



Livestock Judging

A 4-H Animal Science Project

Activity 3, The Bottom Line

CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING was developed through a team effort with the Florida 4-H Youth Development Program, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, and the Department of Animal Science, The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida.

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Activity 4

OBJECTIVES:

For youth to:

- Identify priorities for visual appraisal based on species, sex and use.
- Relate priorities to selection.
- Predict usefulness based on priorities.

LIFE SKILLS:

- Acquiring, analyzing and using information.
- Decision making.

MATERIALS:

Copies of CRITERIA FOR PLACING USING VISUAL APPRAISAL for each youth

Flip chart and easel or chalkboard

Markers or chalk

TIME:

1 1/2 Hours

SETTING: Comfortable room

WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET!

INTRODUCTION

The process of visual appraisal and selection involves the weighing of good and bad points of the individual animal. The emphasis which is placed on each characteristic in visual selection depends on species, breed, sex, age and use. In many instances, more than one trait will be of top priority and you will have to weigh the relative worth of each trait in that animal.

You can learn a process to weigh the factors involved in decision making. This process can be beneficial whether you are judging animals, selecting clothing, a college, buying a car or a home. The first step is to set up priorities (already established for you in *Criteria For Placing Using Visual Appraisal* handout), and select based on those priorities. Today we will be doing an exercise to show you how to use this process in your appraisal of livestock.

DO

- Have the youth make suggestions for the ideal characteristics and uses of a pencil. Examples--must have an eraser, dark lead, be #2 quality, sharpen easily, small, long, short, be able to fit in pocket/purse, not be damaged, be yellow, etc.
- Using a flipchart or chalkboard, make a list of the suggestions.
- Rank the traits listed in the order of most important to least important according to the group. The top traits are the priorities. Priorities, reasons and uses are probably different from person to person.
- Have youth justify their reasoning in a short statement.
- Be prepared to select and buy only the pencil that fits the top criteria.
- Repeat the exercise for a shirt and a car. Long/short sleeved, button down collar, pattern; on/off road, 4 wheel drive, CD player, etc.?
- Handout the CRITERIA FOR PLACING USING VISUAL APPRAISAL sheets and discuss the information with youth.

REFLECT

- How did the use of the objects effect your decision in selection?
- How many of your priorities were from personal preference? From experience?
- Did you realize that some of your original priorities weren't as important as others? (ex. pencil that has lead vs. NFL team logo)
- Was it hard to compromise on your original priorities and select on need, rather than want?
- Why is structure one of the most important traits in selecting a breeding animal?
Longevity.
- When selecting a market animal, which trait is the most important?
The animal's potential carcass value, that is driven by muscling, fatness and weight.

APPLY

- Set up a field trip to a ranch, livestock market, farm or fair. Do not set up a class of animals, but have the group single out animals and discuss their positive and negative traits. Be sure to include information on the animals' use, structural soundness, potential carcass value, reproductive potential and balance.
- When judging livestock it is crucial that you have a mental picture of the ideal animal for the species. By keeping the ideal in mind, you will be able to notice individual flaws rather easy. Using the Internet, research and study several of the on-line virtual judging sites for learning to recognize the ideal animals by species.



CRITERIA FOR PLACING USING VISUAL APPRAISAL

These criteria are only guidelines and vary with market demand, breed, age, management scenario and performance data.

SWINE

<u>MARKET HOGS</u>		<u>BREEDING HOGS</u>
Muscling	Growth/Maturity	Sexual characteristics
Leanness/maturity	Structural soundness	Volume
Growth	Muscling	
Production traits		

SHEEP

<u>MARKET LAMBS</u>		<u>BREEDING SHEEP</u>
Muscling	Growth/Maturity	Sexual characteristics
Correctness of finish/maturity	Structural correctness	Volume
Balance	Muscling	
Production traits	Balance	

CATTLE

<u>MARKET STEERS</u>		<u>BREEDING CATTLE</u>
Muscling	Growth/Maturity	Sexual characteristics
Correctness of finish/maturity	Structural correctness	Volume
Balance	Muscling	
Production traits	Balance	



Answer Keys to Visual Criteria Practice Worksheets

SWINE

Muscling

- A: 4—Very Light muscled
- B: 1—Heavily muscled
- C: 3—Light muscled
- D: 2—Well muscled

Leanness

- A: 3—Acceptable leanness—approximately 0.9” at 10th rib
- B: 4—Fat—approximately 1.1” at 10th rib
- C: 5—Very Fat—approximately 1.3” at 10th rib
- D: 1—Very acceptable leanness—approximately 0.6” at 10th rib
- E: 2—Very acceptable leanness—approximately 0.7” at 10th rib

Growth/Maturity

- A: 1—Fast growing, but short, low set and early maturing
- B: 2—Fast growing and relatively late maturing
- C: 3— Slow growing, frail featured and early maturing
- D: 4—Late maturing and very slow growing

Volume

- A: 1—Bold ribbed, deep bodied, wide tracking
- B: 2—Relatively flat ribbed, shallow flanked, and wide tracking
- C: 3 – Bold ribbed and wide tracking
- D: 4—Very flat ribbed, shallow flanked, and narrow tracking
- E: 5—Relatively bold ribbed, deep bodied, and wide tracking

Soundness

- A: 5— A very poor designed, straight shouldered, straight kneed, and short hipped market hog
- B: 3— A well designed, level, and square made market hog with correct joint angulation to both ends of the skeleton
- C: 1—A poor designed, straight shouldered, straight kneed, short hipped market hog
- D: 2—A well designed, level, and square made market hog which is a bit straight though the shoulder and knee



Answer Keys to Visual Criteria Practice Worksheets

SWINE

Sexual Characteristics

Underlines

A: 3—Good underline, good spacing, good teat quality

B: 2—Poor spacing, too far between first and second teat, good teat quality

C: 1—Poor teat quality, too blunt, second teat would be considered “pin” nipple

Vulva

A: 1—Normal vulva

B: 2—Tipped vulva

C: 3—Infantile (small) vulva

D: 4—Swollen vulva

Design

A: 3—Her ill design and inadequate body volume and terminal appearance suggest she should not be kept as a replacement.

