



LOUISIANA FFA

CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT
**DAIRY CATTLE
EVALUATION**

Dairy Cattle Evaluation

Purpose:

The ability to recognize the most desirable characteristics of dairy cattle and make wise selections when establishing a herd or making replacements is essential for successful dairy farming. It requires knowledge of dairy cattle type and also knowledge of sound methods of interpreting records of milk and butter fat production. Not only is it necessary to have a sound knowledge of methods for evaluating type and production capacity, it is also necessary to select animals that have the ability to transmit desirable type and high production capacity to their offspring.

Objectives:

1. To provide agricultural students with dairy interests a practical experience which will serve them well in industry positions or in management of a modern dairy herd;
2. To develop students' skills in observation, analysis, and communications.
3. To provide experience in the evaluation of dairy cattle type and pedigree records.
4. To encourage Agriscience teachers to seek assistance from various resources in the dairy industry.

Event Format:

1. Placing Classes

- a. Ten classes of four animals will be placed based on type. The classes may consist of any of the breeds listed under the rules and regulations.
- b. Placing classes may be either cows or heifers.
- c. Contestants will be allowed 12 minutes to place each class.
- d. A perfect score is 50 points.

2. Reasons Classes:

- a. Contestants will have 5 minutes to prepare reasons in addition to the twelve minutes given for placing the class.
- b. No more than 2 minutes will be allowed in delivering reasons.
- c. 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. (Adopted 95)
- d. Reasons will be scored on the basis of 50 points for a perfect score.
- e. Up to two classes of oral reasons may be designated for preparation.(50 points per class) Adopted 2026
- f. The reasons class or classes will be designated before the judging begins.

3. *Herd Record Practicum* (Adopted 6/18)

- a. Contestants will be given 17 minutes to answer ten (10) questions using a contest judge prepared Herd Record data sheet.
- b. Each correct answer is worth five (5) points with a total possible score of fifty (50) points on the practicum.

Rules and Regulations:

1. All general rules apply except as indicated in the specific rules for this contest.
2. A team will consist of four members. All four member's scores will be used to calculate the teams total score.
3. Five breeds of dairy cattle may be used in this contest, namely: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein and Jersey.
4. Viewing of Animals:
 - a. Contestants will be permitted to view the animals from all angles, if possible, but will not be permitted to handle them.
 - b. Division superintendents will arrange for front view, rear view, and side view, and close-up inspection of all classes.
 - c. Animals will be numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, left to right, as viewed from the rear.
5. Tie Breakers: (applied in the following order)
 - a. Total score for oral reasons
 - b. Total score for placing classes
6. Special Notes:
 - a. At the State Event, all teams will be required to give oral reasons.
 - b. The Dairy Breed Associations provide helpful information and pictures. Train your team to use the score cards properly.
 - c. The scantron will be used to mark placings and herd record answers.
 - d. Due to the decline in the dairy industry statewide and the resulting shortage in the availability of quality dairy cattle an executive decision was made by the state FFA advisor to enact the recommendation of the CDE Board to eliminate all Area events and have a State event only. (Adopted 10/11)

