







# **Livestock Judging**

**A 4-H Animal Science Project** 

# **Activity 5, Express Yourself**

## **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.

This edition of the Livestock Judging curriculum package was created by Chad Carr, Assistant Professor, Justin Crosswhite, Graduate Assistant, and Amanda Johnson, Undergraduate Assistant, Department of Animal Sciences. Authors of previous editions include: Julie Sexton and Karen Strickland, former Project Assistants, Allen Stateler, former Graduate Assistants; Saundra TenBroeck, Associate Professor and Youth Livestock Extension Specialist, Department of Animal Sciences, Tim Marshall, Associate Professor, Department of Animal Sciences and Deborah J. Glauer, Extension Youth Development Specialist and Animal Science Design Team Leader, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences.

Technical review and assistance for this edition was provided by members of the 4-H Life Skills Animal Science Action Team—Amanda Thein, Nassau County 4-H Agent, Chris DeCubelis, Gilchrist County 4-H Agent, and Joy C. Jordan, Associate Professor a/4-H Youth Development Curriculum Specialist, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.



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# **Activity 5**

### **OBJECTIVES:** For youth to:

- discover terminology used to describe and compare livestock.
- add to vocabulary by learning livestock terms.

#### LIFE SKILL:

- Communicating Skills
- Self-confidence

#### **MATERIALS:**

Copies of BASIC LIVESTOCK TERMS and SPECIES SPECIFIC TERMS for each youth.

- Easel and flip chart or chalkboard
- markers or chalk

TIME: 1½ Hours

**SETTING:**A comfortable room with tables and chairs.

#### **ADVANCE PREPARATION:**

Ask a youth with livestock judging experience to prepare a set of oral reasons to give in front of the group.



# **EXPRESS YOURSELF**

# **BACKGROUND BASICS...**

The youth have learned and added many new livestock words to their vocabulary in the first three activities. In this activity, they will expand that basic terminology and learn more specific terms that are used in the livestock industry. Below is a list of words or phrases that are used to describe different animals or features. Many of these terms are not species specific and mean the same thing for almost all animals.

- <u>Condition, Finish or Leanness</u> all are used to denote fatness. The term finish is used to describe fat on market cattle and lambs, condition is used with breeding stock, and leanness is used with market hogs.
- <u>Growth</u> the characteristics of having adequate size and weight at a certain age.
- <u>Balance</u> a proper proportion and blending of parts of the animal, essentially "how the parts fit together." Includes structural correctness, symmetry and quality. Balance is primarily evaluated from a side view.
- <u>Ruggedness, Stoutness</u> traits associated with potential durability and serve as a loose indicator of growth. These include foot size, circumference of the cannon bone (from the knee to the ankle), and structural width.
- Quality a general term that infers smoothness and refinement.
   Refinement of hair coat, freedom of wrinkles in hogs and lambs, freedom of roughness, patchiness in cattle indicates quality.
- <u>Scale or Frame</u> the size of the animal as determined by skeletal structure, independent of weight. The height, length and width as they predict an animal's mature size.
- <u>Broodiness</u> female breeding stock term that means she has a favorable combination of characteristics to be a good mother.
   Depth, capacity, stoutness, prominence of teats and/or mammary system, and correctness of vulva.

- <u>Breed Character</u> characteristics that separate breeding stock of one breed from other breeds, primarily by differences of the head: shape, length, dish of face, width of muzzle, shape of poll and ears, color markings and wool covering in sheep.
- Trimness freedom from external fat.
- Muscling having greater meat yield per carcass weight.
- <u>Maturity</u> an animal's degree of physiological development relating to sexual puberty, mature size, and body composition..
- <u>Structural Soundness</u> the desirability or correctness of the skeletal structure, with major emphasis on straightness of top and proper feet and leg structure.
- <u>Sexual Characteristics</u> characteristics that distinguish the female from the male. Femininity-Indicated by refinement of the head, neck and shoulders. Masculinity-Indicated by boldness or massiveness of head and crest, thickness of the neck and development of the forequarter.

