

# Dairy Cattle CDE

(February, 2025)



**Purpose-** The Dairy Cattle Evaluation CDE is designed to provide a competitive event for agriculture education students, emphasizing skills in dairy cattle evaluation, selection, and dairy herd management.

## ELIGIBILITY

The participant must be an active member of a chartered West Virginia FFA Chapter and enrolled in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12. Each chapter may enter one team.

## EVENT PROCEDURE

The event will be a team event consisting of four students. A team may compete with less than 4 members. FFA members will wear at minimum a white button down (short sleeve preferred) shirt, black jeans, and boots.

Under no circumstances will any participants be allowed to handle any of the items in the identification portion of the practicums. Any infraction of this rule will result in team elimination from the event.

No FFA advisors/coaches will be allowed in the area of the contest, but arrangements will be made to view the specimens following the contest.

## EVENT MATERIALS

### MATERIALS STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE

- Pencils
- Clipboards



## INDIVIDUAL PRACTICUMS

### EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Students will evaluate six classes of 4 dairy animals. Classes will be selected from the recognized breeds of dairy cattle. The class selection committee, however, shall give priority to selecting quality cattle in the breeds available and not be obligated to have all breeds represented in the evaluation 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. The handlers/cattle will wear numbers which identify the animals. Each class is worth **50 points** maximum 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

Oral reasons will be required in **three** classes. These classes will be designated by the event superintendent prior to the actual evaluation of the class. Oral reasons will be given in another location immediately following the evaluation classes. Participants may not use notes during delivery of reasons. Points will be deducted for the use of notes. Each class is worth **50 points** maximum for each set of reasons. Participants will have 12 minutes to prepare each set of oral reasons.

### TEAM PRACTICUMS

Each team will be provided with a dairy farm management scenario to identify problems and determine possible improvements. The contest coordinator will send out background information in advance (not the specific scenario). All necessary information will be provided. Teams should assume the role of a hired consultant advising a producer (judges). Teams will be given 20 minutes to prepare their recommendations to be presented to a panel of judges. It is not necessary to describe the scenario to the judges since they are the producer. Teams will be allowed 8 minutes to present their recommendations, followed by 5 minutes of clarifying questions from the judges. Practicums will be based off the following possible options listed below:

## SCORING

Practicum	Activity	Individual	Team
Evaluation and Selection	Classes	300	1200
Oral Reasons	Speaking Activity	150	600
Team Practicum			300
	Total	450	2100

### TIE BREAKERS

In the event of a tie in individual scores, the following events will be used in order to determine award recipients:

#### INDIVIDUAL

1. Highest Oral Reasons Score

#### TEAM

1. Oral Reasons Score