

DAIRY CATTLE RULES

CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

Effective August 1, 2004

Purpose

The dairy cattle CDE is an educational activity designed as a practical method of teaching students to select quality dairy cattle. Students will be challenged with pedigree evaluation, sire selection, linear evaluation, a written test, placing classes and written class reasons.

Date

State: Spring CDE date

Location

Listed on current registration sheet

CDE Rules

1. Each school may enter an unlimited number of dues paid FFA members as participants, the top 4 scores will be considered the "team" and the top 3 scores will be the team score of record.

2. Students must come prepared with clipboards. A protective covering for their scorecards in case of inclement weather is a necessity!

CDE Format

Dairy Cattle Plan B:

Plan B may be implemented if live animals are not permitted on the CDE site, due to quarantine of livestock. This CDE will substitute video and/or slide presentations of classes in conjunction with the current management exam, pedigree class and sire selection classes.

The dairy cattle CDE will consist of:

1. A minimum of four classes of four dairy animals that will be placed on type. Classes will consist of heifers, young cows or mature cows. Each class is worth fifty points.

a. All classes will be selected from the five major breeds of dairy cattle: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, and Jersey. However, priority will be given to selecting quality cattle in the breeds available, and not necessarily to having all breeds represented in the placing classes.

b. Contestants will be permitted to view the animals from all angles but will not be permitted to handle them.

c. Contestants will have a minimum of 12 minutes to place each class.

d. Animals will be numbered 4-3-2-1 left-to-right as viewed from the rear. The holders will wear numbers which identify the animals.

2. A minimum of four classes of five objective questions regarding factors on four of the five classes of dairy cattle. Each question class will be allotted twenty-five(25) points.

3. One pedigree evaluation class with no animals present. Fifty (50) points will be allotted for this class. Pedigrees are to be evaluated on the following criteria:

a. The animal's ability to transmit valued production and type traits to its offspring.

b. Other factors including completeness (number of daughters or records), accuracy (predictability), level of performance (type and production), and profitability.

4. A sire selection placing class. The student will be given four bull pedigrees and performance data and one cow's pedigree and performance data. The student will then place the four bulls according to mating desirability with the cow. This section will be worth fifty points.

5. Four cows will be evaluated using a linear evaluation form. The Holstein-Friesian Association Linear Descriptive Traits recording worksheet listing major traits only will be used. This section is worth fourteen points per cow. A total of 24 minutes will be allowed for completion of this phase of the event.

6. A written test consisting of 25 multiple choice questions relating to the business of dairy management, milk production, processing and marketing. Each question will be valued at two points. A maximum of 25 minutes will be allowed for the written test.

Scoring Guide

1. Individual

5 placing classes = 250 points

1 pedigree class = 50 points

4 question classes = 100 points

4 linear evaluations = 120 points

25 question test = 50 points

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1 sire selection class = 50 points

Total Possible 620 points

2. Team

620 points x 3 individuals = 1860 Total Possible Points

References

1. Linear- Linear Classification Program, Holstein Association, 1 South Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301.
2. Dairy Cattle Judging Techniques, George W. Trimberger and William M. Etgen, Prentice Hall.
3. Techniques of Judging Dairy Cattle, Dr. Dennis A. Hartman, Professor of Dairy Science, VPI. Order from above individual at 2709 Mt. Vernon Lane, Blacksburg, VA 24060.
4. Linear Evaluation, slide series, Jim Sipiorski, MABC-Select Sires and Dr. Peter Spike, The Ohio State University. Order from the Ohio Ag Ed Curriculum Materials Service, 254 Ag Administration Building, 2120 Fyffe Road, Columbus, OH 43210-1099.
5. Dairy (4-H) Bowl, Questions from O.S.U. 4-H Extension Service Addition to references: July 1, 2003
For sire selection help: www.holsteinfoundation.org link to "programs" then link to "workbooks" and scroll to "pedigree Questions & Answers" and "Build Your Knowledge of Sire Summaries" for pdf files of the workbooks. This is the quickest link we could get on this page. There is an example work problem for sire selection that is the same format, but more explicit than the use of the scenario.