Sexual character varies widely in each breed within a species; however, there are some common types and ideals found within most species. These can be broken up into necessary and desirable sexual characteristics. Necessary sexual traits are those necessary for reproduction in that individual. Some of these traits might include the development and spacing of the appropriate number of teats, lack of difficulty during parturition (giving birth) and the proper formation of testicles and vulvas.

Desirable sexual traits are genetic traits that producers wish to pass along to the individual's offspring. The traits that a producer finds valuable vary widely with personal preference, use and breed demands. Some desirable traits might include femininity or masculinity of the head and neck, maximum number of offspring per year or lack of pendulous (hanging) sheaths.



# INTRODUCTION

To fully understand and communicate with others in the livestock industry, it is essential that everyone use common terminology. The person to whom you are communicating should be able to understand exactly what you want them to. Today you will develop a basic vocabulary of livestock terms, learn the meanings of basic livestock terms and learn synonyms to be used in oral reasons. So let's get started.

## DO

Play "phrase it" in livestock terminology

- Have a youth with livestock judging experience to give a sample set of oral reasons. This will familiarize youth with some terms used to describe and compare livestock animals.
- Play the phrase game. Divide the group into two teams.
- Write the general trait "frame" on the board or flip chart. Have the teams alternate youth (first one answers, then another) and come up with a different phrase or way of describing an advantage in this trait. Examples: long bodied, large framed, standing on length of leg.—write the answers on the board or flip chart.
- The leader or an experienced youth should evaluate and score the phrases. For each good answer, the team gets one point. For each outstanding answer, the team gets two points. For each poor or invalid answer, the team loses a point.
- The number of rounds played depends on the number of youth in the group. Make sure everyone gets at least two turns.
- Repeat game with the terms: muscle, structure, volume and carcass.
- Give youth copies of BASIC LIVESTOCK TERMS handout and discuss the information with youth.

## REFLECT

• Why is there a variety of ways to say or express the same thing?

To provide ways to express a certain trait in almost any situation; to give some variety to a set of reasons.

What is the difference between an animal's frame or scale and its growth?

Frame or scale describes an animals length, height, and width as serves as a prediction of growth. Growth is used to describe size and weight at a certain age, but also to predict future growth potential of his/her progeny based on performance records.

- List a creative and specific term you used when describing traits.
- Was it challenging to describe a single trait in many different ways?
- Why might it be necessary or important to know this?

It is important to learn the terms used to describe and compare livestock to aid in evaluating the animals and to give effective oral reasons.

• List some examples of new words or phrases you learned in this activity.

# APPLY

- Think of different ways to describe your home, pet or family member. Try to use very specific words and avoid general statements.
- Show a picture of an animal or view a live animal and have the youth describe the animal on its own merit, using correct and descriptive terminology.



# **BREEDING CATTLE TERMINOLOGY**

## **GROWTH/MATURITY**

<u>Positives</u>	<u>Negatives</u>
Higher performing	Slow growing
Faster growing	Frail featured
More weight per day of age	Fine boned
Stouter featured	Excessively large framed
More powerfully constructed	Excessively small framed

Heavier boned

More moderate in frame and ultimate mature size

#### **PHRASES:**

- a more powerfully made, bigger footed bull with more weight per day of age
- -a stouter featured, heavier boned, higher performing bull

## STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS

<u>Positives</u>	<u>Negatives</u>
More correctly structured	Short strided
Longer strided	Ill structured as evidenced by
Truer moving	Straight shouldered/kneed/pasterned/hocked
Sounder moving	Small footed
Bigger footed	
More structurally correct	
More functionally correct	

- a more structurally correct heifer that was truer and freer moving
- -a more correctly structured heifer moving off the more correct hind leg set
- -a freer moving heifer that took a longer, more comfortable stride
- -a bigger footed more structurally correct bull which should provide more seasons of service



