UK COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY — COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Preparing and Giving Oral Reasons

Kevin Laurent, Extension Beef and Swine Associate, Aaron Arnett, Collegiate Livestock Judging Team Coach, and Richard Coffey, Ph.D., Extension Swine Specialist

Introduction

Presenting oral reasons is a very important part of judging contests. In fact, contests can be won or lost on an oral reasons presentation. That's why it is important that young people participating in judging competitions understand how to prepare for and give a good set of oral reasons.

This publication will explain the skills that are needed to prepare and present oral reasons, including organization and note-taking, using appropriate terminology, and delivery and presentation. Although the examples used throughout this publication relate primarily to oral reasons in beef cattle, sheep, and swine judging contests, the format and skills described are also applicable for presenting oral reasons for dairy cattle, horses, and meats judging.

What Are Oral Reasons?

Oral reasons are a brief oral presentation given to an official at a judging contest explaining why you placed a class of animals a certain way. Each set of reasons is worth a possible 50 points, and perfect scores are very rarely given by officials. Oral reasons should be less than two minutes in length, accurate in content, and delivered in fluent livestock terminology. Giving oral reasons is not separate from placing a class; it is an expression of the thought processes leading to that placing. Judging requires that you gather information, analyze your findings, and make decisions, while presenting oral reasons requires that you explain the process to the official.

Why Give Oral Reasons?

The official placing of a close pair of animals in a judging class is subjective and usually debatable. It represents the opinion of an official judge or committee that particular day. Presenting oral reasons is the final step in the judging process requiring you to explain, or "sell," your opinion to the official. It gives you an opportunity to defend your placing to officials who may not agree with your decision but may appreciate the reasoning behind your decision. Giving oral reasons will make you a better thinker, a keener analyzer, a better speaker, and a more confident person.

The Reasons Process

There are three main parts of the reasons process:

a. Organization and Note-Taking

b. Terminology

c. Delivery and Presentation

The most important component of the overall reasons process is **accuracy**. **Accurate Notes + Accurate Terminology + Accurate Delivery = High Scores** in the reasons room. The ideal set of reasons, of course, is **accurate**, fluent, and smooth in delivery and incorporates outstanding terminology. However, beginners should not be discouraged if their reasons are somewhat choppy in delivery or simple in terminology as long as **accuracy** is maintained.

Organization and Note-Taking

Accurate note-taking is the first and **most** important step in organizing your thoughts for an effective set of reasons. There are three kinds of notes you must take: identification notes, individual notes, and comparative, or pair, notes.

Types of Notes

Identification (ID) notes—These are notes that identify an animal's unique traits, such as color, sex, or the fact that he or she has a crimped ear. These notes help you visualize the individual animals as you deliver your reasons. They also give you an additional way to refer to the animals in your reasons. For example, you might say, *"I placed the red barrow third..."*

Individual notes—These notes identify an individual animal's best or worst traits when compared with the rest of the judging class. Examples of individual notes might include *"the heaviest-muscled lamb," "the poorest-structured bull," "the leanest pig,"* etc. These notes should only be used when the trait is obvious. Individual notes are usually most effective on the top- and bottom-placing animals.

Comparative, or pair, notes—These notes are used to compare traits between animals in each pair. An example might be *"I placed 1 over 2 because he was the nicer-balanced, cleaner-fronted lamb of the pair."* Notice that the descriptive words used in comparative notes usually end in "er" (i.e., nicer, cleaner).

An additional strategy in reasons note-taking is called coupling. Coupling should be used to introduce a pair of animals

that are similar in either ID traits or individual traits. Examples of coupling include the following: *"Finding the top pair to be the highest-volume heifers in the class, I placed 1 over 2 because ..."* and *"Now, in my bottom pair of ill-designed black gilts, I placed 3 over 4 because ..."* Coupling statements should always be followed with comparative notes that separate the pair on traits other than the trait they are coupled on. For instance, in the above examples, you wouldn't compare volume traits for the heifers or structural traits for the gilts because that's how they are coupled.

The following examples show how ID, individual, and comparative notes are used in oral reasons. This first example shows how individual notes are used to describe a top-placing heifer.

In my top pair, I placed 1 over 2 because 1 was the deepest-bodied, highest-volume heifer in the class.

This second example uses both ID and individual notes to describe a last-placed bull.

I faulted 4 and placed him last, as the white-sheathed bull was the poorest structured in the class.

The third example shows how comparative notes are used to separate a top pair of hogs that are coupled on muscling.

Finding the two heaviest-muscled hogs to start the class, I placed 1 over 2 because the black gilt was simply the nicer-balanced, taller-fronted hog of the pair.

The last example is an excellent illustration of combining the coupling strategy (in this case, muscle) with comparative notes ("nicer-balanced" and "taller-fronted") and ID notes (black gilt).

Taking Notes and Organizing Them into the Proper Format

Now that you know what kinds of notes are needed, you must learn how to take notes and organize them into the proper reasons format. The proper reasons format consists of four parts:

1. Introduction—The name of the class and placing

2. Top Pair—Advantages of the first-place animal over the second-place animal, grant(s) for the second-place animal over the first-place animal, and fault(s) of the second-place animal

3. Middle Pair—Advantages of the second-place animal over the third-place animal, grant(s) for the third-place animal over the second-place animal, and fault(s) of the third-place animal

4. Bottom Pair—Advantages of the third-place animal over the fourth-place animal, grant(s) for the fourth-place animal over the third-place animal, and fault(s) of the fourth-place animal

Notice that each pair follows the same format: advantage or placing statements, followed by grant or admission statements and fault or criticism statements. The advantage or placing statements are positive statements that tell why you placed an animal over another in a pair *(I placed 1 over 2 because...)*. The grant or admission statements are positive statements that tell what traits you admit or grant that the lower-placing animal in the pair has over the higher-placing animal *(I grant 2 was…)*. The fault or criticism statements are negative statements that tell the final reason(s) for placing the lower animal below the top animal in the pair *(However, I faulted 2 and placed her second because...)*.

The organization of your notes should reflect this format. There are several choices of notepads for reasons note-taking. The two most popular choices are a 5-inch by 7-inch spiral notebook that opens like a book or a 6-inch by 9-inch spiral steno pad that opens like a flip chart.

The 5-inch by 7-inch spiral notebook enables you to use the two opposite pages for each class (Figure 1). The left-hand page should be divided into four equal sections, one section for each animal in the class. These sections will be used to take ID and individual notes on each animal. The right-hand page should be divided into nine sections, three sections for each pair. For example, in the top pair, the first of the three sections will be used to note why you placed the first-place animal over the second-place animal, the second section will be used to grant what the second-place animal has over the first-place animal, and the third section will be used to note what the second-place animal was faulted for. The next three sections will be used for the middle pair (the second- and third-place animals), and the remaining three sections will be used for the bottom pair (the third- and fourth-place animals). Remember, while you are judging the class, nearly all the notes taken on the right-hand page will be comparative notes, with the exception being coupling notes. The ID and individual notes you will use in your reasons can be transferred from the left-hand page during the time you are preparing, or "working up," your reasons presentation.