B: 2—Her ill design, inadequate body volume, and small vulva suggest she should not be kept as a replacement

C: 1—Her design, body type and external sexual characteristics suggest she should be a desirable brood sow prospect.



Answer Keys to Visual Criteria Practice Worksheets

SHEEP

Muscling

- A: 4—Relatively light muscled
- B: 2—Very heavily muscled
- C: 3—Well muscled
- D: 1—Very light muscled

Finish for Sheep

- A: 1—A correctly finished lamb with 0.15-0.20” of fat thickness
- B: 2—A very over finished lamb with 0.35-0.40” of fat thickness

Growth/Maturity

- A: 3—Relatively fast growing, but early maturing
- B: 1—Growthy, upstanding and late maturing
- C: 2—Upstanding and late maturing—though probably not as fast growing as some
- D: 4—Relatively fast growing, but early maturing

Volume

- A: 2—Flat ribbed, shallow bodied and low volumed
- B: 3—Relatively bold ribbed, deep flanked and high volumed
- C: 1—Bold ribbed, deep flanked and high volumed
- D: 4—Tight ribbed, and very shallow flanked— appears to be low performing

Structural Correctness

- A: 1—A wether which is too straight and forward in his shoulder, short and round out of his dock, and weak in his pasterns
- B: 3—A very level ewe who appears to have the correct angulation to all her joints, and should move correctly when put into motion
- C: 4—A ewe, who appears to have the correct angulation to all her joints, and should move correctly when put into motion
- D: 2 —A very level , square made wether with his feet on all four corners. He does appear to bow out on his rear legs



Answer Keys to Visual Criteria Practice Worksheets

SHEEP

Balance

A: 4—An extended, square made, high volumed ewe

B: 2—A square made, high volumed ewe. She is too coarse and deep in her shoulder and breast, decreasing her balance.

C: 3—A long bodied ewe that rounds out of her dock, easy in her top, somewhat u-necked and deep-breasted, decreasing her balance.

D: 1—Straight lined, upstanding, well balanced ewe. She is a bit short bodied.

Sexual Characteristics.

A: 1—Long bred ewe as evidenced by her udder development. Should make an excellent replacement.

B: 2—A stout , masculine, large testicled ram with proper testicle carriage. Should make an excellent sire.

C: 3—A small testicled ram whose testicles are carried too close to his body, potentially affecting his fertility.



Answer Keys to Visual Criteria Practice Worksheets

CATTLE

Muscling

- A: 1—Very heavily muscled
- B: 3—Very light muscled
- C: 2—Heavily muscled
- D: 4—Well muscled
- E: 5 - Light muscled

Correctness of Finish

- A: 3—Very over finished— approximately 1.0” of fat thickness
- B: 2—Very under finished—approximately 0.10” of fat thickness
- C: 1—Correctly finished—approximately 0.45” of fat thickness
- D: 4—Slightly over finished— approximately 0.65” of fat thickness
- E: 5—Underfinished—approximately 0.25” of fat thickness

Balance

- A: 3—Very poor balanced
- B: 1—Well balanced
- C: 2—Poor balanced

Growth/Maturity

- A: 3—Stout made, high growth steer
- B: 1—Small framed and probably rather slow growing
- C: 2—A steer intermediate for growth and finished weight

Volume

- A: 5—A flat ribbed, shallow bodied, low volumed steer
- B: 2—A bold sprung, deep bodied, high volumed steer,
- C: 4—A steer with an excellent, square rib shape, which needs more depth from forerib to flank
- D: 3—A deep bodied steer, which needs more rib/body shape
- D: 1—A bold sprung, deep bodied, high volumed heifer



Answer Keys to Visual Criteria Practice Worksheets

CATTLE

Structural Correctness

A: 1—A square made, level steer, who needs more angulation to his shoulder and more set to his hock and pastern

B: 3—A slightly round made steer that appears to have the correct angulation to all of his joints, and should move correctly when put into motion.

C: 2—A straight shouldered, short hipped steer who is very straight in his hocks

D: 4—A relatively square made steer that appears to have the correct angulation to all of his joints, and should move correctly when put into motion.

