

**Objectives:**

- A. Stimulate learning in a subject matter area;
- B. Reward 4-H and FFA members for knowledge gained in a subject matter area;
- C. Provide a competitive setting where attitudes of friendliness and fairness prevail;
- D. Develop teamwork, self-confidence and decision-making skills.
- E. Promote computational and critical thinking skills

**Team:**

A team will consist of four members with the top three scores counting towards the overall team score. Teams may be mixed divisions (for example juniors and intermediates may compete together) but the team will compete in the category of the oldest team member. Only teams that consist of seniors will be eligible to compete at National competition.

**Contest Procedure:**

Contestants should bring a clean notebook or pad of paper free of notes and their own writing utensil. Notes will not be permitted during oral reasons or questions and will result in a major point reduction.

All contestants should keep record of their placings for each class in case of discrepancy.

Contestants will be divided into groups dependent on registration. They will be required to stay with their assigned group for the remainder of the contest.

Contestants will not be allowed to confer with other participants, coaches, or adult volunteers once they have been assigned to their groups and judging has started.

Judging classes will be timed for 10 minutes in which contestants will make their observations, take notes, and turn in their card. Participants should check their card before turning it in to ensure blank cards do not get turned in.

**Placing Classes:**

The contest will include 6 to 10 classes of livestock and may include the following classes:

Market Classes

- 1. Lambs
- 2. Hogs
- 3. Goats
- 4. Beef

Performance Classes with or without data

- 1. Cattle
- 2. Sheep
- 3. Swine
- 4. Goats

All classes will include 4 animals that will either be clearly marked 1, 2, 3, 4, or tied in position with the left most animal being 1, the next 2, and so forth.

Performance Data on breeding classes will be limited to no more than 10 pieces of information. Data used will reflect current industry trends for that specific breed or type of animal. Data may be actual animal performance such as growth, or genetic predictors (EPDs) or a combination.

Market classes where animals are tied may be handled, but not guaranteed. Contestants will be given handling instructions before the contest begins.

Classes where the animals are loose in a pen will not be handled. Participants are NOT permitted to get into the pen to move animals and should ask their group leader or designated handler to move the animals for them.

### **Oral Reasons**

Senior teams will give 4 to 6 sets of reasons, Intermediate teams will give 2 to 4 sets of reasons, and junior teams will answer questions on one designated class.

Participants will be given a minimum of 20 minutes to prepare their reasons.

Contestants will have no more than 2 minutes per set to give reasons to the official judges.

### **Contest Officials**

A committee of contest officials will place all classes and hear and score all reasons.

Officials will evaluate the classes just before participants start judging, or once the contest has begun. The judges will each place the class individually, then confer as a committee to finalize the placing and put cuts on the class.

Officials will score contestants after they have finished giving their reasons.

Time permitting, the contest officials will give a critique on the classes after reasons have been completed by all participants.

### **Scoring Cards**

For information on scoring cards, visit: <https://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g2092.pdf>