LIVESTOCK JUDGING

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Introduction

• Terminology
• Note taking
• Judging classes
Cattle

- Market
  - Steers and heifers
- Breeding
  - Heifers and Bulls
Market Cattle

• Priorities
  • Muscle
    • Forearm
    • Loin
    • Ribeye
    • Hip
    • Stifle
    • Quarter
    • Base Width
Market Cattle

• Priorities
  • Finish
    • Brisket
    • Down Top
    • Over Ribs
    • Around Tailhead
    • Drop to flank
    • Cod or udder fat
Market Cattle

- Priorities
  - Evaluating Structure
    - Front foot alignment
    - Shoulder angle
    - Strength of topline
    - Levelness and length of hip
    - Set to hock
    - Set to pastern
    - Heaviness of structure
Market Cattle

• Priorities
  • Evaluating Rib/Feeding Ability
    • To ensure feedlot efficiency and correct fat deposition
      • Width of chest
      • Depth of body
      • Rib Shape
      • Uniformity of body depth
Market Cattle

- Priorities
  - Balance and Eye Appeal
    - Proportional animal
    - Animal fits together correctly
      - Length of neck
      - Levelness
      - Smoothness
      - Attractiveness
Breeding Cattle

• Priorities
  • Functionality
    • Structural Correctness
    • Optimal Rib Shape Design
      • Depth of rib
      • Spring and shape of rib
Breeding Cattle

• Priorities
  • Growth performance
    • Sell cattle on a per pound basis
    • Optimal frame size to limit mature weight and maintenance cost
  • Evaluating growth performance
    • Length of face
    • Length of cannon
    • Length of body
    • Weight of animal

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Breeding Cattle

• Balance and Eye Appeal
  • Similar to the market steer
  • Attractiveness with refinement through the head, neck, and shoulders

• Muscling
  • Similar to market steer but you want it proportionate
    • Make sure a heifer looks like a heifer and a bull looks like a bull
Sheep

- Market sheep
  - Wethers
  - Ewes
- Breeding Sheep
  - Ewes
  - Rams
Market Sheep

- Priorities
  - Muscling
    - Forearm
    - Rack
    - Loin
    - Hip
    - Leg
    - Base Width
Market Sheep

- Priorities
  - Finish
    - Breast/Chest Plate
    - Forerib
    - Over Ribs
    - Flank
    - Twist
Market Sheep

- Priorities
  - Growth
    - Length of cannon bone
    - Height at top of shoulders
    - Length of body
    - Weight
Market Sheep

• Priorities
  • Skeletal Correctness
    • Proper angle to shoulder and knee
    • Appropriate set to pastern
    • Levelness of top and dock set
    • Square set from hock to ground from behind
    • Heaviness of structure
Market Sheep

• Priorities
  • Balance and eye appeal
    • Similar to other species
    • Tight chested
    • Smooth long front end
    • Level design
    • Rib shape
Breeding Sheep

• Priorities
  • Growth and Performance
    • Ability to offer future growth
    • Length of cannon bone, face, and body
  • Functionality
    • Similar to breeding cattle
    • Rib shape, structural correctness, strength of pasterns, length of stride
Breeding Sheep

• Priorities
  • Balance and Eye Appeal
    • Proportionate
    • Long, smooth front end
    • Clean thru shoulder and chest
    • Level design
  • Muscle
    • similar to market lamb
Goats

- Market goats
  - Wethers or Does
- Breeding Goats
  - Bucks and Does
Market Goats

• Priorities
  • Scale
    • Longer bodied
    • Bigger outlined, taller fronted, growthier
    • Youthful later maturing
    • Leveler designed
  • Structure and Skeleton
    • Straight in lines
    • Square
    • Rib and body shape, production oriented
    • Longer fronted, nicer profiling, attractive design
Market Goats

- Priorities
  - Muscle
    - Loin
    - Rump
    - Chest
    - Rack
    - Forearm
    - Thigh
  - Shoulder
    - Leg
    - Rump
    - Base
    - Stifle
Market Goats

• Priorities
  • Leannness
    • Brisket
    • Withers
    • Topline
    • Lower 1/3
Breeding Goats