The top of the right-hand page should be used for notes that will be in the introduction of your oral reasons, such as the name of the class, your placing of the class, criticisms of the top animal (if applicable and obvious), and coupling notes for the top pair (if applicable and obvious). Figure 1 shows an example of a 5-inch by 7-inch spiral notebook that is set up for taking notes.

If you choose to use a 6-inch by 9-inch spiral steno pad, you will use only one page to take notes for each class. However, there is a line running the length of the page dividing it into two equal parts. The left-hand side should be used for ID and individual notes and the right-hand side for pair notes. Figure 2 shows an example of a 6-inch by 9-inch spiral steno pad that is set up for taking notes.
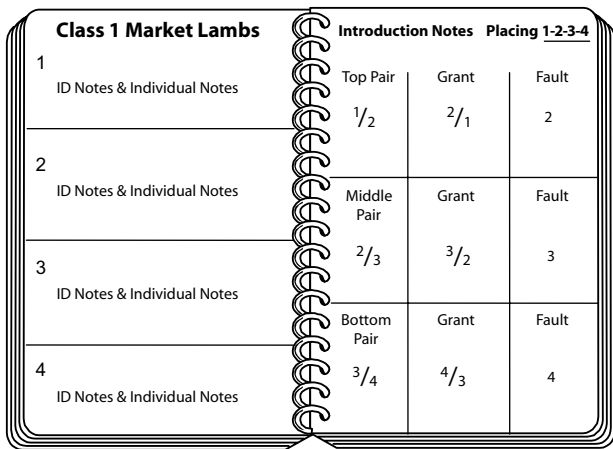
Figure 1. Example of a 5-inch by 7-inch spiral notebook organized for note-taking.

Class 1 Market Lambs		Introduction Notes		Placing 1-2-3-4
1	ID Notes & Individual Notes	Top Pair $^1/_2$	Grant $^2/_1$	Fault 2
2	ID Notes & Individual Notes	Middle Pair $^2/_3$	Grant $^3/_2$	Fault 3
3	ID Notes & Individual Notes	Bottom Pair $^3/_4$	Grant $^4/_3$	Fault 4
4	ID Notes & Individual Notes			

Note-Taking Tips

Note-Taking Tip #1—Take notes in order from the easiest to the hardest (ID notes, then individual notes, then comparative notes). The time-keeper says, "Time is in. Begin judging." What is the first thing you should do? Take a deep breath, relax, and begin finding the big differences. Of the three types of traits, the easiest to recognize and make note of are the ID traits. You should always begin by first noting the ID traits, then individual traits, and then, as the class and pairs begin to fall into place, the comparative notes.
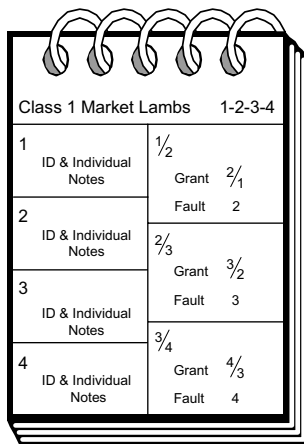

Figure 2. Example of a 6-inch by 9-inch spiral steno pad organized for note-taking

Let's review the previously used example of the two hogs coupled on muscling.

Finding the two heaviest-muscled hogs to start the class, I placed 1 over 2 because the black gilt was simply the nicer-balanced, taller-fronted hog of the pair.

Now, let's use the following scenario to determine how you might describe the top pair based on your notes:

As you begin to judge this class, you obviously note that 1 is a black gilt and 2 is a white barrow. These are the first notes you take. You continue to study the class and soon realize that 1 and 2 are easily the heaviest-muscled hogs in the class and will be the top pair. This is an individual trait note or, as in this case, the top pair will be coupled on muscling.

Now, you compare these two hogs and take comparative notes on their strengths and weaknesses. This is when you begin to take notes on the right-hand side of your notebook in the three sections reserved for the top pair. You notice that 1 is more level from a side view, is taller at the shoulders, and has a longer, cleaner neck than 2. You are pretty sure that 1 will beat 2 in this pair, so you write these notes in the first section.

Next, you note that 2 is wider through the chest floor and deeper bodied. You write these notes in the second section because this will be your grant for 2. As you continue to study this pair, you realize that 2 is not only coarser fronted than 1 but is also carrying more fat cover than 1. You write these notes in the third section because this will be your final fault or criticism of 2. Your notes are now complete for the top pair in this class. Figure 3 shows an example of how your notes would look for the top pair.
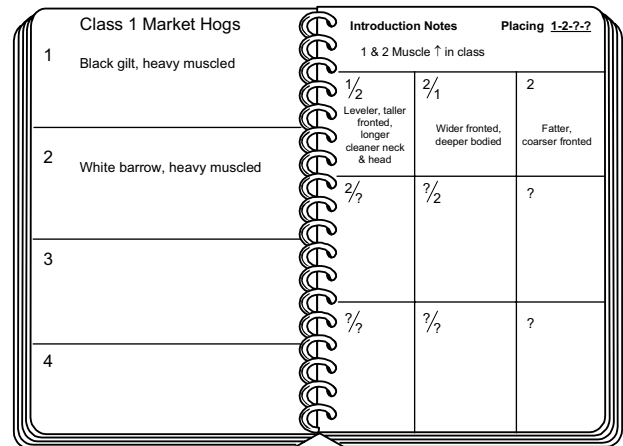

Figure 3. Example of notes for top pair in a market hog class (using a 5-inch by 7-inch spiral notebook).

Here is an example of how you might describe the top pair based on these notes:

Finding the two heaviest-muscled hogs to start the class, I placed 1 over 2 because the black gilt was simply the nicer-balanced, taller-fronted hog of the pair. 1 was leveler in her profile and longer and cleaner necked. In addition, she was leaner made and should hang a carcass with a higher percent lean.

I do grant that 2 was higher volume, wider chested, and deeper bodied.

But I faulted the white barrow and placed him second because he had more fat cover and was coarser fronted.

One word of caution for beginners: Do not get into the habit of writing out your reasons. It's too time consuming and limits your ability to see a mental image of the animals. Your brain is much quicker then your pencil, so use your notes as a tool to help create the mental picture of each animal in the class.

The previous example is just for the top pair in the class. If this were a real class, you would also have notes on the other two animals in the class. For example, 3 may have been a light-muscled, red gilt. This would have been easily noted before studying and placing the top pair. Remember to always note the obvious and easy differences first.

To complete this class, you would finish taking notes in all of the remaining sections for the middle and bottom pairs. Because your notebook is arranged in sections, you can quickly tell if you are missing a grant or fault in any of the pairs while you are judging. Remember to spend more time taking notes on the close pairs because these are the pairs you and the officials may differ on.