E: 5—A very short, round hipped steer who has excess set to his hock (sickle hocked)

Sexual Characteristics

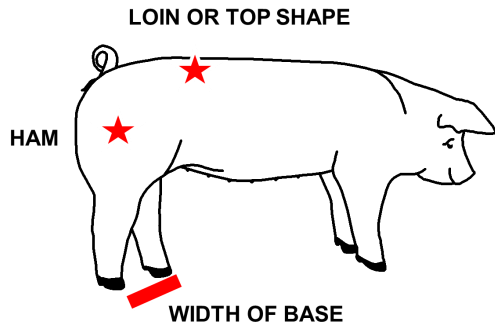
A: 2—Stout, masculine, large testicled bull

B: 1—Long bred heifer as evidenced by her udder development

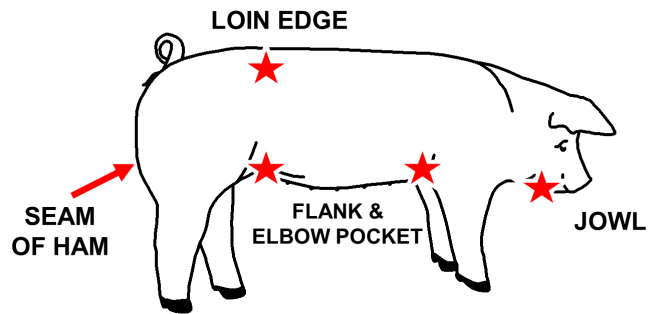


VISUAL CRITERIA FOR SWINE

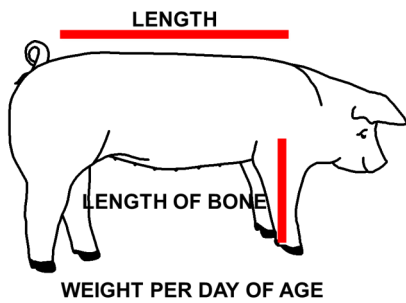
MUSCLING



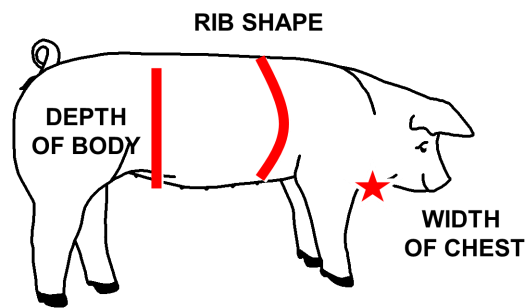
LEANNESS



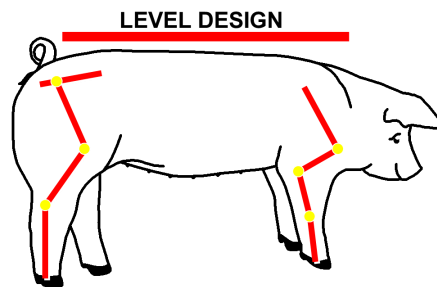
GROWTH/ MATURITY



VOLUME



SOUNDNESS



MUSCLING

Test your visual appraisal of these pigs. Match them up with the visual description: Place the number on the line provided next to the picture.

1. Heavily Muscled

2. Well Muscled

3. Light Muscled

4. Very Light Muscled



A. _____

B. _____



C. _____

D. _____



LEANNESS

Estimate fat thickness on the following market hogs using the word bank of answers.

Place the number on the provided line next to the picture.

1. Very acceptable lean—approximately 0.6" at 10th rib
2. Very acceptable lean—approximately 0.7" at 10th rib
3. Acceptable lean—approximately 0.9" at 10th rib
4. Fat—approximately 1.1" at the 10th rib
5. Very fat—approximately 1.3" at 10th rib



A. _____



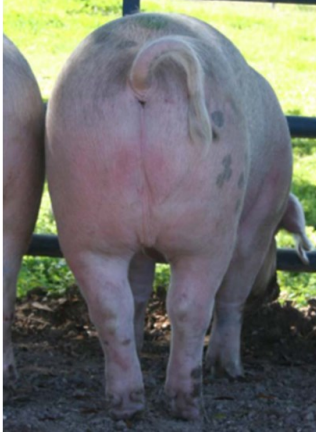
B. _____



LEANNESS

Estimate fat thickness on the following market hogs using the word bank of answers.

(Continued)



C. _____



D. _____



E. _____

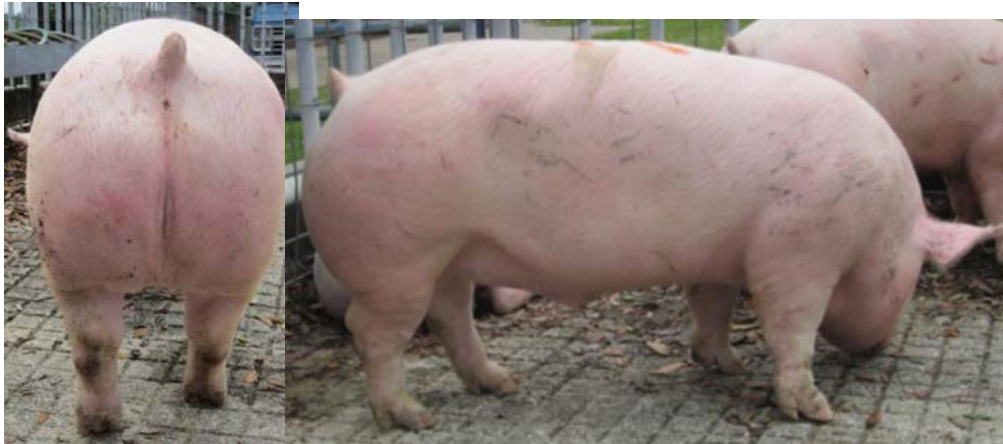


GROWTH/MATURITY

Match the visual descriptions of growth and maturity with the following hogs.

Place the number on the provided line next to the picture.

