

Livestock Judging, Note Taking, and Oral Reasons

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Goal (learning objective)

Youth will learn about the basics of livestock judging, note taking, and organizing notes for oral reasons.

Supplies

- Photocopies of Handout 1 - "Oral Reasons Worksheet" (enough for group)
- Photocopies of the following judging supplements (make enough copies for specific species members) available at <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/projects>
 - Judging Beef Cattle & Oral Reasons 101, PNW 669 (PDF)
 - Judging Meat Goat & Oral Reasons 101, PNW 678 (PDF)
 - Judging Sheep & Oral Reasons 101, PNW 679 (PDF)
 - Judging Swine & Oral Reasons 101, PNW 677 (PDF)
- Livestock - enough to judge one (or more) class
- Pencils (enough for group)
- Paper (enough for group)

Pre-lesson preparation

- Make copies of Handout 1
- Make copies of Judging Supplements
- Secure livestock for the meeting (Who is supplying what? How are the animals getting there?)
- Find and reserve a facility that is easily accessible and safe for livestock and members
- Read/Review lesson
- Review the handouts and terminology for each species

Lesson directions and outline

Ask for youth that have participated in a livestock judging contest share the experience with the other youth. When the youth have had a chance to share, discuss the following information with the youth:

Judging livestock is comparing the merits of one animal against the merits of other animals. Judging is a very important process in the development of your understanding of livestock and your role as a producer. Producers, breeders, feeders, buyers and packers evaluate livestock for their potential as either breeding or market animals. Judging helps youth:

- Learn livestock breed identification
- Do livestock comparison
- Evaluate and identify valuable traits and characteristics
- Make decisions and defend them in a logical, well-organized manner
- Appreciate the opinions of others

Conducting the activity (DO)

1. Ask for a volunteer to distribute the PNW handouts to the appropriate species members.
2. Ask for a volunteer to distribute paper for members to use to record notes for the classes they judge.
3. Review with the group how to take notes and appropriate behavior while judging is occurring.
4. Have the members judge and place the livestock class(es), members should take notes for all classes they are judging. They will need to select one class for oral reasons, members should take detailed notes for that class.
5. Review and explain the placings of the class(es).
6. Ask for a volunteer to distribute Handout 1 – Oral Reasons Worksheet.
7. Have the members incorporate the notes for their oral reasons class into the worksheet and fill it out.
8. Have members present their reasons.

What did we learn? (REFLECT)

- Ask: How should your reasons start? Why?
- Ask: How should you end your reasons?
- Ask: What is in the first column of your notes?
- Ask: What is a grant?

Why is that important? (Apply)

- Ask: How does judging help with your ability to communicate?
- Ask: Why is it important to evaluate livestock?

Resources

- Bryan, K. A. (1994). Pennsylvania 4-H Livestock Judging Manual. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences. Retrieved from: <http://www.aces.edu/4-H-youth/AL4-H/resources/animals/science/documents/Pennsylvania4-HLivestockJudgingManual.pdf>
- Kinder, C. A., Mavencamp, D. (2015). Judging Beef Cattle & Oral Reasons 101. PNW 669. University of Idaho. <http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edcomm/pdf/PNW/PNW669.pdf>
- Kinder, C. A., Mavencamp, D. (2016). Judging Sheep & Oral Reasons 101. PNW 679. University of Idaho. <http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edcomm/pdf/PNW/PNW679.pdf>
- Kinder, C. A., Mavencamp, D. (2016). Judging Meat Goat & Oral Reasons 101. PNW 678. University of Idaho. <http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edcomm/pdf/PNW/PNW678.pdf>
- Kinder, C. A., Mavencamp, D. (2015). Judging Swine & Oral Reasons 101. PNW 677. University of Idaho. <http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edComm/pdf/PNW/PNW677.pdf>
- Ohio State University Extension. (2011). Selection. *Beef resource handbook* (pages 2-10 through 2-16).
- Ohio State University Extension. (2008). Choosing an Animal. *Goat resource handbook* (pages 21-30).
- Ohio State University Extension. (2011). Selection: The First Step. *Sheep resource handbook for market and breeding projects* (pages 9-18).
- Ohio State University Extension. (2000). Your Ver First Step - Selection. *Swine resource handbook for market and breeding projects* (page 3-7 through 3-15).

SELECTION: LIVESTOCK JUDGING, NOTE TAKING, AND ORAL REASONS – HANDOUT 1

ORAL REASONS WORKSHEET

(From PNW669 pg. 12)

Use this worksheet to practice moving your notes into reasons.

I placed the _____
Identify class Placing

Say how easy or hard it is to place the class

# and ID	Grant	Criticize (est)	Compare (er)
	I started with a(an) _____ (top pair) (outstanding individual) _____ _____	I realize (optional: only if class winner has obvious disadvantages) _____ _____	But in the top pair I placed _____ over _____ because _____
	There is no question _____ Is the (what is the second place animal's advantage?) _____ _____	But when compared to the class winner _____ _____ he/she is second.	Still in the middle pair I used his/her advantage in _____ _____ to place over 3 rd . _____
	I realize that _____ is _____ _____ _____	But I placed him/her third because _____ _____ _____	In the bottom pair it is a difficult/easy decision to place _____ _____ over _____
	I admit _____ is a _____ _____ _____	However, _____ is the lightest, smallest, poorest, etc. So he/she is 4 th .	Thank you.