LIVESTOCK EVALUATION
3 OR 4 MEMBER TEAM

PURPOSE

This event is designed to teach students the desirable trait of livestock today. Students must observe details, see individual animals in the context of a class and make generalizations of individual traits to the industry, be knowledgeable of external anatomy, market and performance standards, performance data, breed character, make logical decisions and use generally acceptedindustry terminology. Students will be able to select livestock that will satisfy the demands of the consumer.

I. **EVENT FORMAT**
   a. **Team Make-up**

Three or four individuals per school form a team. All members will be scored and the top three scores will count towards the team total.

   b. **Event Schedule**

Contestants will be given 12 minutes at each station to complete the evaluation or answer the questions provided.

   c. **Equipment**

Team members must provide their own compliant clipboard and/or clean folder with the following items: scan sheet, and/or copy of the scan sheet, optional Texas FFA CDE drop sheet, and/or 2 sheets of lined or unlined blank paper.

   d. **Placing Classes (350 points)**
      i. Contestants will evaluate classes of livestock
      ii. There will be seven classes of livestock:
         1. ~~1 Breeding Beef~~
         2. ~~1 Market Beef~~
         3. ~~1 Breeding Swine~~
         4. ~~1 Market Swine~~
         5. ~~1 Breeding Sheep~~
         6. ~~1 Market Lamb~~
         7. ~~1 (Market or Breeding) Goat~~
            a) There will be at least one class from each of the following species: sheep, goat, cattle, swine.
            b) There will be a minimum of two breeding classes and a maximum of four breeding classes.
            c) There will be a maximum of five market classes.
      iii. Each class shall have a possible value of 50 points.

   e. **Questions (75 points)**
      1. Five questions per class will be developed within the parameters of the state-adopted "Class Characteristics for Livestock Questions."
      2. Five points are awarded for each correctly answered question
      3. Questions are derived from three of the market or breeding placing classes (one beef,one swine, one sheep/goat).
      4. At least one class of questions must be concerning a breeding

class and one mustpertain to a market class.
5. Questions regarding a specific placing class will be answered immediately following thatclass.
6. Students may use their own notes taken during judging

f. Female Selection Classes (150 points)

1. One class each of beef, swine, sheep (eight animals per class).
2. Contestants should designate the four best animals, using visual appraisal andperformance data.
3. Performance data provided.
4. Each class shall have a possible value of 50 points.
5. A scenario (description of production objectives) should be provided for the beef, swine, and sheep female selection classes. Performance data that maybe provided orally or in writing may include: ~~Beef: Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) may be given for birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, milk and carcass merit. Date of birth, birth weight, weaning weight (actual or adjusted), and weight (actual or adjusted) may also be provided. Swine: Date of birth, days to 250 pounds, estimated backfat (inches), loineye area (square inches,) number of pigs born in litter, number of pigs weaned in litter, and dam's Sow Productivity Index (SPI Value) may be included for the gilts in this female selection class. Sheep: Date of birth, weaning weight (60 or 120 days), maternal pounds weaned, type of birth and rearing (single, twin,or triplet), fleece weight (finewools), and spinning count (finewools) may be provided for ewes in this female selection class. 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.~~

Beef EPD's: Utilize those EPD's listed on the American Angus Association on https://www.angus.org/Nce/Definitions.aspx.

1. Calving Ease Direct (CED)
2. Birth Weight EPD (BW)
3. Weaning Weight EPD (WW)
4. Yearling Weight EPD (YW)
5. Scrotal Circumference EPD (SC)
6. Maternal Milk EPD (Milk)
7. Carcass Weight EPD (CW)
8. Marbling EPD (Marb)
9. Ribeye Area EPD (REA)
10. Fat Thickness EPD (Fat)

Sheep EBV's (Estimated Breeding Value): Following National Sheep Improvement Program suggestions of the following categories: (Go to nsip.org for information and research findings.)
1. Number of Lambs Born
2. Number of Lambs Weaned

3. Fecal Egg Count
Sheep Genetic Heredity: Use accepted genotyping for the following traits:
1. Scrapie (Codon 171)- RR, QR, QQ (all breeds)
2. Spider: NN, NS (all breeds)
3. Dwarfism: FF, FD, DD (Medium Wool Breeds)
4. Ectodermal Dysplasia (Hairy Lamb): EDF, EDC (Southdown)

Swine EPD's- Utilize those listed by the National Swine Registry on https://nationalswine.com/seedstock/seedstock picture-judging.php under the EPD section.
1. Backfat (BF)
2. Pounds Of Lean (LBS)
3. Days To 250 Pounds (DAYS):
4. Feed Efficiency (FE):
5. Number Born Alive (NBA):
6. Number Weaned (NW):
7. Loin Eye Area (LEA):
8. Wean To Estrus Interval (WTE):
9. Sow Productivity Index (SPI):
10. Maternal Line Index (MLI):
11. Terminal Sire Index (TSI):

6. Event officials will assign a point value to each one of the individual animals, giving the most points to the most desirable animal and the least points to the least desirable animal. If the student selects the best four animals, full credit will be given (50 points).