Note-Taking Tip #2—Use abbreviations for note-taking. The length of most judging classes ranges from 10 to 15 minutes. You simply do not have a lot of time to spend writing. So, develop a system of shorthand or abbreviations that makes sense to you. Here are some sample abbreviations you might want to use:

↑ = greater or more	carc = carcass
↓ = less	% = percent lean
¼ = quarter	lf = larger framed
mus = muscle	fem = feminine
th = thicker	ch = chest
str = straighter or stronger	fr = front
ru = rump	pas = pasterns
na = narrow	bal = balance
vol = volume	de = deeper
lt = light	wk top = weak topped

Note-Taking Tip #3—Stay focused, but also stay relaxed. Learning how to maintain the right level of mental intensity will come with experience. Just because it's a reasons class doesn't mean you should get nervous. Every judge has had the experience of looking at a class for the first few minutes and thinking that they all look alike. This is normal. If this happens, you should first look away from the class, take a few deep breaths, remind yourself what the judging priorities are for the particular species or class, and then begin observing the class and taking notes on the most obvious differences. You'll be surprised how the differences begin to be evident. Also, develop the habit of taking notes on every class during workouts. This will make note-taking seem routine.

Terminology

Proper livestock terminology is essential for presenting effective reasons. The development of a livestock vocabulary is a never-ending process that will continue throughout your judging career. Beginners, however, should know that simple, general terms that are accurate are more effective than flowery terms that are inaccurate. Don't be discouraged when getting started, but be willing to study term sheets and continually challenge yourself to expand your livestock vocabulary.

Terminology Tips

Terminology Tip #1— Start with a general term and then progress to specific terms that give a description. When beginning a statement about an animal, try to first introduce the idea with a broad general term, and then use specific terms that provide a more detailed description. In other words, first tell **wha**t the trait is, then tell **where** or **how** that trait is expressed. For example, a high-volume heifer could be described as:

---

3 was a higher-volume heifer. She was bolder sprung and deeper in the rear flank.

The main point in this example is that 3 was *higher volume* (the what). The specific points are *bolder sprung and deeper in the rear flank* (the where and how). This system of organizing your terminology has several advantages. It gets the main point across first, thereby making it easier for the reasons judge to follow along. It also encourages beginners to become more specific as their terminology increases.

As your livestock vocabulary and reasons experience increases, you may actually reverse this order and go from specific to general. For example, the heifer from above may also be described as:

However, I criticized 3 and placed her third because she was coarse headed, thick necked, and tight flanked, lacking the overall femininity and angularity of 2.

In this case, the specific traits of *coarse headed, thick necked, and tight flanked* all add up to the general trait of *femininity*. This type of order is very effective for use in criticism or fault statements or when wrapping up the bottom-placing animal.

Terminology Tip #2—Be species and purpose specific with your terminology. The terminology you use must always match the class of livestock you are discussing. Use sheep terms when talking sheep *(dock, hindsaddle, breast, leg, rack, etc.)*, swine terms when talking swine *(ham, jowl, seam of ham, % lean, etc.)*, and cattle terms when talking cattle *(brisket, quarter, fleshing ability, yield grade, quality grade, etc.)*.

Also, reasons on market classes should include some carcass terminology, whereas breeding classes should make some refer-

ence to future production. Examples of using carcass terminology in reasons for market classes are as follows:

The black steer is more correctly finished and should hang a carcass with a more desirable quality grade.

The white barrow is overfinished and, when taken to the rail, will have the lowest percent lean.

Examples of using future production terminology in reasons for breeding classes are as follows:

---

4 was a more structurally correct, freer moving gilt that should be more functional in a confinement system.

---

1 was a higher-volume, easier-fleshing heifer that should be an easier-keeping cow.

Terminology Tip #3—Develop phrases and statements. The four examples given above are called statements or "spills." Over time, you will learn to construct phrases from simple terms and then arrange them into spills, which are very useful in giving oral reasons. However, you must be careful not to completely memorize the spills. Rather, you should learn to describe general ideas and traits in as many ways as possible. An effective terminology exercise or game that can be played with your teammates involves the coach calling out a general term (such as muscle) and a species (such as hogs) and each person taking turns making a complete statement using the term and species. The challenge is that everyone's statement must be different. This is a great way to hear a variety of descriptions for the same traits. Appendices 1 through 6 contain a variety of terms that can be used when presenting beef cattle, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, horse, and meats reasons.

Terminology Tip #4—Don't be redundant; vary your terms, transitions, and words of emphasis. If there is one thing that can hurt an otherwise accurate, well-delivered set of reasons, it is using the same terms repeatedly to describe the same traits in the same set of reasons. Reasons that include redundant terms are more difficult to listen to and result in lower scores. That's why you should learn several ways to describe such things as volume, muscle, structural correctness, balance, femininity, growth, fat, and carcass traits for each species. Playing the terminology game will expand your livestock vocabulary and help you use a variety of terms in your reasons.

The proper use of transitions and words of emphasis will also enhance the quality of oral reasons. Transitions are the words or phrases that connect the trait terms. Words of emphasis are used to further describe or call attention to a trait or idea and help draw a mental picture both in your mind and the official's mind. For example, in the set of Angus heifer reasons that follow, the transitions and emphatic words are in bold. Notice how the transitions usually introduce a statement *(in my top pair, in*

addition, however), whereas emphatic words usually are located within the sentence emphasizing a trait *(especially, appears, simply overpowers)*. Also notice the variety of transitions and terms used in this set.

I placed this class of Angus heifers 1-2-3-4.

***Starting the class** with the two highest-volume heifers **in my top pair**, I placed 1 over 2 as 1 combined volume and structural correctness to the highest degree. 1 was deeper ribbed, bolder sprung, and wider tracking on both ends. **In addition**, she was leveler from hooks to pins and moved out with a longer stride.*

***I grant** 2 was more feminine, being **especially** clean about the head and neck.*

***However, I faulted** 2 and placed her second because she was weaker topped and lighter muscled.*

***Moving to my middle pair**, I placed 2 over 3 as she was bigger volumed and deeper from foreribs to rear flank. **Furthermore**, 2 is carrying more condition than 3 and **appears** to be easier keeping.*

***I do admit** the slick-haired heifer was heavier muscled and thicker in her rear quarter.*

***However, I criticized** 3 and placed her third because she was coarse headed, thick necked, and tight flanked, lacking the **overall** femininity and angularity of 2.*

***Now, in my final pair**, I placed 3 over 4. 3 **simply overpowered** 4 in growth and performance. She was larger framed and bigger outlined, **exhibiting** more weight per day of age (W.D.A.).*

***I realize** 4 was a deeper bodied heifer, **especially** in her rear flank.*

***But this does not compensate for the fact** that 4 was the smallest-framed, slowest-growing heifer in the class.*

Terminology Tip #5—Do not use slang or flowery, fluffy words. There are certain words or phrases that can take away from a good set of reasons. The following list contains some of the common words or phrases to avoid or limit.

