



# 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 Tennessee 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

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

# Event Format

## EQUIPMENT

Materials students must provide:

- Two No. 2 pencils.

Equipment provided by Tennessee FFA:

- All paper will be provided. Participants are not to bring any paper.
- All other necessary materials will be provided by the event committee.
- Scantrons used during the event will be provided by Tennessee FFA.

## INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES (200 POINTS)

### *Keep Cull (50 points each with 150 points total)*

Keep/cull classes: This will be paper-based only. This may be beef, swine, sheep, or meat goats. Participants will be provided a scenario and performance data and will be required to select the four best animals from the eight using performance data. Performance criteria, when used, shall be based on current industry standards. Previous keep/cull information will be posted for reference during future events.

### *Written Exam (25 questions – two points each, 50 points total)*

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). These questions will be pulled from the previous five years National FFA Livestock Evaluation written exams. A test bank will be developed and updated annually on the downloads page on 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 using a computerized scorecard. 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)*

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.

## Scoring

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

Activity	Individual Points	Team Points
Classes – 8 at 50 points each	400	1,600
Reasons – 4 at 50 points each	200	800
Keep/cull – 1 at 50 points each	50	200
Written exam – 25 questions at 1 point each	25	100
<b>MAXIMUM POSSIBLE POINTS</b>	600	2,700

### 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.

## 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](http://FFA.org) past exams and team activities
- Beef Improvement Federation, [www.beefimprovement.org](http://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, [tamuinstructionalmaterials](http://tamuinstructionalmaterials.com)
- Goat Handbook, <http://www.texasgoat.com>
- [www.thejudgingconnection.com](http://www.thejudgingconnection.com)
- [www.judging101.com](http://www.judging101.com)
- [www.livestockjudging.com](http://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