# **BREEDING CATTLE TERMINOLOGY**

## MUSCLING

**Positives** 

Heavier muscled

Thicker made

More muscle shape

**Negatives** 

Light muscled

Flat/narrow made

Tapers out of hip

#### **PHRASES:**

- a thicker made, heavier muscled bull

## **BALANCE**

**Positives** 

Better/ nicer balanced/patterned

Better/ nicer/ more attractive profiling

Flatter shouldered

Cleaner/more attractive fronted

Longer fronted/bodied/hipped

More extended

Stronger topped

Leveler hipped

More eye appealing

### **Negatives**

Poor balanced

Coarse shouldered

Short/necked/fronted/bodied/hipped

Broken/weak topped

- -a better patterned, longer fronted heifer that is stronger topped, and leveler hipped
- -a better balanced, more correctly structured bull that is squarer hipped
- -a nicer profiling heifer that is stronger in her topline and becomes progressively deeper from forerib to flank



# BREEDING CATTLE TERMINOLOGY

## SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS

<u>Positives- Heifers</u> <u>Negatives</u>

More feminine featured Coarse featured

More maternal appearing Small, missapened vulva

Broodier Shorter bred

Larger and more correct vulva size Long, coarse teats

Longer bred as shown by her udder development

Shorter, more refined teats

**Bulls** 

Larger testicled Small testicled

More ruggedly made Frail

More masculine Coarse/pendulous sheath

Cleaner/less pendulous sheath

#### **PHRASES:**

-a more feminine featured, broodier heifer, that is heavier bred as shown by her udder development

-a more ruggedly made, larger testicled bull

## **VOLUME**

<u>Positives</u> <u>Negatives</u>

Higher volumed Low volumed

Better/bigger bodied Tight ribbed/flanked

Bolder sprung/ribbed Shallow bodied

More capacious Flat ribbed

Should be easier keeping

Deeper bodied/flanked

Wider tracking

- -a better bodied, bolder sprung heifer, that should prove to be the easier keeping brood cow
- -a bolder ribbed, higher volumed bull



# MARKET CATTLE TERMINOLOGY

## **BALANCE**– See Breeding Cattle Section

### MUSCLE

Positives

Heavier muscled

More meat-animal shape

More expressively muscled

More shape/dimension over the rib and loin or top

Squarer hipped

More bulging/bulging/thicker quarter

#### **PHRASES:**

- -he had more shape over this rib and loin and more mass through his hip and quarter
- -more muscle shape from end to end

## **CORRECTNESS OF FINISH/MATURITY**

PositivesNegativesMore correctly/optimally finishedThin finishedMore market readyOver finishedMellower handlingBare handlingTrimmer

#### **PHRASES:**

- a more correctly finished steer that appears more market ready through his cod, flank, and brisket
- a trimmer patterned, more compositionally correct steer
- -a more optimally finished steer which handled mellower down his top and over his lower rib



More compositionally correct

# MARKET CATTLE TERMINOLOGY

## PRODUCTION TRAITS

PositivesNegativesStouter made/featured/bonedFrailMore powerfulLow volumedMore productive/practical appearingLess feeding capacity

Easier feeding Short strided

More feeding capacity Ill structured

Sounder

#### **PHRASES:**

- a more productive appearing, bolder ribbed steer with more feeding capacity

- a sounder footed, bigger bodied, easier feeding steer

## **CARCASS TERMS**

<u>Positives</u>	<u>Negatives</u>
Whole carcass should rib with a larger eye	Rib with a small eye
Should rail/generate a higher cutability carcass	Overfinished, light muscled, low cutability carcass
A carcass with greater red-meat yield	Low dressing percentage
A higher dressing percentage	Least apt to make the Choice grade
More apt to make/reach the Choice grade	The poorest potential carcass merit
Better potential yield and quality grade combination	
Packer preferred	