- **Number**—Refrain from using the word "number." If the animal's number is 4, then call him "4" just as if it were his name.
- **"It"**—Never use the neuter pronoun. Every animal has a sex.
- **"Better"**—Avoid using the word "better." It is not descriptive enough. Instead, use words such as heavier, thicker, cleaner, etc.
- **"Animal"** and **"Individual"**—Avoid using these words. Instead, use steer, bull, barrow, ewe, etc.
- **"Is a ... that is..."**—Avoid saying, *"4 is a steer that is thicker and heavier muscled."* It's too wordy. Say, *"4 is thicker and heavier muscled."*

- **"Lacks"** or **"Lacking"**—Use these words sparingly. For example, instead of saying, *"I fault 2 because he lacks muscling,"* be more direct and say, *"I fault 2 because he is lighter muscled."*

- **"For being..."**—Instead of saying, *"I fault 2 for being lighter muscled,"* say *"I fault 2 because he is lighter muscled."*

- **Words ending in "ing"**—Examples include *"faulting"* or *"placing."* Such words are weak. Instead, say *"I placed"* or *"I fault."*

- **"Kind of..."**—Instead of saying *"a fatter kind of gilt,"* say, *"a fatter gilt."*

- **"Carries"** or **"Carrying"**—Instead of saying, *"carries down into a thicker quarter,"* say, *"has a thicker quarter."*

- **"Was a..."** or **"is a..."**—Limit the times you follow the word "was" or "is" with the word "a" because you will have to use a noun, such as heifer, bull, gilt, or steer, somewhere in the sentence. For example, *"2 was a heifer with higher volume"* or *"2 was a higher-volume heifer."* Instead say *"2 was higher volume."*

- **Slang**—Avoid using "barnyard" slang, such as "runt," "dink," "gutless," "snake," "sorry," "showstopper," "hoss," "sweet," and "moves like a cat." This is fine for casual conversation but not for oral reasons.

- **Fluff and Flower**—Avoid using too much fancy terminology. There's a fine line between adding a little style to your oral reasons and overdoing it. Always try out new terms or fancy introductions on your coach during practice, not at the contest. Remember that accuracy is more important than fancy words.

Delivery and Presentation

Your coach says, "Time to work up your reasons on the Charolais bull class. I need the first set in 15 minutes." So, it's time to prepare your first set of oral reasons. You feel pretty comfortable with the class and you've got a good set of notes, but now you have to actually talk the class. Are you nervous? Of course. But remember, you are learning one of the most important skills that livestock judging and oral reasons can teach: being able to communicate effectively. Communication skills will benefit you throughout your life, regardless of your occupation. Is it OK to be nervous? Sure it is. Even great public speakers get nervous. However, one thing that all great speakers do is prepare. Adequate preparation will instill a sense of confidence that will help you overcome even the worst case of nerves.

How to Work Up a Set of Reasons

Preparing the oral presentation, or working up your reasons, can seem overwhelming for a beginner. However, using the same system or method of preparation for every set will make the process much easier. Here is a four-step process to help you work up a set of reasons.

Step 1—Prepare your notes. Remember that accurate and complete notes are the basis of a good set of reasons. Now that you know how to take good notes, you must learn how to use them. The first step in note preparation is to transfer ID and individual traits to the right-hand side of your notebook next to the pair notes. This is the first step in developing a mental picture of each animal in the class. Remember, do not get into the habit of writing out your reason statements. This is too time consuming and tends to limit your ability to visualize the animals.

Step 2—Develop a mental picture. This is the study time of reasons preparation. Concentrate on the ID traits and begin to visualize the individual animals in the class. Now, visualize the top pair, beginning with the top-placing animal and then the second-place animal. Refer to your notes on the top pair and begin to talk the pair in your mind as you see them. Apply the terminology statements that fit the comparative notes you took on this pair. When you feel comfortable with the top pair, move on to the middle pair. Finally, do the same for the bottom pair.

Step 3—Memorize the numbers, introduction, transitions, and closing statements. Although you should never completely memorize a set of reasons, you should memorize a few key elements. The first and easiest parts to memorize are the placing numbers. For example, if you placed the class 4-2-3-1, repeat "4-2-3-1" to yourself until it's committed to memory. Do the same with pairs, repeating "4-2, 2-3, 3-1" until they're committed to memory as well. This will reduce the chance of mixing numbers during the presentation.

The next thing to memorize is the introduction, as well as the statement that follows. It could be as simple as *"I placed this class of Hereford heifers 4-2-3-1,"* or it may contain a coupling statement such as *"Finding the two most structurally correct heifers to lead this class, I placed the class of Hereford heifers 4-2-3-1."* Regardless of how elaborate your introduction may be, you need to memorize it and the statement that comes next. There are two reasons this is a good strategy. First, it will get you off to a good start, and, second, it increases your chances of a good first impression.

You may also consider memorizing the transitions used to introduce the middle and bottom pairs as well as the words used to introduce your grant and fault statements for each pair. Remember to vary the transition terms within each set of reasons. Beginners may use the same transitions for every set of reasons and have them committed to memory prior to a contest (rarely will you speak to the same official more than once at the same contest).

The final element of your oral reasons that should be memorized is the closing statement. The first part of the closing statement is the criticism, or faults, of the last-place animal. Remember, do not be overly critical of the last-place animal; you may be talking to its owner.

The second part of the closing statement is the standard ending your coach may want you to use each time you judge a class. Some coaches may want you to simply say *"Thank you"* at the end of your bottom pair fault statement, or some may want you to end every set with *"For these reasons, I placed this class of ... 1-2-3-4."* Regardless of what closing statement you use, make

sure you know the final fault statement. The closing remarks are one of the key elements that will influence your score.

Remember, the introduction sets the tone of reasons, the discussion of the close pair(s) shows whether you truly saw the class, and the closing statement is usually the last thing the judge hears prior to writing down your score. You need to have the closing statement committed to memory so you can finish strong and leave a good lasting impression.

Step 4—Practice your delivery. You have approximately five to 10 minutes left before you give your set. Take the time to practice your delivery. Then practice again. And again. This part of the process is like a mental marathon where contests are won and lost. During the afternoon reasons session, you must maintain your concentration and not waste time or daydream. This is the time to fine-tune your delivery and decide which points you will emphasize and which emphatic words you will use.

How to Use Your Voice

The way you use your voice can have a tremendous effect on reasons scores. The proper use of volume, speed, inflection, and expression can have a major effect on the listening quality of your presentation. Think of a young child who is reading his first storybook. He may tend to have little expression in his voice and speak in monotone because he is concentrating on pronouncing every word correctly. Now, ask that same child to tell you the story he just read in his own words, without the book. Chances are you will be entertained with a story full of excitement and expression. It's the same way with oral reasons. Anything you can do to enhance the listening quality of your reasons will help your score.

Talk in a louder than conversational voice, but do not shout. Adjust your volume to the surroundings or background noise. Also, beware of talking too rapidly. Slow down when emphasizing a point. A good set of reasons may be spoiled by too rapid a delivery because the official cannot grasp everything that is said.

Use the correct voice inflection at the proper places. Inflection is the pitch or tone in your voice. In most cases when ending a thought or sentence, the inflection in your voice should go down. When you end a phrase or statement with a rising pitch, you are telling the listener that there is more to be said about the current thought. For example, grant statements usually end with a rising inflection because a fault or criticism statement will follow to reemphasize why the animal placed second in that pair.

Be expressive and use an emphatic tone when making your main points. You may also gesture slightly with your head, but try to refrain from using any other body gestures or movements because they could be distracting to the listener. Avoid being overly dramatic.

Finally, be yourself. Your reasons will be easier to present and will come across with more sincerity if you let your personality shine through.

Reasons Room Etiquette

1. When it's your turn to present a set of reasons, be prompt. When you get caught short between sets, ask the official for more time if you really need it. However, he or she may not give it to you.