Animal Numbers - Sample for Scoring
8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Sample Class
(18) (13) (11) (8) (7) (4) (3) (0)
Point Value
Animal Numbers Selected - Example Scoring
Score
Student A 6 8 4 2
(11) (18) (7) (3) 39
Student B 8 7 6 5
(18) (13) (11) (8) 50
Student C 7 6 5 1
(13) (11) (8) (0) 32
Student D 1 2 3 4
(0) (3) (4) (7) 14
Point values are shown in parentheses above. Point values are established by official judges and may differ on each class.

g. Grading Classes (100 points)
   1. Official judges may use all mechanical and electronic devices available toassist in placing and grading.
   2. More than one breed may be used in the grading class.
   3. Each Grading Class is worth 50 points.
   4. Beef Cattle Grading - Slaughter Cattle

   a. Contestants will grade one class of Slaughter Cattle (five head)
   b. Grading based on the latest USDA market grades and cutability
   c. All grades not necessarily represented
   d. 50 points for slaughter cattle grading class
   e. Slaughter grades used in the event are prime, choice, select, and standard. No slaughter cattle over 42 months of age will be used; therefore, the "commercial" grade is not shown.
   f. For slaughter cattle, the student is to mark (bubble in) the quality grade subdivision and also the correct cutability (yield grade) rating number for each animal.
   g. Credit of four points is allowed for correct quality grade. Three points will be allowed for each 1/2 grade above or below the official grade. Two points are allowed for one full grade above or below the official grade, and the score is zero for more than one full grade above or below the official grade.
   h. Credit of six points will be allowed for correct cutability rating. Four points will be allowed if an animal is graded 1/2 grade above or 1/2 grade below the correct yield grade. Two points will be allowed for each full grade above or below the correct yield grade, and the score will be zero for more than one full grade above or below the designated yield grade.

   2. Beef Cattle Grading – Feeder Cattle
   a. Contestants will evaluate one class of Feeder Cattle. (five head)
   b. Grading based on the latest USDA market grades.
   c. All grades not necessarily represented.
   d. 50 points for feeder cattle grading class.
   e. For Feeder Cattle Grading, the student is to mark (bubble in) the proper grade standard for Frame Size and bubble in the grade standard for Muscle Thickness. No cattle over 36 months of age willbe used. Texas will not use the "Inferior Grade."
   f. Five points will be awarded for the correct frame size, three points willbe awarded if the animal is graded one grade above or one grade below the correct frame size, and one point will be awarded if the animal is graded two grades above or two grades below the correct frame size.
   g. Five points will be awarded for the correct muscle thickness, three points will be awarded if the animal is graded one grade above or one grade below the correct muscle thickness, and one point will be awarded if the animal is graded two grades above or two grades belowthe correct muscle thickness. Zero points will be awarded if the animal is graded three grades above or below the correct muscle thickness.

B. Written Exam (50 points)

1. Contestants will complete a 25-question general knowledge exam. The exam will cover livestock breeds, nutrition, health, marketing, evaluation and management.
2. Questions will be taken from a bank of questions posted on the Texas FFA Association website. These questions will be reviewed periodically

by an event subcommittee appointed by the state CDE advisory committee.
3. Two points are awarded for each question answered correctly.

II. SCORING

Placing Classes	350
Questions	75
Female Selection Classes	150
Grading Class	100
Written Exam	50
TOTAL INDIVIDUAL POINTS	**725**
TOTAL TEAM POINTS	**2,175**

III. TIEBREAKER
Ties for team awards shall be broken
as follows:
1. The team with the highest score in the seven placing classes wins.
2. If still tied, the team with the highest alternate score will be the winner. If still tied, the team with the highest team questions total will be the winner.
3. If still tied, the advisors of the team will meet with contest officials who will conduct a coin toss to determine the higher placing team. If still tied, the team with the highest alternate score will be the winner.

Ties for individual awards shall be broken as follows:
1. The individual with the highest score in the seven placing classes wins.
2. If still tied, highest score on the question classes.
   If still tied, the advisor of the individual will meet with contest officials who will conduct a coin toss to determine the higher placing individual. If still tied, the individual with the highest grading score total will be the winner.