

# DAIRY CATTLE EVALUATION

The Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management Career Development Event (CDE) helps students develop skills in dairy cattle selection and herd management. Participants evaluate the cattle's physical characteristics, explain their various classes and analyze a herd record as a team.

Teams of students develop skills in observation, analysis, communication and team communication through this competitive CDE. Each participant contributes to the team's total score through both team and individual activities. For the team exercise, judges provide a dairy farm management scenario with problems and solutions that must be identified as if they were a hired consultant advising a dairy producer. As individuals, team members complete a general knowledge exam, evaluate and select six dairy animal classes, and provide oral reasons.

Students in this event gain a greater understanding of dairy cattle management and become knowledgeable in areas that include animal welfare, biosecurity, business management, current issues, environmental management and safety practices.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. The score of the 3 high individuals will be used to determine the team score.
2. The state winning team will be responsible for providing the representatives for the National FFA Dairy Handler's CDE. If the winning team representative is not available, then the team must inform the state advisor to complete or fill the Holder's position at least one week prior to the national certification date.
3. All classes, if possible, will be selected from one or more of the six major breeds of dairy cattle: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Milking Shorthorns, and Jersey.
4. Using the form included in these rules, six classes of four animals from the above breeds will be placed on type. Classes will consist of heifers, young cows or mature cows. Each class is allowed 50 points.
5. Contestants will be allowed 12 minutes to place each class, 12 minutes to prepare first oral reason, and not more than 2 minutes to give reasons. Oral reasons will be required on two classes for all contestants. Oral reasons to consist of one mature class and one heifer class of different breeds. The reasons class will be designated by the official judges. Contestants may use a card with their placing while delivering oral reasons. No other notes will be permitted. The reasons judges will work with the official judges when the reasons class is judged. Oral reasons will be graded on the basis of 50 points for a perfect score. The scores made on reasons will be added to the individual placing score to determine the total individual score.
6. Contestants will be permitted to view the animals from all angles, but will not be permitted to handle them. The herdsman will arrange for rear view, side view, front view, and close-up inspection of all classes, in a systematic manner. Official judges cannot touch animals that contestants are not allowed to handle.
7. Animals will be numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4, left to right, as viewed from the rear.
8. The Dairy Cattle Evaluation CDE Superintendent will designate a first and second tie breaking class.

## **PROBLEM SOLVING**

The problem-solving component of the event is a team activity, requiring all members of the team to work individually to complete the test. This will be a 50 point problem-solving test with multiple-choice responses over livestock science selection, management and production. The questions will come from the last three years of national tests. Time allowed will be one hour. Score earned will be recorded on the individual scores. (Value per team is equal to 150 points.)

A team activity to include welfare, biosecurity, business management, current issues, environmental management and safety concerns. We will follow the national FFA rotation for content. A scenario will be given and a test with 10 questions, with a value of 20 points per question. Team activity will be valued at 200 total points.