1. Fast growing, but short, low set and early maturing
2. Fast growing, and relatively late maturing
3. Slow growing, frail featured and early maturing
4. Late maturing and very slow growing



A. _____



B. _____



GROWTH/MATURITY

Match the visual descriptions of growth and maturity with the following hogs.

Place the number on the provided line next to the picture.

(Continued)



C. _____



D. _____



VOLUME

Match the visual descriptions of volume with the following hogs.

Place the number on the provided line next to the picture.

1. Bold ribbed, deep bodied, and wide tracking
2. Relatively flat ribbed, shallow flanked, and narrow tracking
3. Bold ribbed and wide tracking
4. Very flat ribbed, shallow flanked, and narrow tracking
5. Relatively bold ribbed, deep bodied, and wide tracking



A. _____



B. _____



VOLUME

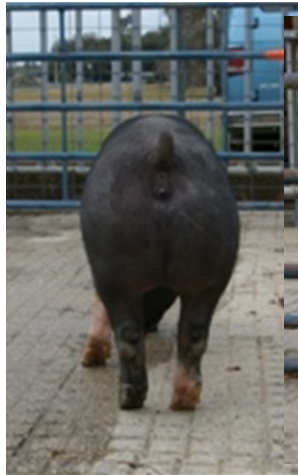
Match the visual descriptions of volume with the following hogs.

Place the number on the provided line next to the picture.

(Continued)



C. _____



D. _____



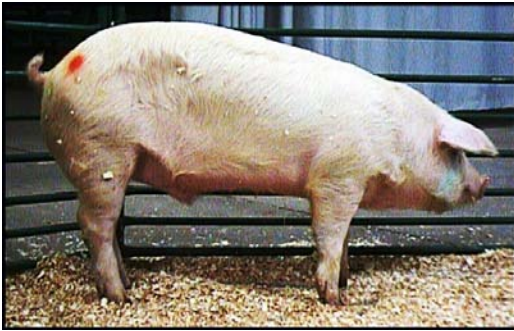
E. _____



SOUNDNESS

Match the following descriptions on soundness to the corresponding picture. Place the number on the provided line under the picture

1. A poor designed, straight shouldered market hog that is straight kneed and short hipped
2. A well designed, level, and square made market hog, that is a bit straight through the shoulder and knee
3. A well designed, level, and square made market hog with correct joint angulation to both ends of the skeleton
4. A very poor designed, straight shouldered, straight kneed, short hipped barrow



A. _____



B. _____



C. _____



D. _____



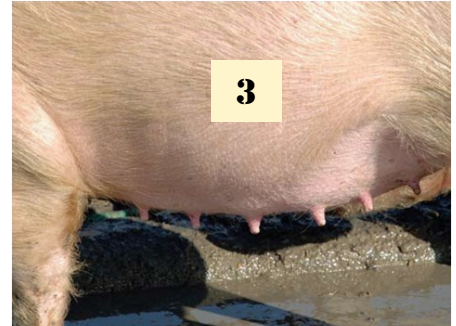
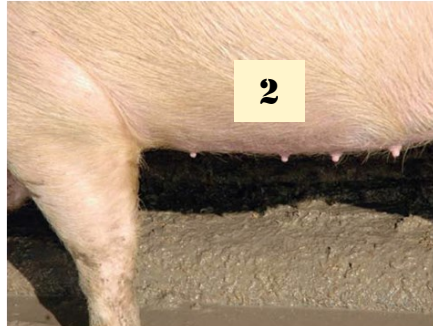
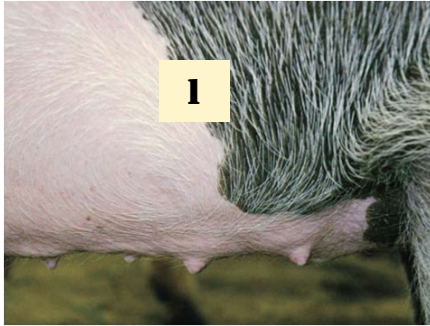
SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS

Underlines: Match the following descriptions of underlines to the pictures below.

_____ A. Good underline, good spacing, good teat quality

_____ B. Poor Spacing, too far between first and second teat, but good teat quality

_____ C. Poor teat quality, too blunt, second teat would be considered a “pin” nipple



VULVAS: Match the following descriptions of vulvas to the pictures above.

A. Normal Vulva _____ B. Tipped _____ C. Infantile (small) _____ D. Swollen _____



SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS

Design: Match the following descriptions to the pictures below. Place the number on the provided line below the picture.

1. Her design, body type and external sexual characteristics suggest she should be a desirable brood sow prospect
2. Her ill design, inadequate body volume, and small vulva suggest she should not be kept as a replacement
3. Her ill design and inadequate body volume and terminal appearance suggest she should not be kept as a replacement



