is comprised of the combined scores of each individual and the team activity in which all team members will participate.
- Official Dress is strongly suggested for this event; however, participants may also wear an FFA shirt and long pants. Closed-toe shoes are a must.
- Participants must come to the event prepared to work in adverse weather conditions. The event will be conducted regardless of weather. The event will take place outside under a pole barn.

- Biosecurity measures will be in place. No handling of any animal will occur. Students may be given disposable boots to wear.
- Any communication between participants during the event will be sufficient cause to eliminate the team from the event.
- Any participant caught cheating during the event will be expelled from the event.
- Participants are NOT allowed to use (or have visible) electronic devices during the event, unless for medical reasons or a portion of the event requires usage. This includes cell phones, tablets, etc. Participants will be allowed to use calculators, if specified for that event; however, cell phone calculators and graphing calculators are not permitted! Failure to adhere to these rules will result in disqualification.
- All individuals participating will judge in a cooperative manner following the rules set forth by the event coordinator.
- No school/chapter will use Rutgers University or Delaware Valley University facilities or locations for the training of teams. Contact with University faculty and staff is permissible. **Penalty will be disqualification.**
- There will be no separate alternate teams.
- A student may not compete in more than one event during the PA CDE Day Career Development Events.
- The State level competition fee of \$11 per contestant will be paid by the competing school. If a chapter is at least blue affiliated, registration to state FFA career development events is waived.

Event Format

EQUIPMENT

Materials students must provide:

- Two No. 2 pencils
- Clipboard
- Blank paper

Flow of Event

- Keep Cull
- Placing Classes
- Oral Reasons
- General Knowledge Exam

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

Keep Cull (50 points per class)

There may be keep/cull classes, made up of eight breeding animals, that may be beef heifers, gilts, and ewes. Participants will be required to select the four best animals from the eight using visual appraisal and performance data. Performance data will be provided.

Production/performance data (including EPDs) may be used in the keep/cull classes of beef, swine, and sheep. Performance criteria, when used, shall be based on current industry standards.

Livestock evaluation/placing classes (50 points per class)

The number of classes will vary based on availability of animals. Classes of four animals each will be placed using a scorecard. Classes may be breeding or market animals from beef, swine, sheep or meat goat species.

Oral reasons (50 points per class)

All students will give reasons. After judging the classes, a brief reasons seminar will be held then everyone will give reasons. Anyone may use their notes, but it is an automatic loss of 15 points. Use of notes during the reason presentation is strongly discouraged.

General Knowledge Exam (50 points)

There may be a general knowledge exam. The exam will test a student's general livestock knowledge.

Scoring

All team member scores will be used to determine final team placing.

Activity	Individual Points	Team Points
Classes – 50 points each	200-300	800-1,200
Reasons – 50 points each	50	200
Keep/cull – 50 points each	50	200
General Knowledge Exam	50	200
MAXIMUM POSSIBLE POINTS	350-450	1,400-1,800

TIEBREAKERS

If ties occur, the following events, in order, will be used to determine individual and team outcomes:

1. Total of oral reasons.
2. Total of placing classes.
3. Total of keep/cull classes.

Awards

Awards will be presented to individuals and the first place team based on their rankings at the CDE awards ceremony at the New Jersey State FFA Convention. Awards are sponsored by the National FFA Foundation and the New Jersey FFA Association.

The 1st place team will represent New Jersey at the National FFA Convention in October.

Team

- Plaque Sponsored by the National FFA Foundation – 1st place

Individual

- Overall Medals
 - Medals – Top three individuals
- H.O. Sampson Certificates (hands-on sections ONLY)
 - Certificate – Top five individuals

References

This list of references is not intended to be all-inclusive. Other sources may be utilized, and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.

- National FFA CDE Question and answers, FFA.org past class listings, performance data and scenarios
- Beef Improvement Federation, www.beefimprovement.org - resource center
- National Swine Registry, <http://www.nationalswine.com/>
- Certified Pedigreed Swine, <http://cpswine.com/>
- National Pork Board, <http://www.pork.org/>
- Gillispie, James R. Modern Livestock and Poultry Production. (most current edition.) Albany, NY: Delmar Publishers, Inc. 2015.
- Instructional Material Services, [tamuinstructionalmaterials](http://tamuinstructionalmaterials.com)
- Goat Handbook, <http://www.texasgoat.com>
- www.thejudgingconnection.com
- www.judging101.com
- www.livestockjudging.com
- Cyber livestock judging, <https://extension.usu.edu/cyberlivestock/judging/index>
- Evaluating meat goats, <https://www.four-h.purdue.edu/downloads/cde/meat%20goat%20selection2.pdf>
- <http://judgingpro.com/>
- Rayfield, John S., Smith, Kasee L., Park, Travis and Croom, D. Barry. Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources. (most current edition.) Tinley Park, IL; Goodheart-Willcox Publisher, 2015.

Animal Science Related Careers

- Agricultural lender
- Agricultural policy professional
- Agriculture teacher
- Animal science technician
- Attorney
- Breed representative
- Collegiate educator
- Commodity broker
- Commodity professional
- Consultant
- Extension agent
- Farm/ranch manager
- Geneticist
- Herdsman
- Livestock auctioneer
- Livestock buyer
- Livestock judging coach
- Nutritionist
- Producer
- Researcher
- Sales and/or marketing representative
- Transportation logistics
- Veterinarian

Request for Reasonable Accommodations

The New Jersey FFA Association is committed to providing equal access to our events and activities for all people. Use this form to request a reasonable accommodation or assistance at least 3 weeks before any state-level events:

<https://form.jotform.com/NJFFA/accommodations-request>. A new form will need to be submitted for each event in which a reasonable accommodation is being requested. This information will be kept confidential and will be used only to process the request. Our staff will review the request upon receipt and contact the requestor with additional information. The association cannot guarantee accommodations or assistance if a form is received less than 3 weeks before an event. Accommodations being requested that require the assistance of another person (nurse, interpreter, scribe, reader, etc.) is the responsibility of the school/requestor. It is also the school/requestor's responsibility to provide any approved equipment to aide in the accommodation process, if applicable.