

# LIVESTOCK EVALUATION

## 3-4 Member Team

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### IMPORTANT NOTE

*Please thoroughly read the General CDE Rules Section at the beginning of this handbook for complete rules and procedures that are relevant to State FFA Career Development Events.*

#### I. PURPOSE

The State FFA Livestock Evaluation CDE is designed as a practical method to increase knowledge in the selection and evaluation of livestock. It measures the students' ability to make decisions based on industry criteria for a given species and then to orally defend and discuss their decisions.

#### II. OBJECTIVES

1. Recognize ideal, large meat animal characteristics and be able to make accurate conclusions based on these characteristics according to market standards.
2. Understand the relationship between shape and fatness in market animals and subsequent carcass composition.
3. Understand and apply U.S.D.A. Grading standards, which serve to establish the market value of meat animals.
4. Interpret and use performance data to make accurate selections of breeding stock.
5. Present accurate, logical, oral reasons to defend placings of animals.

#### III. EVENT RULES

1. Each school may enter one team composed of three or four members. The three high scores will be considered the official contestants.
2. Absolutely no individuals or partial teams will be allowed to compete. A team consists of 3 or 4 contestants. Any school attempting to enter partial teams or individual forfeits eligibility in the interscholastic livestock contest and the following two years' contests.
3. Participants will report to the event superintendent or designee for instructions at the time and place shown in the current year's team orientation packet.
4. Any participant in possession of an electronic device in the event area is subject to disqualification. No one will be allowed in the arena during the contest other than contest officials, judges, and contestants. Coaches may see the classes in the livestock holding area after the oral reasons session begins, but are not allowed in the arena during the contest.

5. No one except contest personnel will be allowed in the tabulation room. Any school or coach entering the tabulation room will be automatically disqualified.
6. No contestant shall be permitted at the OSU livestock barns or the Animal Science arena to inspect the animals to be used in this contest from January 15 until the interscholastic contest of that same year. Any violation of this rule will be sufficient to bar such student or teams from the contest.
7. Registration will begin at 7:00 a.m. Instructions will be given at 7:30 a.m. and the contest will start shortly thereafter. No team shall be allowed to enter after instructions have been given and contestants divided into groups.
8. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between contestants. A warning will be given after the first violation and any further violation will warrant disqualification.

#### **IV. EVENT FORMAT**

##### **A. Team Make-Up**

Each school may enter one team composed of three or four members.

##### **B. Equipment**

1. Students should provide their own #2 pencils.
2. Students should provide their own clipboards.
3. Students should provide their own steno notebooks.
4. Scantron sheets will be provided by the contest superintendent the day of the contest. DO NOT order and bring your own scantrons.

##### **C. Event Schedule**

The contest will begin at 7:30 a.m. and will end after oral reasons are complete, at approximately 12:30 p.m.

##### **D. Livestock Classes (400 points)**

1. Eight classes of four animals each will be placed using a computerized scorecard.
2. There will be at least one class each of: breeding goats, breeding sheep, market lambs, market swine, breeding swine, market cattle and breeding cattle.
3. At least one class of breeding cattle will include performance records and production scenario.
4. The classes may be shown loose or by holders.
5. 50 points/class

**E. Oral Reasons (200 points)**

1. Four sets of oral reasons will be designated by the event superintendent at the beginning of the event.
2. Reasons will be given on one class each of sheep, swine, cattle and performance breeding cattle.
3. Reasons will be given after all classes have been placed.
4. Using notes while giving oral reasons is not illegal but it is highly discouraged. If used, major deductions will be giving by the reasons officials.
5. 50 points/class

**F. Keep/Cull Class (150 points)**

1. The contest will include three female selection classes, one each in beef, sheep and hogs, consisting of eight animals.
2. Contestants will be required to select the four best animals from the eight using visual appraisal and performance data.
3. Performance data will be provided orally or in writing.
4. Scenarios will be used in the selection process. An example of the female selection class card is shown in this section.
5. Performance Records may be used in the placing and the female selection classes of beef, sheep, and swine. Performance criteria, when used shall be based on standards developed and used by; the Beef Improvement Federation, the Sheep Industry Development Program, Inc., and the National Swine Improvement Federation.
6. 50 points/class

**V. SCORING**

Livestock Classes .....	400
Oral Reasons .....	200
Keep/Cull Classes .....	150
<b><u>Total Points</u></b>	
<b>Individual.....</b>	<b>750</b>
<b>Team .....</b>	<b>2,250</b>

**VI. TIEBREAKERS**

If ties occur, the following events will be used in order to determine contestant rankings

1. Total of oral reasons
2. Total of placing classes
3. Total of keep/cull classes
4. Highest placing scores on the hardest classes (determined by the lowest cuts total per class)

**VII. REFERENCES**

Beef Improvement Federation  
Department of Animal Sciences and Food  
Kansas State University  
Northwest Research Extension Center  
105 Experiment Farm Road  
Colby, KS 67701  
[www.beefimprovement.org](http://www.beefimprovement.org)

National Swine Improvement Federation  
204 Polk Hall  
North Carolina State  
University Raleigh, NC 27695-  
7621

Sheep Industry Development Program, Inc.  
200 Clayton Street  
Denver, CO 80206

**VIII. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS AND FORMS**

Go to [judgingcard.com](http://judgingcard.com) for example of CDE judging  
card OSU Livestock Manual (Student Union  
Bookstore)