A. _____



B. _____

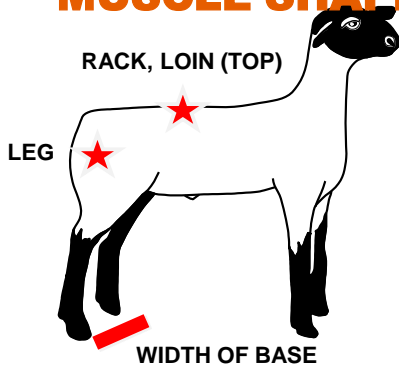


C. _____

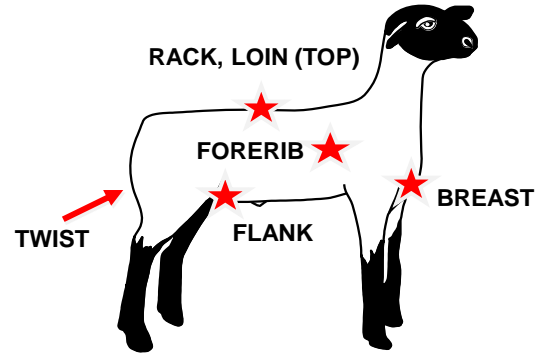


VISUAL CRITERIA FOR SHEEP

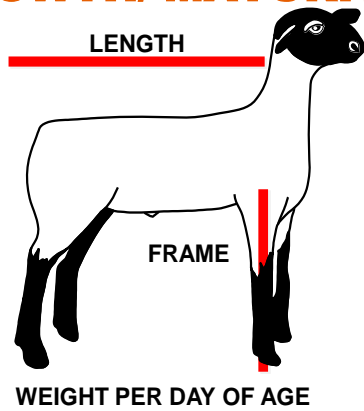
MUSCLE SHAPE



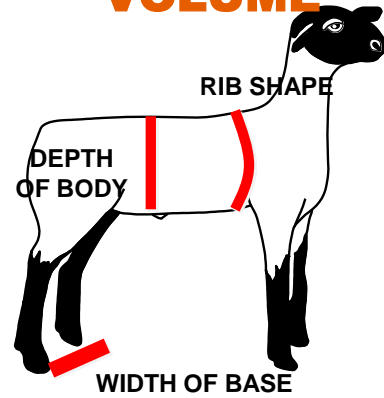
FINISH



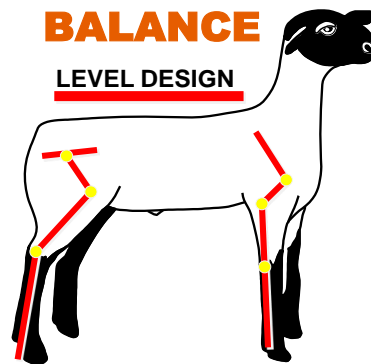
GROWTH/ MATURITY



VOLUME



STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS & BALANCE



MUSCLE SHAPE

Match the description with the correct picture. Place the number on the line provided next to the picture.

1. Very light muscled 2. Very heavy muscled 3. Well muscled 4. Relatively light muscled



A. _____



B. _____



MUSCLE SHAPE

Match the description with the correct picture. Place the number on the line provided next to the picture.

1. Very light muscled 2. Very heavy muscled 3. Well muscled 4. Relatively light muscled

(Continued)



C. _____



D. _____



FINISH FOR SHEEP

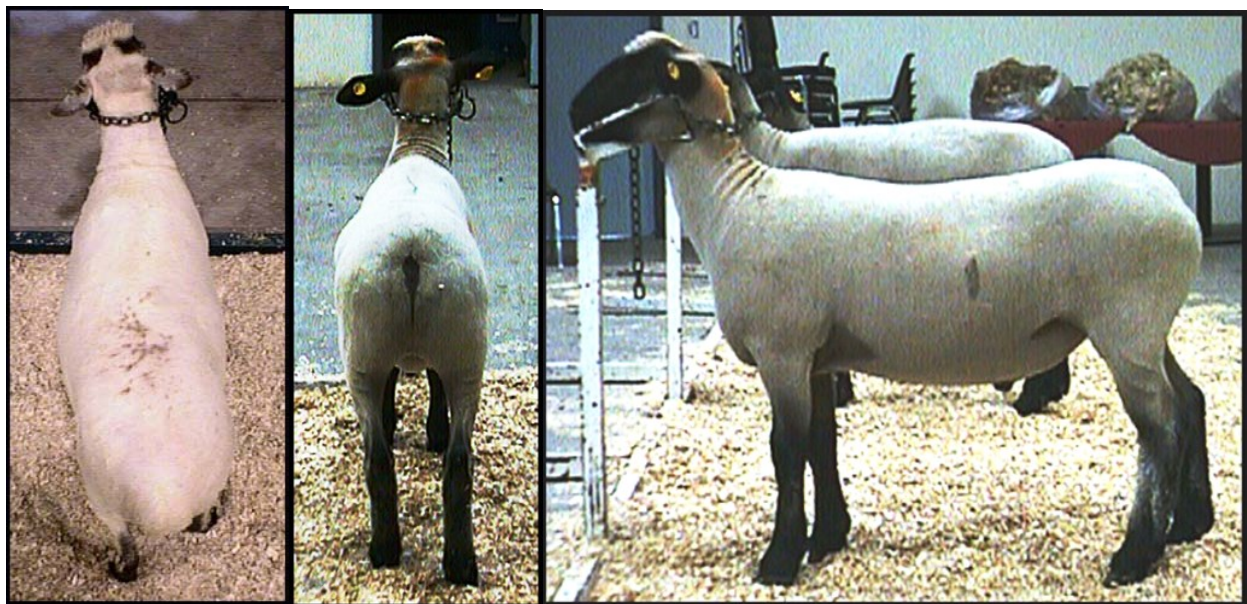
Match the following terms about finish to the correct sheep. Place the number under the corresponding picture.

1. A correctly finished lamb with 0.15-0.20 in of fat thickness

2. A very over finished lamb with 0.35-0.40 in of fat thickness



A. _____



B. _____



GROWTH/MATURITY

Match the following descriptions to the correct picture. Place the corresponding number under the picture on the line provided.