- a more correctly finished, packer preferred steer which should yield a carcass more apt to grade "Choice"
- a heavier muscled steer whose carcass should rib with a larger eye
- a more optimally finished, heavier muscled steer whose carcass should have more value on most traditional grids



## **BREEDING SHEEP TERMINOLOGY**

# **GROWTH/MATURITY**

<u>Positives</u> <u>Negatives</u>

Higher performingSlow growingFaster growingFrail featured

More weight per day of age Small footed

Larger statured/framed Small statured/framed

Stouter featured Low set

More powerfully constructed Short coupled

Heavier boned Heavy conditioned and skeletally mature

Growthier Early maturing

More extended

More upstanding

Taller fronted

Later maturing

Trimmer patterned, more youthful and immature

More potential for future growth

#### **PHRASES:**

- a growthier, more upstanding ewe
- -a stouter featured, heavier boned, ram with more weight per day of age
- -a taller fronted, more extended, trimmer conditioned ewe which is later maturing

**STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS**—see Structural Correctness of Breeding Cattle, substituting ram and ewe for bull and heifer



# **BREEDING SHEEP TERMINOLOGY**

## MUSCLING

<u>Positives</u> <u>Negatives</u>

Heavier muscled Light muscled

Thicker made Flat/narrow made

More muscle shape Tapers out of dock

**PHRASES:** 

- a thicker made, heavier muscled ram

#### BALANCE

<u>Positives</u> <u>Negatives</u>

Better/ nicer balanced/patterned Poor balanced

Better/ nicer/ more attractive/more stylish Round/coarse shouldered

profiling

Flatter shouldered Short/necked/fronted/bodied/hindsadled/hipped

Shallower breasted Broken/weak topped

Cleaner/more attractive fronted Rounds out of dock

Longer fronted/bodied/hindsaddled/hipped Steep hipped/docked

Stronger topped Handles with a short hindsaddle/loin

Leveler hipped/docked Handles shorter from the last rib back

More eye appealing

Squarer/leveler docked

Handles with a longer hindsaddle/loin

Handles longer from the last rib back

#### **PHRASES:**

-from the side, she is cleaner fronted, longer hindsaddled, and squarer out of her dock

-a more stylish profiling ewe that is shallower breasted and becomes progressively deeper from breast to flank

**SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS AND VOLUME**—see Sexual Characteristics and Volume of Breeding Cattle, substituting ram and ewe for bull and heifer



# MARKET LAMB TERMINOLOGY

## **BALANCE**– See Breeding Sheep Section

## MUSCLE

<u>Positives</u> <u>Negatives</u>

Heavier muscled Light muscled

More meat-animal shape Flat/narrow made

More expressively muscled Tapers out of hip/dock

Progressively widens from front to rear Flattens through dock

Handles with more mass/shape/dimension to top Narrow topped

or rack and loin

Handles deeper/fuller/squarer in loin/down top Handles narrow/shallow down top

More bulging/thicker/fuller leg Flattens through the leg

Squarer/thicker out of hip/dock

#### **PHRASES:**

-handles squarer down his top, and was fuller out of his dock and leg

-progressively widens from front to rear, and handles with a deeper, fuller loin

# **CORRECTNESS OF FINISH/MATURITY**

PositivesNegativesMore correctly/optimally finishedSoft handlingTrimmerOver finished

Firmer/trimmer handling Bare handling

Handles with a more adequate degree of finish

- a trimmer patterned, more correctly finished wether that handles firmer down his top and through is forerib
- -a more optimally finished wether which handled with a more adequate degree of finish down his top and through his lower rib



# MARKET LAMB TERMINOLOGY

## PRODUCTION TRAITS

Positives Negatives
Growthier Low set

More upstanding Short coupled

Larger statured Frail

Stouter made/featured/boned Low volumed

More powerful Harder feeding

More productive/practical appearing Stands:

Bolder ribbed Stand with his front legs/ kneed-in, turned out

Deeper flanked Toed out

Higher volumed Buckneed

Stands squarer Stands: sickle hocked/on his rear legs

Cow hocked

PHRASES: With hocks bowed out

- a growthier, stouter featured, bigger volumed wether which stands squarer on his rear legs

- a larger statured, more productive appearing wether which was deeper through his flank

#### CARCASS TERMS

<u>Positives</u>	<u>Negatives</u>
Whose carcass should open with a larger eye	Open with a small eye
Should rail/generate a higher cutability carcass	Overfinished, light muscled, low cutability carcass
A carcass with greater red-meat yield	Low dressing percentage
A higher dressing percentage	The poorest potential carcass merit
A more shapely carcass, with a greater leg score	
A more packer preferred carcass, resulting in less cooler shrink	

#### **PHRASES:**

- a leaner patterned lamb who handles with more tone to his top and should rail a higher cutability carcass
- a heavier muscled wether whose carcass should open a larger eye
- a more optimally finished, lamb whose carcass should have less cooler shrink
- handles firmer and longer loined and should yield a carcass with a higher percentage of closely trimmed hindsaddle



**Activity 5: Express Yourself** 

A higher percentage of trimmed hindsaddle

# BREEDING HOG TERMINOLOGY

# **GROWTH/MATURITY**

PositivesNegativesHigher performingSlow growingFaster/easier growingFrail featured

More weight per day of age Fine boned
Stouter featured/boned/headed Short coupled

More powerfully constructed Low set

Heavier boned/structured Early maturing

Taller fronted
Longer boned
More extended
Bigger/larger scaled

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Later maturing

Leaner made/designed

#### **PHRASES:**

- a faster growing, stouter featured, heavier boned gilt
- -a taller fronted, leaner, later maturing gilt

## STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS

<u>Positives</u>	<u>Negatives</u>
Sounder/looser/more flexibly structured	Tight structured
Greater confinement soundness	Straight through shoulder/knee/pastern/hock
More structurally comfortable	Tight in his/her hock
Greater skeletal flexibility	Round/short hipped
More functionally correct in his/her structural design	Small footed
More functionally sound	
Better/leveler designed	
Weak pasterned	
Bigger footed	

## **PHRASES:**

- she was more functionally correct in her structural design having more flex to her hip and hock
- a looser structured, more flexibly made gilt
- -a bigger footed, sounder structured gilt



**Activity 5: Express Yourself** 

# **BREEDING HOG TERMINOLOGY**

# MUSCLING- See Breeding Cattle

## SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS

Positives- GiltsNegativesMore feminine featured/headedCoarse featuredMore maternal appearingShort necked

Larger and more correct vulva size Small, missapened vulva

Longer necked Coarse underline

Broodier Has blind/pin nipples

Higher quality, more refined underline which

starts farther forward

More evenly spaced teats

**Boars** 

Larger testicled Smaller testicled

More ruggedly made Frail

More masculine Coarse sheath

Cleaner sheathed

## **PHRASES:**

-a more maternal appearing, longer faced, more extended gilt with a higher quality, more refined underline

-a more ruggedly made, more athletic, larger testicled boar

#### **VOLUME**

PositivesNegativesNaturally wider structuredLow volumedBolder/more open ribbedTight ribbed/flanked

Wider chested/based Shallow bodied/flanked

Higher volumed Flat ribbed

Bolder bladed Narrow chested

Deeper bodied/flanked

More capacious

#### **PHRASES:**

- -a more open ribbed, higher volumed gilt
- -a bolder ribbed, higher volumed bull