2. Have your notes with you at all times, but never look at them during your presentation. Likewise, never let the official see your notes.

3. Enter the room with an air of confidence but not arrogance.

4. If the official offers you your placing card, refuse and say, "No, thank you." You are not required to take it, and it may only be a distraction.

5. Don't stand too close to the official. Eight to 10 feet is about right, depending upon the strength of your voice and size of the room.

6. Stand with your feet spread to about the width of your shoulders. If you have a tendency to rock when you are giving your oral reasons, try placing one foot slightly ahead of the other so you will remain still. Keep both hands behind your back. Stand erect, and try to avoid leaning over too far as you talk.

7. Look the official squarely in the eye when you talk, or at least give him or her that impression (look at his or her forehead). Above all, do not let your eyes wander.

8. NEVER give reasons while chewing gum or tobacco. In addition, be sure your shirt is tucked in, and remove your hat. Make sure your appearance and mannerisms are pleasant at all times.

9. If you stumble or draw a blank during your delivery, simply restate your previous statement, ending it with a falling inflection. Then picture the next animal and move on. Do not apologize or become overly emotional. The point to remember is that a stumble during your oral presentation is not a big deal as long as your recovery is good. A good analogy for this is a musician playing a song. If she misses a note, she does not stop and make a big deal out of it. She simply keeps playing or singing.

10. Remember, you are being judged from the time you enter the room until you leave. Be professional and courteous at all times.

On to the Next Set

Your first set of reasons is finished. What happens next? The reasons judge may ask you questions or may comment on your performance. Answer the questions to the best of your knowledge, and, above all, do not guess or lie. If you are not sure of the answer, then say so.

It's now time to get ready for the next set of reasons. Most high-school age divisions require two to four sets of reasons in a contest, whereas collegiate contests require five to eight sets. Make sure you understand the reasons order and know which class you will give next. Give yourself a two- to three-minute

break to clear your mind of the last set. You must leave everything that happened with the previous set behind and move on to the next. The process begins again. Remember, concentration is the key, and nervous jitters are normal. Learn to relax and enjoy the challenge. The thinking and speaking skills you are acquiring through this process will benefit you for a lifetime.

APPENDIX 1

Beef Cattle Judging Oral Reasons Terminology

Kevin Laurent, Extension Beef and Swine Associate, Aaron Arnett, Collegiate Livestock Judging Team Coach, and Richard Coffey, Ph.D., Extension Swine Specialist

Terms for Comparing Structural Correctness

Advantages
- More structurally correct
- More structurally sound
- Sounder and more athletic
- More freedom of flexibility off both ends
- Easier moving
- Freer, more fluid stride
- Longer, freer striding
- Traveled with a longer, more confident stride
- Takes a longer stride in front
- Truer tracking
- Traveled truer off his (front, rear) legs
- Bigger foot
- Even toed
- Deeper heel
- Stronger, more correct pasterns
- Moved with more flex to his hock
- More (correct, desirable) set to his hock
- Due to advantage in slope of shoulder
- More desirable slope of shoulder
- More angle to shoulder
- Squarer on feet and legs
- Leveler from hooks to pins
- Cleaner jointed
- Heavier boned
- Heavier structured

Criticisms
- Structurally incorrect
- Structurally unsound
- Short, tight stride off both ends
- Restricted in movement
- Small foot
- Shallow heel
- Toed out up front
- Splayfooted
- Pigeon-toed
- Weaker pasterns
- Bucked over in front
- Cow hocked
- Sickle hocked
- Straight in the hock
- Postlegged
- Tight in the hip
- Straight shouldered
- Steeper rumped
- Coarse jointed
- Finer boned
- Finer featured

Sample Structural Correctness Statements
- Was the soundest bull in the class, standing squarer both front and rear and moved out with a longer, freer stride.
- Was more structurally incorrect, being more restricted in his movement and taking a shorter stride.
- Exhibited a more desirable set to her hocks and moved out with a longer, truer step.
- Was a postlegged, short-strided, fine-boned heifer that was the most structurally incorrect of the class.

Terms for Comparing Balance

These terms can be effectively combined with structural correctness terms.

Advantages
- Nicer balanced
- Nicer profiling
- More stylish
- Eye-appealing
- Cleaner patterned
- Smoother
- Straighter lined, stronger topped
- Leveler (topped, hipped, rump)
- Squarer (hip, rump)

Criticisms

- Poorly balanced
- Ill made/designed
- Coarse
- Weaker topped
- Open shouldered
- Droops at his/her hip

Sample Balance Statements

- Was poorly balanced and ill designed, being open shouldered, weak topped, and steep rumped.
- Was nicer profiling, straighter lined, and easily the most structurally correct in the class.
- Was nicer balanced and cleaner made.
- Was poorer balanced and coarser made.
- Combined structural correctness, balance, and eye appeal to the highest degree.
- Was course shouldered and slack framed, with the least overall balance and style in the class.

Terms for Comparing Growth/Frame

Advantages

- Larger, growthier
- Larger framed
- Pounds heaviest
- Larger scaled
- Size and scale
- Appeared to be faster growing
- Appears to have the highest weight per day of age (W.D.A.) in class
- Highest performing
- Most performance oriented
- More future growth and outcome
- Bigger outlined
- Taller at the hip
- Taller fronted
- Longer cannon (indicates more growth potential)
- Longer bodied (rumped or hipped)
- Longer headed (indicates more growth potential)
- Longer fronted
- Showed greater length and extension through his/her front end
- Leaner at same age (indicates more growth potential)

Criticisms

- Lowest performing
- Slowest growing
- Lightest made
- Lower W.D.A. in class
- Pounds lightest
- Smaller framed
- Smaller outlined
- Shorter cannon
- Early maturing
- Less future and outcome
- Quicker patterned
- Short bodied
- Lower fronted
- Short fronted

Terms for Comparing Growth/Frame (For Yearling or Older Beef Cattle)

Advantages

- Moderately scaled
- Optimum in growth pattern
- Optimum growth curve
- Lower input brood cow prospect

Criticisms

- Extreme in frame
- Excessive framed
- Too late in maturity
- Higher-maintenance brood cow prospect

Sample Growth/Frame Statements

- Was a more moderately scaled, lower input brood cow prospect.
- Was extreme in frame, which could result in a higher-maintenance brood cow prospect.
- Excels the class in early growth, being the highest-performing, fastest-growing heifer in the class.
- Was slower growing, earlier maturing, showing less W.D.A.
- Was the pounds heaviest, stoutest-featured bull that best combines early growth with skeletal width and muscle.
- Was a frailer-designed bull that was poorest performing and narrowest made.

Terms for Comparing Body Capacity or Volume

Advantages

- Higher volume
- More capacious
- Broodier (females only)
- More overall dimension and capacity
- Wider chested
- Opens up more correctly behind his shoulders

- Bolder sprung
- Deeper flanked
- Longer bodied
- More skeletal width
- More arch and spring of foreribs
- Deeper and more expandable in his rib
- More circumference of heart
- Deeper ribbed
- Wider based
- More internal dimension
- Deeper bodied

Criticisms
- Lower volume
- Tight ribbed
- Narrow chested
- Narrow gauged
- Constricted in his foreribs
- Shallow bodied
- Flat ribbed
- Pinched in foreribs
- Tighter flanked

Sample Body Capacity or Volume Statements
- Showed more capacity, being longer bodied and wider sprung through the foreribs.
- Was narrower made, flatter ribbed, and harder doing.
- Was more rugged and bigger volumed, being wider sprung through fore and rear ribs and moved out with more natural base width.
- Narrower made, flatter ribbed, and tracked narrower off both ends.
- Was bigger volumed, having more spring and arch to her foreribs and carried her width back into wider, squarer pin.
- Was more restricted in her foreribs, being tighter in her heart girth and tapered from hooks to pins.