1. Growthy, upstanding, and late maturing- Has the opportunity to still have acceptable fatness at 140-150 lbs
2. Upstanding, and late maturing- though probably not as fast growing as some- Should still have acceptable fatness at 140-150 lbs
3. Relatively fast growing, but early maturing- Will probably be too fat at 135 lbs
4. Relatively fast growing, but early maturing- Will be too fat at 130 lbs



A. _____



B. _____



C. _____



D. _____



VOLUME

Match the correct descriptions about volume to the pictures below. Place the number under the picture.

1. Bold ribbed, deep flanked and high volume
2. Flat ribbed, shallow bodied and low volume
3. Relatively bold ribbed, deep flanked and high volume
4. Tight ribbed, and very shallow flanked. Appears rather low performing



A. _____



B. _____



C. _____



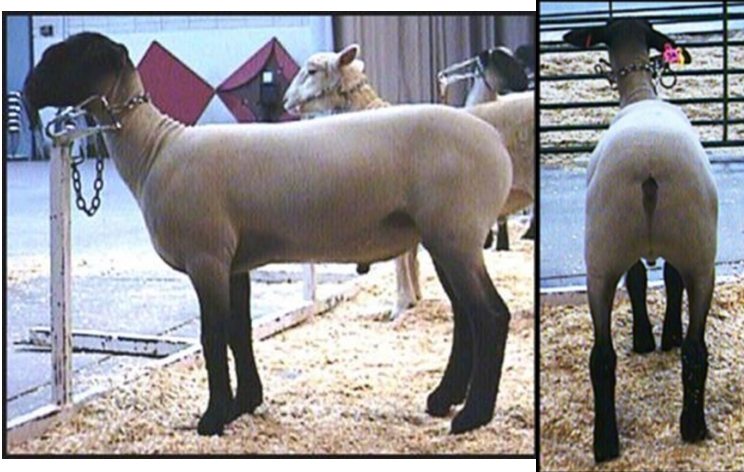
D. _____



STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS

Match the following descriptions to the correct pictures below. Place the number on the line provided next to the picture.

1. A wether which is too straight and forward in his shoulder, short and round out of his dock, and is weak pasterned.
2. A very level square made wether with his feet on all corners. He does appear to bow out on his rear legs a bit.
3. A very level ewe, who appears to have the correct angulation to all of her joints, and should move correctly when put into motion.
4. A ewe, who appears to have the correct angulation to all of her joints, and should move correctly when put into motion.



A. _____

B. _____



STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS

Match the following descriptions to the correct pictures below. Place the number on the line provided next to the picture.

(Continued)



C. _____

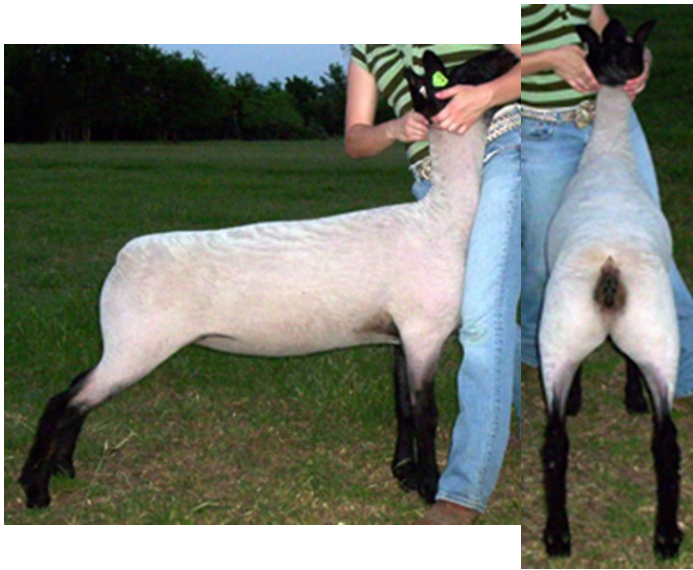
D. _____



BALANCE

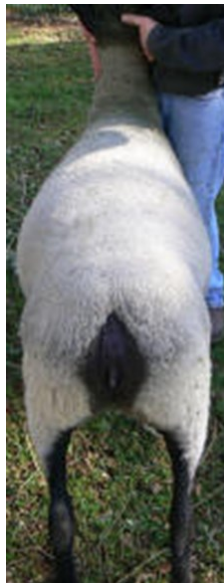
Match the following descriptions about balance to the correct pictures. Place the number to the corresponding picture next to the picture.

1. Straight lined, upstanding, well balanced ewe. She is a bit short bodied.
2. A square made, high volumed ewe. She is too coarse and deep in her shoulder and breast, decreasing her balance.
3. A long bodied ewe that rounds out of her dock, is easy in her top, somewhat u-necked, and deep breasted, decreasing her balance.
4. An extended, square made, high volumed, well balanced ewe.



A. _____

B. _____



BALANCE

Match the following descriptions about balance to the correct pictures. Place the number to the corresponding picture next to the picture.

1. Straight lined, upstanding, well balanced ewe. She is a bit short bodied.
2. A square made, high volumed ewe. She is too coarse and deep in her shoulder and breast, decreasing her balance.
3. A long bodied ewe that rounds out of her dock, is easy in her top, somewhat u-necked, and deep breasted, decreasing her balance.
4. An extended, square made, high volumed, well balanced ewe.