• Priorities
  • Similar to market goats
    • Size and Scale
    • Skeleton and Structure
    • Muscle
    • Condition
      • Easy fleshing
      • Lean
    • Volume
      • Rib shape, depth of body, capacity, width, flank depth and uniformity
Breeding Goats

• Priorities
  • Maternal characteristics
    • Feminine
    • Smooth tight shoulder
    • Broody
    • Long clean front
    • Durable
Swine

- Market hogs
  - Gilts
  - Barrows
- Breeding Swine
  - Boars
  - Gilts
Market Hogs

- Priorities
  - Muscle Content
    - Forearm
    - Blades
    - Loin
    - Ham-Loin Junction
    - Hip
    - Stifle
    - Ham
Market Hogs

• Priorities
  • Leanness
    • Jowl
    • Over blades
    • Elbow pocket
    • Loin Edge
    • Seam of Ham
    • Lower one-third of body
Market Hogs

• Priorities
  • Skeletal Width and Dimension
    • Chest and base width
    • Rib Shape
Market Hogs

• Priorities
  • Structural correctness
    • Proper angle to scapula
    • Backward set and relaxed knee design
  • Correct angle to pastern
  • Looseness of hip and hock
  • Heaviness of Structure
  • Even and Wide Foot Design
Market Hogs

Front Legs

Rear Legs

Side view of front leg

Side view of rear leg

Normal  Weak pattern  Buck-kneed  Normal  Sickle-hocked  Post-legged  Weak pattern
Market Hogs

• Balance and eye appeal
  • Proportionate
  • Level design
  • Youthful appearing
    • Hair coat and appearance
Breeding Gilts

• Priorities
  • Structural Soundness
  • Rib shape, body depth, base width
  • Adequate conditioned
  • Structurally correct
  • Growth performance
    • Genetics need to be fast growing and efficient
    • Adequate maturity
  • Adequate muscled
Breeding Gilts

• Priorities
  • Maternal characteristics
    • Vulva
      • Upturned and adequate size
    • Underline
      • Teats should be right size and spacing (no pin nipples)
      • At least 6 on each size and they should be uniform
# Note Taking

## Class 1: Market Hogs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>1-2-4-3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Black-belted Gilt</td>
<td>Lean, Heavy Muscled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>White Barrow, erect ears</td>
<td>Large Framed, Big Boned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Red Gilt, down ears</td>
<td>Light Muscled, Fat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>White Barrow, down ears</td>
<td>Small Framed, Fat, Sound</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparison</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>leaner, trimmer middled, fuller ham, wider based, carcass with more % lean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>larger framed, later maturing, - more excess trim, lacks the cutability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/4</td>
<td>bigger outlined, heavier, more production oriented, heavier carcass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/2</td>
<td>soundest of 4, - early maturing, 1 of 2 fattest pigs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>heavier muscled, structurally correct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>larger framed, - lightest muscled, 1 of 2 fattest, poorest composition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Judging Classes
Placings and Reasons

My preferred alignment of the Market steers is 2341. Starting the class with a pair of heavier muscled, more complete steers, and of the pair I preferred the added advantages in expression to align him over 3. 2 is a long patterned, trimmer conditioned steer that measures longer and wider out of his hip. I appreciate the softer, more market ready look of 3 yet he also gets plainer in his design and a little courser fronted.

However despite these criticisms, 3 is a heavier muscled more correctly finished steer that has more volume and expression of muscle out of his hip and due to his external indicators suggest that he should be safer to role the choice stamp. I realize that 4 is bolder ribbed, however the Hereford is also the heaviest finished, shortest coupled steer in the class.

In my concluding pair of lighter muscled steers I still preferred the body and depth of 4. He is deeper bodied, bolder sprung steer that has a softer look and is closer to a marketable endpoint, I understand that they yellow steer is longer bodied cleaner designed, yet he is the flattest, narrowest made, lightest muscled steer in the class.
References

- www.ans.iastate.edu/clubs/judging/livestock/Basicsppt.pdf
- http://www.slideserve.com/nike/livestock-judging-reasons-are-not-all-the-same
- a1300d-pennsylvania-4-h-livestock-judging-manual.pdf
Questions