Terms for Comparing Degree of Muscle

Advantages
- Heavier muscled
- More expressively muscled
- More volume of muscle
- More natural thickness
- Thicker topped
- More muscle expression (loin, rump, stifle, quarter)
- Thickness and shape (top, stifle, lower quarter)
- Meatier topped
- Deeper quartered

- More bulge (top, stifle, and lower quarter)
- Wider tracking
- Greater center thickness of quarter
- Thicker, squarer rump
- Wider from stifle to stifle
- Squarer from hooks to pins
- Squarer hipped
- Beefier ended

Criticisms
- Lighter muscled
- Flatter quartered
- Flatter loin
- Narrow topped
- Tapered into his lower quarter
- Flatter stifled
- Shallow quartered
- Narrow tracking
- Tapered from hooks to pins

Sample Degree of Muscle Statements
- Was heavier muscled and showed more natural thickness down his top and through his quarter.
- Was narrower made, lighter muscled, and lacked the natural thickness of the bulls placed above him.
- Was a wider tracking, beefier-ended heifer.
- Was a narrow-based, flatter-quartered, lighter-muscled heifer.
- Simply had more muscle mass in his top, rump, and quarter.
- Was a weaker-topped, lighter-muscled steer that tapered from hooks to pins.
- She best combined volume and muscling, being wider based and exhibiting more natural thickness from end to end.
- She was finer-featured, with less skeletal width and natural thickness.

Terms for Comparing Carcass Merit of Market Steers

Advantages for Marbling or Quality
- More apt to grade Choice
- Higher-quality grading carcass
- Higher marbling score
- More packer acceptable

Criticisms for Marbling or Quality
- Lower/poorer quality grade
- Less likely to reach the Choice grade
- Less apt to grade Choice
- Lower marbling score

Advantages for Cutability or Yield Grade

- More desirable (lower numerical) yield grade
- Lower numerical yield grade
- Higher-cutability carcass
- Trimmer carcass
- Requiring less fat trim
- More muscular, more shapely carcass
- Yield a meatier (more muscular) carcass
- Poorer/lower cutability
- Larger rib eye
- More packer acceptable

Criticisms for Cutability or Yield Grade

- More retail fat trim
- Less muscular
- Lighter muscled
- Fatter
- Wastier
- Less desirable (higher numerical) yield grade

Advantages for Correctness of Finish

- More correctly finished steer
- Nicer-handling steer
- More nearly correct in the degree of condition down his top and over his ribs
- More uniformly (or evenly) covered
- Firmer and/or fresher handling
- More desirable degree of condition
- Freer of fat through the lower one-third
- Trimmer through (brisket, flank, cod, tailhead)
- More correctly finished over the 12th and 13th rib

Criticisms for Correctness of Finish

- Fatter
- Patchy
- Stale
- Barer handling/barer ribbed
- Softer handling
- Harsher handling
- Wastier
- Marginal degree of condition
- Excessive degree of condition
- Wasty through (brisket, flank, cod, tailhead)

Sample Carcass Merit Statements

- Was less desirable in his finish, being barer handling over his ribs and higher flanked.

- Was more correctly finished; therefore should hang a carcass with a more desirable quality grade.
- Expect to rail a fatter, wastier carcass with an excess amount of trimmable waste.
- Should harvest a meatier, trimmer carcass that should have a lower numerical yield grade.
- Was more correctly finished and heavier muscled, and should hang a carcass with a more desirable combination of quality and yield grades.

Terms for Comparing Body Condition of Breeding Beef Cattle

These terms can be effectively combined with volume and frame terms.

Advantages

- Easier fleshing
- More desirable degree of condition
- Freer of fat through the lower one-third
- Trimmer through (brisket, flank, and udder)
- Appears to be easier keeping

Criticisms

- Harder fleshing
- Harder doing
- Less condition
- Appears to be higher maintenance/input
- Wastier
- Excessive degree of condition
- Wasty through (brisket, flank, and udder)
- Fatter

Sample Body Condition Statements

- Desirable condition and added capacity should make her an easier-keeping female.
- Was tight ribbed, extreme framed, and carried less condition, which may result in a harder doing brood cow.

Terms for Comparing Sex Characteristics

Femininity Advantages

- More feminine
- More feminine through her head, neck, and shoulder
- More angular fronted
- Angular profile
- Longer/cleaner necked
- Smoother blending through her front end
- Blends smoother through neck shoulder junction
- Blends smoother from shoulder to foreribs

- More advanced in udder development
- More refined face and head
- Cleaner navel

Femininity Criticisms
- Coarse fronted
- Short necked
- Round shouldered
- Coarser made
- Wasty fronted
- Leathery female
- Coarser face
- Thicker necked
- Wastier navel

Masculinity Advantages
- More rugged
- More masculine
- More testicular development
- More desirable scrotal shape/circumference
- Tighter sheath
- Stouter featured

Masculinity Criticisms
- Refined
- Less testicular development
- Loose sheath
- Twisted testicle
- Wastier sheath
- Frailer featured

Sample Sex Characteristic Statements
- Was more feminine, being longer and cleaner necked and angular in her profile.
- Was the coarsest-headed, thickest-necked, least-feminine heifer in the class.
- Was a stouter-featured, rugged-made bull that appeared to have the largest scrotal circumference in the class.
- Was a more-refined, frail bull that lacked the overall growth and masculinity to place higher today.

Sample Sets of Beef Cattle Oral Reasons

EXAMPLE 1

Hereford Heifers (3-4-1-2)
*My placing of the Hereford heifers was 3-4-1-2. **I started** with the dark red heifer, as she combined femininity, balance, and structural correctness to the highest degree. 3 was the most structurally correct heifer that took the longest, freest stride of any heifer in the class. She was also straighter lined, nicer profiling, and cleaner fronted than 4. **I realize** 4 was heavier muscled than 3, but she was the coarsest-made heifer in the class, so I placed her second.*

*In my middle pair, **I prefer** 4 over 1. 4 was a higher-volume heifer that appears to be easier fleshing. 4 had more spring of rib and was wider based than 1. **I admit** that 1 was a more feminine, eye-appealing heifer than 4, but she was the narrowest-tracking, shallowest-bodied heifer in the class.*

*Yet, in my final comparison, **I still liked** 1 over 2. 1 was simply a growthier, higher-performing heifer that was sounder moving than 2. **I grant** 2 was higher volume, deeper ribbed, and heavier muscled than 1, **but I** placed her last because she was the slowest-growing, most ill-designed heifer in the class. Thank you.*

Critique for Hereford Heifer Reasons
Good points: (1) pretty good discussion of the top pair; (2) good organization, with general terms given first, followed by detailed terms to further describe the general traits; (3) an ID trait was used; and (4) a variety of transitions (shown in bold print) were used.