C. _____

D. _____



SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS

Match the following descriptions about sexual characteristics to the pictures.

Place the number of the description on the line provided next to the picture.

1. Long bred ewe as evidenced by her udder development. Should make an excellent replacement.
2. A stout, masculine, large testicled ram with proper testicle carriage, which should make an excellent sire.
3. A small testicled ram whose testicles are carried close to his body, potentially affecting his fertility.



A. _____



B. _____

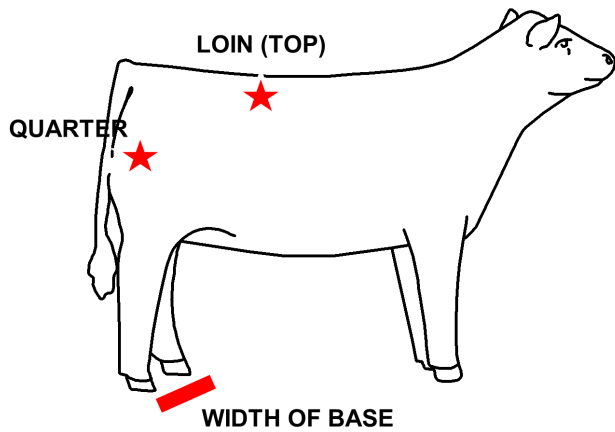


C. _____

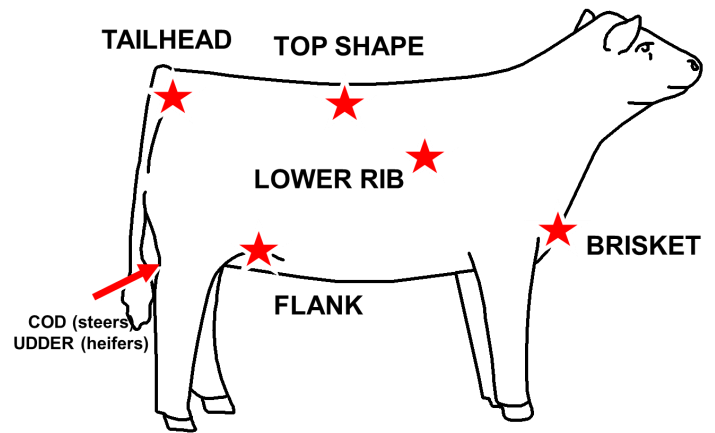


VISUAL CRITERIA FOR CATTLE

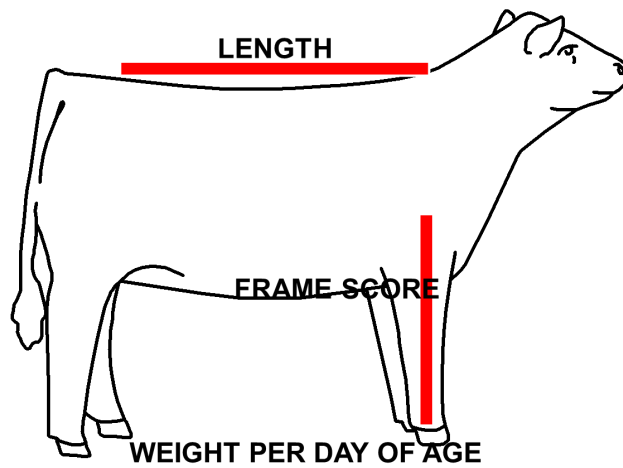
MUSCLE SHAPE



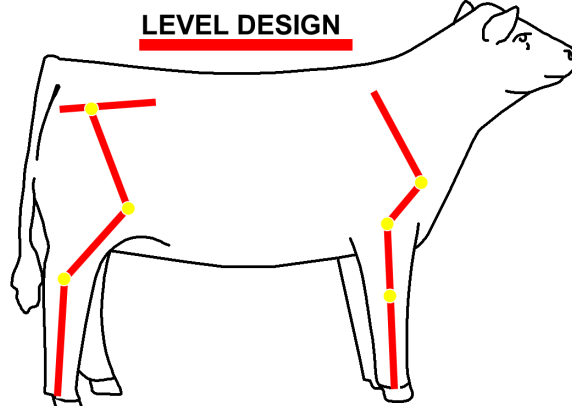
FINISH



GROWTH/ MATURITY



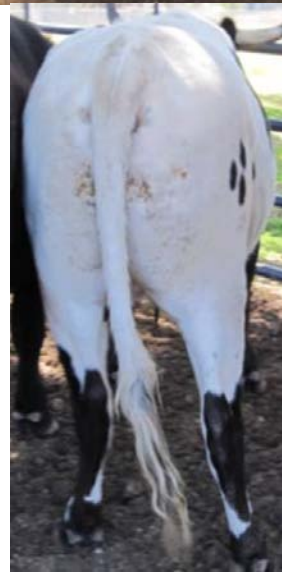
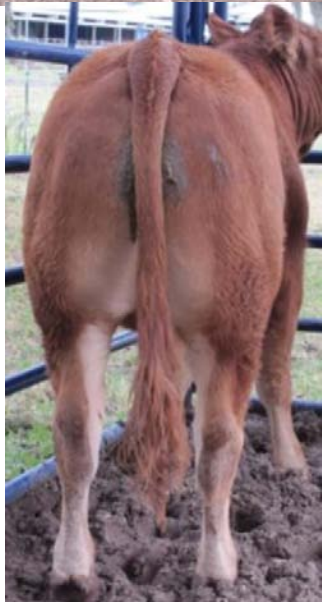
STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS & BALANCE



MUSCLE SHAPE

Match the descriptions about muscle shape to the correct picture. Place the number under the picture on the provided line.

