Livestock CDE 2026

PURPOSE

Students participating in this CDE make accurate and logical observations of livestock, decide on the desirable traits in marketing and breeding livestock, and select and market livestock that will satisfy consumer demands and provide increased economic returns to producers.

ELIGIBILITY

The participant must be an active member of a chartered West Virginia FFA Chapter and enrolled in grades 9th-12th grade.

EVENT PROCEDURE

The event will be a team event consisting of four students. A team may compete with less than 4 members.

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.

Stock will be judged at the Livestock Farm. Scoring will be based on the Hormel Computing System, with 50 points being a perfect score on a class placing or on a set of oral reasons. A perfect score for the Keep-Cull class is 50. After all classes have been placed, cards handed in, and reasons given, the judges in charge will give the placings and reasons for each class to contestants and coaches if time permits. Only those participating in the contest shall be permitted on the farm, unless his/her assistance is required to facilitate the contest, serve as a holder or group leader, or is in some way helping with the contest

EVENT MATERIALS

MATERIALS STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE

- Pencils
- Clipboards

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICUMS

1. Livestock classes: A maximum of eight classes (8) of four animals each will be placed using a computerized scorecard. Classes may be breeding or market animals from beef, swine, sheep or meat goat species. One class may include the use of production/performance data. Twelve minutes will be given for each class. (50 points/class)

2. Oral reasons: Three sets of oral reasons will be designated by the event superintendent at the

beginning of the event. One set of reasons may be given on the production data class. Reasons will be given after all classes have been placed. Participants will be provided paper to take notes on each reason class for preparation. Use of notes during the reason presentation is strongly discouraged. Contestants

will be required to give oral reasons on three classes (worth 50 points each). Each contestant will be allowed a maximum of two minutes per class to present his/her reasons. Cards will not be returned at oral reason presentation. (50 points/class)

3. Keep/cull classes: There may or may not be a keep/cull class included in the contest. The keep/cull class will be one selection classes that may be beef, swine, sheep or meat goats; each made up of eight breeding animals. Participants will be required to select the four best animals from the eight, using visual appraisal and performance data. Performance data will be provided. Production/performance data (including EPD's) may be used in the keep/cull classes of beef, swine, sheep or meat goats. Performance criteria, when used, shall be based on current industry standards. (50 points/class)

4. Questions Class: There will be one questions class consisting of ten questions that may be on beef, swine, sheep, or goats. Questions class will be marked before the contest and students will have time between classes to study notes. (50 possible points)

SAMPLE INFORMATION: CULL CLASS

You will CULL 4 heifers - Place the numbers of the heifer you CULL on the judging card in any order you wish.

Ear Tag/NO	BRAND	EPD's				
		DOB	BW	WW	YW	MILK
1	051	2/01/00	1.1	31	61	13
2	055	2/24/00	1.4	33	73	17
3	059	3/05/00	2.2	36	66	21
4	063	3/10/00	1.8	30	59	17
5	071	3/16/00	3.8	38	72	23
6	073	3/19/00	2.5	39	67	21
7	077	3/23/00	3.4	38	65	20
8	079	3/27/00	2.1	39	67	21
Breed Average			2.7	33	61	16

Scoring

Event	Individual Points	Team Points
Livestock classes	400	1,600
Oral reasons • Three classes (50 pts each)	150	600
Keep/cull classes	50	200
Questions Class	50	200
TOTAL	650	2,600

TIE BREAKER

1. Total of oral reasons.
2. Scores for the reasons class.