



INDIANA 4-H & INDIANA FFA

Career Development Events

Livestock Evaluation CDE

Purpose

The purpose of the Livestock Evaluation CDE is to provide a competitive event for agricultural education students, emphasizing skills in the livestock industry including evaluation, selection of desirable traits, communication and decision-making skills, and management.

Objectives

The objectives of this Career Development Event are:

- To make accurate observations of livestock.
- To determine the desirable traits in market and breeding livestock.
- To make logical decisions based on these observations.
- To discuss and to defend their decisions for their placing.
- To instil an understanding of desirable selection, production, management and marketing techniques for livestock.
- Understand and interpret the value of performance data based on industry standards.
- Develop the ability to select and market livestock that will satisfy consumer demands and provide increased economic returns to producers as well as meet the needs of the industry.
- Become proficient in communicating the terminology of the industry and the consumer.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to associate with professionals in the industry.
- Develop employability skills for future agricultural career choices.

General Guidelines

1. All youth must be active members of a county 4-H program or FFA chapter in good standing in order to compete.
2. A team listed as an FFA team must be made up entirely of actively enrolled FFA members from the same FFA Chapter.
3. Junior FFA teams must be made up of members who originate from the school where they would normally attend and be Junior FFA members in the 5th- 8th grade.
4. Senior FFA teams must be made up of members who originate from the same FFA chapter and be enrolled in 5th to 12th grades.
5. A team listed as a 4-H team must be made up entirely of actively enrolled 4-H members.
6. A school-based junior or senior 4-H team must include participants enrolled at the same school. Online learning schools cannot participate as a school-based 4-H team.
7. A community club-based junior or senior 4-H team must include participants enrolled in the same 4-H club.
8. A county-based junior or senior 4-H team must include participants enrolled in the same 4-H county.
9. Any 4-H team and coach must be approved by their county 4-H Youth Development Educator and adhere to the adult volunteer 4-H requirements.

Event Rules

1. All contestants must be registered by the deadline via 4-H Online or the Indiana FFA Portal.
2. All contestants are to enter the contest with a clean notebook and no notes or handouts other than what may be provided by the contest coordinator. The group leader is to take away from contestants any notes or handouts in their possession. The performance data sheets will be available to the contestants as they judge the performance classes.

3. No cell phones, smartwatches, or other electronic devices are to be with the youth unless it is a medical device and has been reported to the contest coordinator.
 4. Each contestant will be allowed a maximum of 15 minutes to place and take notes on each class.
 5. Each contestant will be allowed two minutes to give oral reasons. Contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving oral reasons.
 6. The animals will be designated by number 1 - 2 - 3 - 4. Haltered or racked animals will be numbered 1 - 4 from left to right, as the contestants stand behind the animals.
 7. Youth will fill out a scantron for their placings.
 8. Fifty points will constitute a perfect score on a placing class and on a set of oral reasons.
 9. Group Leaders. A group leader shall be in charge of each group to move the contestants, to assist in supervising the class, to see that the animals are properly exhibited, and to answer any questions, which may not pertain to the actual placing of the animals under consideration.
 10. Students, volunteers and coaches will be selected as leadsmen for the contest.
 11. **NO COACHES will be allowed in the reasons prep area and interact with youth upon the completion of judging classes. The only exception would be if there is an emergency.**
 12. Ties (based on the three highest contestants' scores that went into making the tie) will be broken by the following criteria for each division:
 - a. Individual rank - If two or more contestants have the same total points score, it will be broken by total reasons score.
 - b. Team rank - If two or more teams have a combined total point score that is the same, the tie will be broken by a combined total reasons score.
 - c. If still tied for either Individual and/or team rank, the contestant or team having the highest placing score in the class(es) with the lowest total cuts, will be listed first.
 - d. If still tied, the contestant or team with the highest total placing score (adding together the placing scores on reasons classes) on reasons classes, will be listed first.
 - e. If still tied, the contestant or team with the highest single class reason score will be listed first.
 - f. Ties for individuals and teams in the oral reasons category will be broken such that the contestant or team with the lower total placing score (adding together the placing scores on reasons classes) on reasons classes, will be listed first.
- **If all the above fail, duplicate awards shall be given.