1. Very heavily muscled 2. Heavily muscled 3. Very light muscled 4. Well muscled
5. Light muscled



A. _____

B. _____



MUSCLE SHAPE

Match the descriptions about muscle shape to the correct picture. Write the number under the picture on the provided line.

(Continued)



C. _____

D. _____



E. _____



FINISH FOR CATTLE: *OVER, UNDER OR JUST RIGHT?*

Match the following descriptions about finish to the correct picture. Place the number under the correct picture.

1. A correctly finished steer at 0.45 in fat thickness. His combination of fatness and muscling suggest he will be a Yield Grade 2.
2. A very underfinished steer at 0.10 in fat thickness.. His combination of fatness and muscling suggest he will be a Yield Grade 1.
3. A very overfinished steer at 1.0 in fat thickness. His combination of fatness and muscling suggest he will be a upper Yield Grade 4.
4. A slightly overfinished steer at 0.65 in fat thickness. . His combination of fatness and muscling suggest he will be a Yield Grade 3.
5. An underfinished steer at 0.25 in fat thickness. His combination of fatness and muscling suggest he will be a Yield Grade 1.



A. _____

B. _____



FINISH FOR CATTLE: *OVER, UNDER OR JUST RIGHT?*

Match the following descriptions about finish to the correct picture. Place the number under the correct picture.



C. _____



D. _____



E. _____



VOLUME

Match the following descriptions on volume to the correct picture. Write the number under the picture on the line provided.

1. A bold sprung, deep bodied, high volumed heifer.
2. A bold sprung, deep bodied, high volumed steer.
3. A deep bodied steer which needs more rib/body shape.
4. A steer with an excellent, square rib shape, which needs more depth from fore rib to flank.
5. A flat ribbed, shallow bodied, low volumed steer.



A. _____

B. _____



VOLUME

Match the following descriptions on volume to the correct picture. Write the number under the picture on the line provided.

(Continued)



BALANCE

Match the following descriptions with the correct picture. Place the number on the line provided next to the picture.

1. A straight lined, nice profiling, level, well balanced steer.
2. A straight shouldered, short, coarse fronted steer, that shallows through his flank, and is short hipped, collectively being very poor balanced.
3. A very low volumed, round made, easy topped steer, that is very poor balanced.



A. _____



B. _____



C. _____



GROWTH/MATURITY

Match the following descriptions about growth and maturity to the following pictures. Place the number next to the picture of the provided line.

1. A small framed, and probably rather slow growing steer. He would have remained acceptably trim until 1100 lbs, but now is very low cutability.
2. A steer intermediate for growth and finished weight. He appears market ready in this picture at approximately 1225 lbs.
3. A stout made, high growth steer. He appears market ready in this picture at approximately 1325 lbs.



A. _____



B. _____



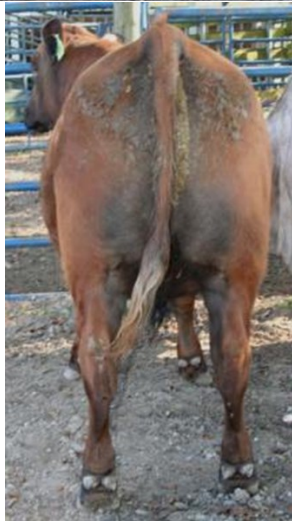
C. _____



STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS

Match the following descriptions about structural correctness to the correct picture. Place the number below the picture on the provided line.

1. A square made, very level steer, who needs more angulation to his shoulder and more set to his hock and pastern.
2. A straight shouldered, short hipped steer who is very straight in his hock.
3. A slightly round made steer that appears to have the correct angulation to all of his joints, and should move correctly when put into motion.
4. A relatively square made steer that appears to have the correct angulation to all of his joints, and should move correctly when put into motion.
5. A very short, round hipped steer who has excess set to his hock (sickle hocked).



A. _____

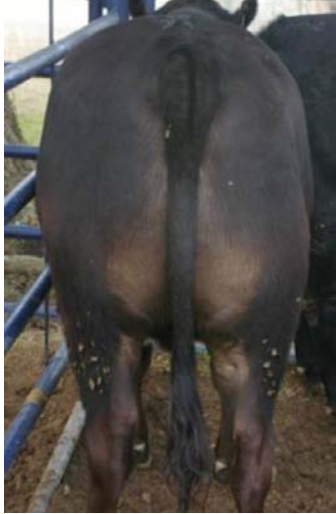
B. _____



STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS

Match the following descriptions about structural correctness to the correct picture. Place the number below the picture on the provided line.

(Continued)



C. _____

D. _____



E. _____



SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS

Match the following descriptions to the correct picture. Place the number next to the picture.

1. A long bred heifer as evidenced by her udder development. Should make an excellent replacement.
2. A stout, masculine, large testicled bull, which should make an excellent sire.



A. _____



B. _____





Name

4-H Club Motto

"To make the best better"

Address

4-H Pledge

I Pledge:

**My head to clearer thinking
My heart to greater loyalty**

My hands to larger service, and

My health to better living

**for my club, my community,
my country, and my world.**

Name of Club/School

Leader/Teacher's Name

4-H Colors

Green and White



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