Areas to improve: This set is fairly typical for beginners in that the top pair was discussed in more detail than the middle or bottom pairs. Adding an extra statement that further describes the general terms used in the reasons for the middle and bottom pairs would improve this set of oral reasons tremendously. Also, one additional ID trait should be used, if possible.

Overall evaluation: Provided all of the information is accurate, this is a fairly good set of oral reasons. If the reasons are well delivered, they would likely earn a contestant an oral reasons score in the low 40s (out of 50) in a youth contest. Remember, accurate reasons that are well delivered are the key.

EXAMPLE 2

Crossbred Market Steers (1-4-2-3)
*I placed this class of Crossbred Market Steers 1-4-2-3, starting with the two heaviest-muscled, most correctly finished steers in my top pair. In my initial comparison, I preferred 1 over 4, as 1 had a **decided** advantage in structural correctness. He was freer moving with a better angle and set in both his front and rear leg columns. In addition, the baldy steer was pounds heavier and handled with a softer finish, **enabling** him to hang more total pounds of high-quality product. I do admit that 4 was heavier muscled and squarer hipped, but I faulted the red steer for being straight shouldered, postlegged, and lacking the overall correctness of the top steer.*

*Now, in my intermediate pair, 4 **overpowered** 2 in muscle and cutability. 4 exhibited truer meat animal shape and more natural thickness from end to end. Additionally, the red steer was trimmer through the lower one-third and leaner over the 12th rib and should hang a carcass with a lower numerical yield grade. I do realize that the black steer was sounder moving than 4 and should hang the highest-marbled carcass in the class, but this*

worked to his disadvantage as 2 was overfinished and will hang the wastiest carcass requiring the most fat trim.

Nonetheless, in my final placing it was 2 over 3. 2 was sounder made and higher volume, being deeper ribbed and bolder sprung. *Furthermore*, the black steer was **simply** more market acceptable in a quality grade system. I do acknowledge that the white steer was larger framed, heavier muscled, and leaner, but I criticize 3 for being shallow bodied, tight flanked, and lacking the finish necessary to be acceptable in today's market. Thank you.

Critique for Crossbred Market Steer Reasons

Good points: (1) good use of coupling the top pair on muscling; (2) good use of ID traits; (3) excellent variety on transitions; and (4) effective use of emphatic words (shown in bold print).

Areas to improve: There is some redundant use of certain carcass terms. For example, the word "hang" is used four times. This set of oral reasons could be improved considerably by using more variety to describe the carcass traits.

Overall evaluation: This is a pretty good set of oral reasons. If more variety in the carcass terminology is used, and assuming everything is described accurately, a good delivery for this set of reasons should give a contestant the potential for a high score.

EXAMPLE 3

Gelbvieh Bulls (2-3-1-4)

I placed the Gelbvieh bulls 2-3-1-4. 2 was the most massive, heaviest-muscled, and highest-volume bull in the class. **Ideally**, I would like to see him smoother out of his shoulder.

Nonetheless, in my top pair of higher-performing red bulls, it was 2 over 3. 2 was a deeper-ribbed, bolder-sprung, and higher-volume bull. **In addition**, he was a heavier-muscled bull with more shape and expression through the loin, rump, and quarter. *Yes*, 3 was a larger-framed, longer-sided, nicer-profiling bull that was more structurally correct and cleaner fronted. **But** he was also flat ribbed and narrow based, so he placed second.

*Nonetheless, **in my middle decision***, it was 3 over 1. 3 was a bigger-outlined, longer-patterned, growthier bull that profiled with more length and extension. **Furthermore**, 3 is carrying more condition and appears to be an easier-keeping bull. **I do realize** that 1 was a leaner, heavier-muscled, cleaner-sheathed bull that should produce offspring excelling in cutability. **But, at the same time**, he was round in his muscle pattern, coarse in his shoulder, and small in his frame. So I placed 1 third.

Moving to my final pair of lower-performing black bulls, it was 1 over 4. 1 was a heavier-muscled, larger-framed, growthier bull that had more body capacity. He tracked with more width to his chest as well as more depth and spring of rib. **I'll be the first to admit** that 4 was the cleanest-fronted, smoothest-shouldered bull in the class. **But this does not compensate for the fact** that he was also the smallest-framed, lightest-muscled, shallowest-bodied bull of the four and, **quite simply**, offered the least herd sire potential in the class. Thank you.

Critique for Gelbvieh Bull Reasons

Good points: (1) good use of coupling in both the top pair (on growth) and the bottom pair (on color); (2) an excellent variety of transitions and emphatic words (shown in bold print); and (3) good use of reference to future performance for bull 3 (e.g., "appears to be an easier-keeping bull") and bull 1 (e.g., "should produce offspring excelling in cutability").

Areas to improve: Replacing more conventional grant and fault phrases with "yes" and "but" can be effective if the right voice inflection and expression is used during the delivery. However, it is usually safer for beginners to use more traditional grant and fault phrases.

Overall evaluation: This is a good set of oral reasons and, if the delivery is good, should earn a contestant an excellent reasons score. However, the variety and choice of transition phrases may make delivery of this set more challenging.

APPENDIX 2

Sheep Judging Oral Reasons Terminology

Kevin Laurent, Extension Beef and Swine Associate, Aaron Arnett, Collegiate Livestock Judging Team Coach, and Richard Coffey, Ph.D., Extension Swine Specialist

Terms for Comparing Structural Correctness

Advantages

- More structurally correct
- Easier moving
- Freer, more fluid stride
- Longer, freer striding
- Squarer on feet and legs
- More correct in the set of his legs
- More correct in his feet, pasterns, and knees
- Straighter and stronger on both front and rear legs
- Squarer placed legs
- Stands more correctly on all four legs
- Wider tracking
- Stronger pasterns
- Stood sounder and stronger on his pasterns
- More correct knees
- Straighter topline
- Stronger, more correct behind shoulders
- More level (rump, dock)
- Stands on more substance of bone
- Stands on more rugged bone

Criticisms

- Structurally incorrect
- Short, restricted stride
- Moved underneath himself
- Stands narrow based
- Weak pasterns
- Coon footed
- Toes out
- Splayfooted
- Toes in
- Pigeon-toed
- Buck-kneed
- Knock-kneed
- Straight hocked
- Postlegged
- Excessive set to the hock
- Sickle hocked
- Stands close at the hocks
- Cow hocked
- Stands bowlegged behind
- Straight shouldered
- Broken topped
- Broken behind the shoulders
- Steeper (rump, dock)
- Fine boned
- Light boned
- Off in the mouth

Sample Structural Correctness Statements

- More structurally correct and stood on shorter, stronger, straighter pasterns, with a more correct set to her knees.
- More structurally incorrect, being postlegged behind and buck-kneed up front.
- Had a stronger topline, was more nearly level in the rump, and handled himself more correctly on his rear legs.
- Weaker-topped, sickle-hocked ewe that is broken behind the shoulders and the least functional in the class.
- Was heavier boned, straighter legged, and squarer standing.

