

# Middle School Livestock Evaluation CDE

(rev. Oct 2023)

## Purpose

The purpose of the FFA Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event is to (a) understand and to interpret the value of performance data based on industry standards; (b) to make accurate observations of livestock; (c) to determine the desirable traits in animals; (d) to make logical decisions based on these observations; (d) to discuss and to defend their decisions for their placing; (e) to instill an appreciation for desirable selection, management and marketing techniques.

## Eligibility

This event is held during the Delaware State Fair. It is open to all middle school FFA chapters and FFA members in good standing.

Participants in the middle school event will place all 6 classes of livestock, take the same multiple choice exam as the high school level, and will provide 2 sets of oral reasons. The questions classes will be the middle school team activity. All points for these areas are the same as high school, except that the oral reasons will be a total of 100 points possible, instead of 150 points.

## Event Procedures

- A. Each team will be comprised of up to four members. All four scores will be used to determine the total team score.
- B. The Official Dress for this event will be an FFA T-shirt, jeans, and sneakers/hard shoes. No shorts or open-toed shoes. Contestants wearing either will not be allowed to compete.
- C. Participants will report to the Centre Ice Rink for registration.
- D. Chapters that show up late will receive zero points for any section that they have missed.
- E. Participants will not be allowed to possess any personal electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, smart watches, air pods, etc) other than those approved by event officials. Participants who possess personal electronic devices without prior approval of the event officials will be disqualified from the event.
- F. Contestants will rotate through each species until all classes are complete. There is to be no talking during the event. Any contestant that violates this rule will receive zero points for that class!
- G. Contestants must bring pencils and clean clipboard for this event
- H. Materials provided by the state:
  - Paper for reasons will be provided.
  - No notebooks are permitted, only clipboards and calculators will be allowed.
  - Scantron score sheets will be used in the event to record all responses.
  - Folders will be distributed along with the scantron to keep them from getting wet or having damage to the side with the OMR. Drawing, writing, and any other marks on these folders is a 10 point deduction for that team member.

## Event Format

- A. **Team Activity** - Placing Questions – 100 points All (4) team members will work together to answer 10 questions based on a live animal class; scenario and/or performance data may be provided as needed. Teams will have 15 minutes to complete this section.
- B. **Individual Activities**
  1. Livestock classes - 50 points/class, 300 points total  
Six placing classes (sheep, swine, beef cattle, and market goat). Classes will be determined by availability of animals at the Delaware State Fair. Contestants will be given 15 minutes for each class.
  2. Oral reasons - 50 points/class  
Two sets of oral reasons will be designated by the event chair at the beginning of the event. Reasons will be given after all classes have been placed in an area designated by the CDE Chairs. Participants will be provided paper to take notes on each reason class for preparation.
  3. Written test - 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. Questions will come from the last 3 years of National tests, plus those references in the reference section. Thirty minutes will be given for the exam.

## Scoring

| Portion                                | Individual | Team        |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Classes - 6 @ 50 points                | 300        | 1200        |
| Oral Reasons - 2 @ 50 points per class | 100        | 400         |
| Exam                                   | <u>50</u>  | <u>200</u>  |
| Questions (team)                       | —————      | <u>100</u>  |
| <b>Total points possible</b>           | <b>450</b> | <b>1900</b> |

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  
[www.nsif.com](http://www.nsif.com)

Gillispie, James R. *Modern Livestock and Poultry Production 8<sup>th</sup> edition* or most current edition. Albany, NY: Delmar Publishers, Inc. 2004.

Hunsley, R. *Livestock Judging, Selection and Evaluation*. 5th Edition. Danville, IL: Interstate Publishers, 2001.

Sheep Evaluation Reference  
<http://animalscience.ag.utk.edu/itcmodules/module1/introductiontosheepevaluation.htm>

Meat Goat Evaluation Reference  
<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/NR/rdonlyres/B8FE3706-64DC-417F-A592-B8DEC14B4D9F/43292/pub2951MeatGoatJanuary2008LOWRES.pdf>

Goat Handbook  
[www.texasgoat.com/Goat\\_Handbook/](http://www.texasgoat.com/Goat_Handbook/)

## Tiebreakers

If ties occur, the following events will be used in order to determine award recipients (this will be for team as well as individual ties):

1. Total of oral reasons.
2. Total of placing classes.
3. Total of written test score

## Awards

Awards will be presented to individuals and teams based upon their rankings at the State Fair FFA Awards Breakfast. The top 10 individuals will receive certificates; top 9 individuals will receive premium money from the Delaware State Fair provided they have registered with the Delaware State Fair for this CDE by June 1st; Top 3 individuals will receive medals.

## 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 Core Catalog – national CDE test, practicums and team activities  
<http://shop.ffa.org/cde-qas-c1413.aspx>

Beef Improvement Federation  
Department of Animal Sciences and Food  
Kansas State University  
Northwest Research Extension Center