**Activity 5: Express Yourself** 

# MARKET HOG TERMINOLOGY

## MUSCLE

<u>Positives</u> <u>Negatives</u>

Heavier muscled Light muscled

More meat-animal shape Flat/narrow made

More expressively muscled Narrow hipped

Works more muscle thickness from blade to hip Narrow topped

Works a greater volume of muscle down his top Flattens through the ham

More dimension of muscle

Bigger/bolder/thicker /squarer topped

More bulging/thicker/fuller ham

#### **PHRASES:**

-a heavier muscled barrow that has greater muscle dimension from blade to hip

-a thicker made gilt with more shape out of her hip and ham

## LEANNESS/MATURITY

<u>Positives</u>	<u>Negatives</u>
Leaner designed	Fat

Reads leaner down his top and in his elbow Short coupled

pocket/jowl/seam of the ham

Taller fronted Low set

Later maturing Early maturing

Longer boned/bodied

More extended

More natural/practical amount of external fat

#### **PHRASES:**

- a barrow which reads to be leaner down his top, elbow pocket, and jowl.

-a taller fronted, leaner made, later maturing gilt which has more potential for continued lean growth

#### **GROWTH**

<u>Positives</u>	<u>Negatives</u>
Higher performing	Slow growing
Faster/easier growing	Light weight

More weight per day of age

Pounds heavier





# MARKET HOG TERMINOLOGY

## PRODUCTION TRAITS

**Positives Negatives** 

Frail made/boned/headed Naturally wider structured

Bolder/more open ribbed Low volumed

Wider chested/based Harder feeding

Stouter made/featured/boned/headed Flat ribbed

More productive/practical appearing Narrow chested Bolder ribbed/bladed Tight structured

Deeper flanked Straight through shoulder/knee/pastern/hock

Higher volumed Tight in his/her hock Sounder footed Round/short hipped

Looser structured Small footed

Bigger footed

#### **PHRASES:**

- a stouter featured, wider chested, faster growing barrow
- a higher performing, sounder footed, more productive appearing gilt
- a more open ribbed, easier feeding barrow with more weight per day of age

## **CARCASS TERMS**

<u>Positives</u>	<u>Negatives</u>
Whose carcass should open with a larger loineye	Open with a small loineye
A heavier muscled more shapely carcass	Fat, low cutabillity/low percent lean/muscle carcass
A carcass which will probe leaner at the 10th rib	A carcass with a thin, poor quality belly
Should rail/generate a higher cutability/percent lean/percent muscle carcass	

Whose carcass should have improved belly quality

#### PHRASES:

- a heavier muscled, thicker topped barrow whose carcass should open with a larger loineye
- a leaner designed, gilt whose carcass will probe leaner at the 10th rib
- a leaner, heavier muscled barrow that will rail a carcass with greater lean value
- faster growing, more productive barrow with a more practical amount of external fat whose carcass should have improved belly quality



A carcass with greater lean value

# **SYNONYMS**

**SHOWS:** exhibits, displays, reveals, indicates, evidenced by

**GRANT:** concede, admit, realize, agree that, acknowledge, recognize

**HOWEVER:** nevertheless, although, yet, nonetheless, but

**ALSO:** in addition, furthermore, moreover, likewise

**POSSESSES:** has, represents

**SURPASSES:** exceeds, excels, overpowers

**LACKS:** is deficient, devoid, inferior

MORE: greater amount or quantity, higher degree, additionally, greater, more extensive,

surpasses, exceeds, excels, more abundant

**SINCE:** as, because, for the reason that

**ESPECIALLY:** definitely, particularly, explicitly, distinctively



	4-H Club Motto
Name	"To make the best better"
	4-H Pledge
Address	
	l Pledge:
	My head to clearer thinking My heart to greater loyalty
	My hands to larger service, and
Name of Club/School	My health to better living
	for my club, my community,
	my country, and my world.
Leader/Teacher's Name	_

**4-H Colors** 

Green and White

IFAS Extension

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The University of Florida 4-H Youth Development Program, UF/IFAS Extension, January 2012.

The University of Florida 4-B Youth Development Program, OF/IFAS Extension, January 2012.

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