

DAIRY CATTLE EVALUATION
March 6, 2009
Garrison Cattle Complex
Event starts at 4:00 PM

PURPOSE

To provide a competitive event for agricultural education students, emphasizing skills in dairy cattle evaluation, selection and dairy herd management.

EVENT FORMAT

Equipment

Materials student must provide – each participant must have a clean, free of notes clipboard, two sharpened No. 2 pencils and an electronic calculator. Calculators used in this event should be battery operated, non-programmable and silent with large keys and displays. Calculators should have only these functions – addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, equals, percent, square root, +/- key and one memory register. No other calculators are allowed to be used during the event.

Team Activity

Sire Selection

- Members of a team will collaborate to analyze four individual cow pedigree and production records while choosing from a list of eight possible sires. Answers will be recorded on the team's answer form provided.
- Participants rank the sires as potential mates for the cow, according to the expected offspring best meeting the given objectives.
- Each mating will have an assigned point value, which will accumulate points toward team score only. Individual scores and rankings will not be affected.
- The Sire Selection exercise is worth a maximum of 150 points. Members will have 30 minutes to complete this exercise.

Individual Activities

Dairy Management Exercise (150 points)

- The exercise will consist of a **50-question written test** involving dairy management practices and DHI records. Students will analyze individual cow production records and/or herd management summaries answering 15 questions concerning their use in making management decisions. The remaining 35 questions will be concerned with various dairy management and industry related topics.
 - Appropriate information necessary to answer the DHI questions will be provided, taken from Holstein Foundation Dairy Jeopardy, years 2006-2009. (www.holsteinfoundation.org).
 - Participants will have 30 minutes to complete the exercise.

Pedigree Class (50 points)

- **One class of pedigrees (no animals present)** will be ranked as to their indication of the animals' ability to transmit superior production and type traits to offspring.
- Other factors include completeness (number of daughters or records), accuracy (reliability), level of performance (type and production) and profitability.

Evaluation and Selection (250 points)

- **Five classes** of four dairy animals will each be placed on type. Classes will be selected from the recognized breeds of dairy cattle (Holstein, Jersey, Guernsey, and maybe Brown Swiss). The class selection committee, however, shall give priority to selecting quality cattle in the breeds available and not be obligated to having all breeds represented in the judging classes. Classes will consist of heifers, young cows or mature cows.
- Participants will be permitted to view the animals from all angles but will not be permitted to handle them.
- Animals will be numbered 4-3-2-1 left-to-right as viewed from the rear. The handlers/cattle will wear numbers, which identify the animals.
- Each class is allowed 50 points for a correct placing.
- Participants will have 12 minutes to place each class. For classes on which oral reasons will be given, participants will be given 15 minutes.

Oral Reasons (100 points)

- Oral reasons will be required on **two classes**. These two classes will be designated by the event superintendent prior to the actual judging of the class.
- Oral reasons will be given in another location immediately following the judging classes.
- Participants may not use notes during delivery of reasons, with the exception of a card showing only their placing order.
- Each class is allowed 50 points for a perfect set of reasons.
- Participants will have 12 minutes to prepare each set of oral reasons. No more than two minutes may be used to deliver the reasons before the judges.

SCORING

<i>Individual.....</i>	<i>Maximum Points</i>
Dairy Management exercise.....	150
Pedigree class.....	50
Judging.....	250
Oral reasons.....	<u>100</u>
Total possible score.....	550
<i>Team.....</i>	<i>Maximum Points</i>
Sire Selection.....	150

TIEBREAKERS

Category awards will include all activities related to each category, i.e., placing and oral reasons if given. If ties occur, the following events will be used in order to determine awards recipients:

1. Total Oral Reasons score.
2. Dairy Management exercise score.
3. Evaluation and Selection score.