

Tennessee FFA Association

**Livestock Evaluation
Handbook**

2017-2021

Purpose

The purpose of the Tennessee FFA Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event is to provide the opportunity to learn and apply livestock industry and production priorities through evaluation and selection of beef cattle, swine, sheep and meat goats.

Objectives

The objectives of the Tennessee FFA Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event are to:

- Measure students' knowledge in the following categories:
 - To make accurate observations of livestock.
 - To determine the desirable traits in market and breeding livestock.
 - To make logical decisions based on these observations.
 - To discuss and to defend their decisions for their placing.
 - To instill an understanding of desirable selection, production, management and marketing techniques for livestock.
- Understand and interpret the value of performance data based on industry standards.
- Develop the ability to select and market livestock that will satisfy consumer demands and provide increased economic returns to producers as well as meet the needs of the industry.
- Become proficient in communicating the terminology of the industry and the consumer.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to 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

- Each team will be comprised of four members. All four scores will be used to determine the total team score.
- FFA Official Dress is required for the state event.
- Event information may be added or deleted as changes occur in the livestock industry. When new criteria are adopted, the information will be forwarded to all chapters by Feb. 1 of the event year by the Tennessee FFA program manager responsible for career development events.

- Any participant in possession of an electronic device in the event area is subject to disqualification.

Event Format

EQUIPMENT

Materials students must provide:

- Participants must bring two No. 2 pencils, a clear, transparent clipboard, and a livestock evaluation scantron (purchased through judgingcard.com)

Equipment provided:

- All paper will be provided. Participants are not to bring any paper.
- All other necessary materials will be provided by event committee.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

WRITTEN EXAM (25 QUESTIONS – TWO POINTS EACH, 50 POINTS TOTAL)

Written test: The objective, multiple choice exam is designed to determine team members understanding of the livestock industry. The exam will consist of 25 multiple choice questions (two points each) made of the previous five years National FFA Livestock Evaluation Written Exams. Old tests can be found on ffa.org. A test bank will be developed and updated annually on the Downloads page of tnffa.org Thirty minutes will be given for the exam.

LIVESTOCK EVALUATION/PLACING CLASSES (50 POINTS/CLASS, 400 POINTS TOTAL)

Eight classes of four animals each will be placed. Classes may be breeding or market animals from beef, swine, sheep, or meat goat species. At least one class will include the use of production/performance data.

ORAL REASONS (50 POINTS/CLASS, 200 POINTS TOTAL)

Up to four sets of oral reasons will be designated by the event superintendent at the beginning of the event. One set of reasons will be given on the production data class. Reasons will be given after all classes have been placed. Participants will be provided paper to take notes on each reason class for preparation. Use of notes during the reason presentation is strongly discouraged.

KEEP CULL (50 POINTS EACH WITH 400 POINTS TOTAL)

Keep/cull classes: There will be up to four selection classes that may be beef, swine, sheep or meat goats; each made up of eight breeding animals. 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, sheep or meat goats. Performance criteria, when used, shall be based on current industry standards.

Scoring

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

	Individual Points	Team Points
Individuals		
Classes – 8 at 50 points each	400	1,600
Reasons – 4 at 50 points each	200	800
Keep/cull – Up to 4 at 50 points each	200	800
Written Exam – 25 questions at 2 points each	50	200
TOTALS	850	3,400

TIEBREAKERS

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

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

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 exams and team activities
- Beef Improvement Federation www.beefimprovement.org - resource center
- National Swine Registry <http://www.nationalswine.com/>
- Certified Pedigreed swine <http://cpsswine.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 <https://www.myimsservices.com>
- Goat Handbook www.texasgoat.com/Goat_Handbook/
- www.judgingconnection.com
- www.judging101.com
- www.livestockjudging.com
- Cyber livestock judging <http://extension.usu.edu/cyberlivestock/htm/livestock-judging>
- 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