



# **Middle Tennessee Livestock Evaluation**

## Purpose

*The livestock evaluation career development event provides the opportunity to learn and apply livestock industry and production priorities through evaluating and selecting beef cattle, swine, sheep and meat goats.*

## Objectives

Participants in the Middle Tennessee FFA Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event will be able to

- Make accurate observations of livestock.
- Determine the desirable traits in market and breeding livestock.
- Make logical decisions based on these observations.
- Discuss and defend their decisions for their placings.
- Understand desirable selection, production, management and marketing techniques for livestock.
- Understand and interpret the value of performance data based on industry standards.
- Select and market livestock that will satisfy consumer demands and provide increased economic returns to producers while meeting the needs of the industry.
- Proficiently communicate using the terminology of the industry and the consumer.
- Associate with professionals in the industry.
- Utilize current technology as it relates to the livestock industry.
- Develop employability skills for future agricultural career choices.

## Event Rules

Middle TN Livestock- MTSU

- Check in starts at 12:15
- Contest starts at 1:00 sharp!

Here are a couple of notable updates:

- **Junior Division** consists of paid FFA members in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grades.
  - In the Junior Division, students will only do the placing of the classes and the keep/cull activity. There will be NO oral reasons for this division.
  - This is ONLY a Regional Event. The winning team does not move on or qualify for the state contest. The winning team will be recognized at the regional banquet.
  - If you have not paid your regional dues, you will need to buy your scantrons (\$1 each) when you get to the contest.
- **Senior Division** consists of paid FFA members in 9-12 grade.
  - In the Senior Division, students will complete all 3 components listed in rules
  - The top 4 teams will qualify for the state contest
- Each team will be comprised of four members. All four scores will be used to determine the total team score.

- FFA official dress is NOT required for this event.
- The top four Senior teams and the top two Junior teams will from each region will compete at the state contest.
- Any participant possessing an electronic device in the event area is subject to disqualification.

## Event Format

### EQUIPMENT

Materials students must provide:

- Two No. 2 pencils.
- Clean clipboard
- [Sample Livestock Judging Card](#)

### INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES (200 POINTS)

*Keep Cull (50 points each with 150 points total)*

Keep/cull classes: This portion will be paper-based only. This may be beef, swine, sheep, or meat goats. Participants will be provided a scenario and performance data and required to select the four best animals from the eight using performance data. Performance criteria, when used, shall be based on current industry standards. This will be an *individual* event.

*Livestock evaluation/placing classes (50 points/class, 450 points total)*

Six to eight classes of four animals each will be placed. Classes may be breeding or market animals from beef, swine, sheep or meat goat species. At least one class will include the use of production/performance data.

*Oral reasons (50 points/class, 200 points total) (Senior Division only)*

Two sets of oral reasons will be designated by the event superintendent at the beginning of the event. Reasons will be given after all classes have been placed. Participants will be provided paper to take notes on each reason class for preparation. Using notes during the reason presentation is strongly discouraged and students will be penalized for reading from their notes.

## Scoring

All team member scores will be used to determine final team placing.

Activity	Individual Points	Team Points
Classes – 6-8 at 50 points each	300-400	1,200-1,600
Reasons – 2 at 50 points each	100	400
Keep/cull – 1 at 50 points each	50	200
<b>MAXIMUM POSSIBLE POINTS</b>	600	1,800-2,200

## TIEBREAKERS

If ties occur, the following events, in order, will be used to determine individual and team outcomes:

1. Total of oral reasons.
2. Total of placing classes.
3. Total of keep/cull classes.

## References

*This list of references is not intended to be all-inclusive. Other sources may be utilized, and teachers are encouraged to use the best instructional materials available. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.*

- National FFA CDE Question and answers, [FFA.org](http://FFA.org) past class listings, performance data and scenarios
- Beef Improvement Federation, [www.beefimprovement.org](http://www.beefimprovement.org) - resource center
- National Swine Registry, <http://www.nationalswine.com/>
- Certified Pedigreed Swine, <http://cpsswine.com/>
- National Pork Board, <http://www.pork.org/>
- Flanders, Frank, Gillispie, James R. Modern Livestock and Poultry Production. (most current edition.) Albany, NY: Delmar Publishers, 2015. ISBN 9781305483156
- Goat Handbook, <http://www.texasgoat.com>
- <https://thejudgingconnection.com/>
- [www.livestockjudging.com](http://www.livestockjudging.com)
- Evaluating meat goats, <https://www.four-h.purdue.edu/downloads/cde/meat%20goat%20selection2.pdf>
- <http://judgingpro.com/>
- Rayfield, John S., Smith, Kasee L., Park, Travis and Croom, D. Barry. Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources. (most current edition.) Tinley Park, IL; Goodheart-Willcox Publisher, 2023. ISBN 978-1-63776-096-3

## Animal Science Related Careers

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| • Agricultural lender              | • Geneticist                            |
| • Agricultural policy professional | • Herdsman                              |
| • Agriculture teacher              | • Livestock auctioneer                  |
| • Animal science technician        | • Livestock buyer                       |
| • Attorney                         | • Livestock judging coach               |
| • Breed representative             | • Nutritionist                          |
| • Collegiate educator              | • Producer                              |
| • Commodity broker                 | • Researcher                            |
| • Commodity professional           | • Sales and/or marketing representative |
| • Consultant                       | • Transportation logistics              |
| • Extension agent                  | • Veterinarian                          |
| • Farm/ranch manager               |   |

