**LOUISIANA FFA**

**Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event**

**Purpose:**

*Livestock evaluation involves beef cattle, swine, and sheep. The ability to evaluate livestock is one of the most essential and constantly used talents of a person involved in the livestock industry. The practical person must be a good feeder, a devoted caretaker, a skillful breeder and know how to buy and sell to the best advantage. The ability to evaluate is the basis of success in all of these phases of livestock production. Even though considerable emphasis is placed on competitive events, this is not the most important purpose for learning to evaluate livestock. The development of livestock evaluation teams and competitive events helps young men and women learn to select and improve livestock.*

# Objectives:

1. To develop the students' ability to interpret the value of performance data based on industry standards.
2. To develop students' skills in observation, analysis, and communication.
3. To develop the students' ability to observe and analyze animal traits and make logical decisions based on those observations.
4. To develop the students' ability to select and market livestock that will satisfy consumer demands, provide increased economic returns to producers, provide positive economic returns to producers, and meet the needs of the industry.
5. To enable students to identify the criteria used in grading livestock.
6. To provide an opportunity for contestants to become acquainted with professionals in the industry.

# Event Format:

*Placing Classes* At least four of the following classes of animals will be placed: breeding cattle, market cattle, breeding sheep, market sheep or lambs, market swine and breeding swine, breeding goats, and market goats. *(Revised 8/09)*

*Oral Reasons* At least one placing class will be designated as an oral reason class before the event begins. Participants will be notified.

*Slaughter Cattle* Maximum of one slaughter cattle class may be graded individually according to latest USDA market grades. Slaughter class may also be graded according to cut ability.

*Keep/Cull Class* One class in beef and/or one class in swine, made up of a maximum of eight animals may be used

# Rules and Regulations:

1. All general rules apply except as indicated in the specific rules of this contest.
2. *Placing Classes*
   1. Form 2 (or appropriate computer card) will be used for all placing classes.
   2. Contestants will have 12 minutes to place each class.
3. *Oral Reasons:*
   1. Contestants will have 12 minutes to place the class. At least 5 minutes will be given for preparation prior to delivering reasons.
   2. A maximum of 2 minutes will be allowed to give reasons.
   3. If a contestant uses notes of any kind (including placing cards) when delivering reasons, the contestant will be given a score of 5 or less points. *(Revised 95)*
   4. Reasons will be scored on the basis of 50 points for a perfect score.
4. *Slaughter cattle*
   1. The slaughter class may also be graded for cutability.
   2. Refer to Bulletin No. 4 to order reference material.
5. *Keep/Cull Classes*
   1. Contestants will be required to select the four best animals from the eight, using visual appraisal and performance data.
   2. Performance data to be provided orally or in writing includes:

Both beef and swine--weight for age Beef--adjusted 205 days weaning weights

Swine--days for 230 pounds, estimated back fat (inches), loin eye area (square inch)

* 1. Contestants will be allowed 12 minutes for each class.

1. *Tie Breakers: (applied in the following order)*
   1. A reasons class selected by the contest superintendent
   2. A placing class selected by the contest superintendent
   3. Other class as selected by the contest superintendent

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