Event Format

Regional Contest Format

1. Regional contests shall be made up of 7 classes with all species (cattle, swine, sheep and goats) represented by at least one class.
2. 3 sets of reasons will be given in the Sr. division and 1 set in the Jr. division.
3. Both divisions will answer a set of 10 questions on 1 of the 7 evaluation classes.
4. Scenarios and/or performance data may be used on any of the classes but not required.
5. All above event rules apply.
6. Any team may attend any regional contest to qualify for the State contest.
7. Teams may make multiple attempts at qualifying and may attend any or all contests to do so.

8. Teams may attend any regional contest as a practice contest after qualifying and will be scored in separate division
9. The top 12 Sr teams and the top 3 Jr teams from that have yet to qualify for state will advance from each of the regional contests.
10. If any of the top 5 individuals are not on a qualifying team they will advance to the State contest as an individual.
11. Entry for all contests must be completed in 4-H Online or the Indiana FFA portal on time, no late or day of entries will be accepted.
12. Qualifying individuals (who have qualified on a team or as an individual) may not compete as a substitution on a non-qualifying team to help them advance.
13. Qualifying teams may only substitute one member from Region to State.

State Contest Format

1. Divisions will be designated as Senior 4-H Reasons, Senior FFA Reasons, Junior 4-H Reasons and Junior FFA Reasons. *Refer to the above "General Guidelines" for rules regarding age, grade and program eligibility for teams.
2. The following classes will be a part of the State event:
10 classes of beef cattle, boer goats, sheep and swine are to be judged.
 - a. Beef – 3-4 classes, including at least one class of market steers. Remaining classes will consist of yearling heifers and yearling bulls (if available) from breeds available in the area.
 - b. Boer goats – 1-2 classes of Boer goats (breeding or market)
 - c. Swine - 2-3 classes, including at least one class of market hogs. Remaining classes will be breeding hogs.
 - d. Sheep - 2-3 classes, including at least one class of market lambs (judged in a rack). Remaining classes will consist of ewe lambs, ram lambs, yearling ewes or additional market lambs.
3. Performance information will be provided on at least one breeding class per species (except goats) and is to be considered when deciding placings. It is strongly recommended that the performance data be incorporated into the contestant's oral reasons, as justification of their placings.
4. 6 sets of reasons will be given in the Sr. division and 3 sets in the Jr. division.
5. Both divisions will answer a set of 10 questions on 1 of the 10 evaluation classes.
6. All above event rules apply.

Awards:

- Top 5 Teams in each division- Banners and ribbons
- Top 5 Individuals in each division- Banners and ribbons (6th-10th Ribbons)
- Additional Awards may be provided by outside organizations

National Qualification Guidelines

1. Teams qualifying from the Indiana State Livestock Judging Contest to any National Contest may only make one substitution from the State team to the National team. The individual who is added to the National team must be a member in good standing, enrolled in the same county or FFA chapter of which the team originates.
2. No Indiana All Star Teams will be allowed at National Contests. Teams must qualify for National contests through the Indiana State Livestock Judging Contest and adhere to the team guidelines.

** Below is subject to change. Indiana state staff has no control over national contests.

National 4-H Contests	National FFA Contests
National 4-H Contest at NAILE	National FFA Convention- Indianapolis, IN
American Royal- Kansas City, Missouri	American Royal- Kansas
National Western Stockman- Denver, CO	National Western Stockman, Denver, CO
AKSARBEN, Nebraska (3 teams)	AKSARBEN, Nebraska (3 teams)
Keystone Livestock Expo, Pennsylvania	Southeast Regional (Rotating) (3 teams)
Southeast Regional (Rotating) (3 teams)	