Terms for Comparing General Appearance and Balance

Advantages

- Nicer balanced
- Nicer profiling
- More stylish
- Eye-appealing
- Smoother made
- More powerfully made
- Cleaner patterned
- More symmetry, more balance
- Was more symmetrical blending more smoothly from front to rear
- Straighter lined
- Smoother shouldered
- Squarer (dock, rump)
- Taller fronted

- Longer necked
- More extension throughout
- Neck blends smoother into shoulder
- Trimmer fronted
- Lays in neater and tighter in shoulder
- Neater, tighter neck and front
- Higher neck set
- Set higher in neck extension
- More chiseled through the front end
- Stronger topped
- Longer (hindsaddle, loin, rump, dock)
- More level rumped/docked
- Longer and leveler out his dock
- Longer bodied
- More rugged, heavier boned
- Tighter hided

Criticisms
- Poorly balanced
- Weak topped
- Breaks behind shoulder
- Weak behind the shoulders
- Steep (rump, dock)
- Droops out dock
- Low fronted
- Loose framed
- Slack framed
- Short sided
- Short coupled
- Short fronted
- Heavy fronted
- Coarse shouldered
- Open shouldered
- Ewe necked
- Lower neck set
- Set lower in neck extension
- Coarser, thicker neck and shoulder
- Coarse
- Plain made
- Frail
- Wrinkled about the neck (pelty, loose hided)

Sample Appearance and Balance Statements
- A more stylish, eye-appealing ewe that was straighter lined and showed more extension through the front end.
- Was a weaker-topped ewe that was open and rounder in her shoulder design and lower in her neck set.

- Was nicer balanced, straighter lined, and laid in smoother and more chiseled at the shoulder.
- Was a poorer-balanced lamb, being heavier fronted and steeper rumped.
- Was nicer profiling in that she was taller fronted, stronger topped, and leveler rumped.
- Was a more symmetrical ewe that blended more smoothly from front to rear.

Terms for Comparing Growth and Performance

Advantages
- Growthier
- More size and scale
- Larger framed
- Bigger outlined
- Taller fronted
- Bigger statured
- Taller at the shoulder
- More extended (extension)
- Showed greater length and extension
- Longer, stretchier, more length
- Later maturing
- More potential for future growth
- More extended in growth curve
- More apparent weight per day of age (W.D.A.)

Criticisms
- Smaller framed
- Short coupled
- Short fronted
- Less apparent W.D.A. in class
- Low set
- Conventional patterned
- Smaller outlined
- Shorter in the growth curve
- Early maturing

Sample Growth and Performance Statements
- More extended growth curve, being taller fronted and standing on more length of cannon.
- More advanced in her growth curve, being shorter necked, coarser shouldered, and rounder in her muscle pattern.
- Growthier, larger-framed ewe with more apparent W.D.A.
- Slower-growing, lower-set, conventional-patterned ewe with the least future outcome in the class.
- Was a pounds heavier ram with more size and scale.

Terms for Comparing Body Capacity or Body Volume

Advantages
- Higher volume
- More capacious
- Deeper bodied
- Wider chested
- Wider based
- Bolder sprung
- More spring of fore and rear ribs
- Deeper ribbed
- Deeper hearted
- Wider through floor of chest
- More spring of rib
- More arch of rib
- Roomier middle
- Deeper flanked
- More expansive about her rib cage

Criticisms
- Shallow bodied
- Narrow based
- Shallow made
- Shallow through fore and rear ribs
- Shallow ribbed
- Flat ribbed
- Tighter ribbed
- Tight in the foreribs
- Pinched in foreribs
- Tight in heart
- Narrow gauged
- Narrow chested
- Constricted in the heart
- Tighter flanked

Sample Body Capacity or Volume Statements
- Exhibited more spring of foreribs and carried this volume advantage into a deeper rear flank.
- Narrower-made, tighter-flanked ewe that showed the least capacity in the class.
- Was a more rugged and bigger volumed ram that was more expansive in his rib cage.
- Was a finer-boned, frailer-made ewe that was flat ribbed and lower volumed.
- Was a stouter-featured, wider-chested ram that should be easier keeping.

Terms for Comparing Degree of Muscle

The following muscle terms may be used for either breeding sheep or market lamb classes. However, the more descriptive terms in this list should be avoided for breeding ewe reasons.

Advantages
- Heavier muscled
- Thicker made
- Showed more natural thickness from end to end
- More bulge and expression
- Showed more expression of muscling
- More muscular (forearm, top, rump, leg)
- Meatier, deeper (rack, loin)
- Meatier topped
- Thicker through (top, stifle, lower) leg
- Longer loined
- Longer hindsaddle
- Stronger back or loin
- More muscular loin
- Stronger top
- Deeper loined
- More muscular turn over the loin
- Fresher, more muscular top
- Meatier rack
- Deeper loin edge
- Fuller and squarer out his (rump, dock)
- Thicker leg
- Heavier, deeper, thicker, plumper leg
- More inner bulge and outer flare to leg
- More expression through the center leg
- Deeper through twist
- Wider tracking
- Meatier, more muscular leg
- Heavier leg
- Longer, deeper, and thicker through his/her lower leg

Criticisms
- Lighter muscled
- Less muscular
- Tapers from end to end
- Shallow loined
- Short hindsaddled
- Short loined
- Easy in the back
- Weak top
- Shelly loin
- Stale top

- Narrow out his (rump, dock)
- Tapers out his dock
- Pinched at the dock
- Flat in stifle
- Narrow and tapering leg
- Narrow, shallow leg
- Light muscled leg
- Flat leg
- Short leg

Sample Degree of Muscle Statements
- Was heavier muscled, with more natural thickness to his loin and leg and moved out with more stifle expression.
- Was narrower, lighter muscled, and flatter in his muscle design and pattern.
- Had more definition of muscle over his rack and through his hindsaddle.
- Was lighter muscled, shallower loined, and tapered through the dock.
- Was meatier topped and squarer rumped with more inner bulge and outer flare to the leg.
- Was a narrower-based, weaker-topped ewe that lacked the overall natural thickness of the other ewes in the class.

Terms for Comparing Carcass Merit of Market Lambs

Advantages
- Hang a more muscular, more shapely carcass
- Meatier carcass
- Rail a higher-cutability carcass
- More muscular carcass
- Trimmer carcass
- Rail a carcass with a higher leg conformation score
- Has a carcass with less retail fat trim
- Rail a carcass yielding more total pounds of (desirable, merchandisable, retail) product
- Meatier or heavier-muscled carcass
- More correctly finished carcass
- Higher percent of hindsaddle
- Longer, trimmer carcass
- Higher percentage of salable lean
- Higher percent of preferred cuts
- More desirable yield grade
- Hangs a carcass with more product from the last rib back
- Will have more rack, loin, and leg

Criticisms
- Lower cutability carcass
- Lighter-muscled carcass
- Fatter carcass
- Wastier carcass
- Lower leg conformation score
- Less total pounds of product
- More fat trim
- Less total pounds of desirable product
- Lower percent of hindsaddle
- Lower percentage of salable lean
- Lower percent of preferred cuts
- Least valued carcass

Sample Carcass Merit Statements
- Due to his advantages in muscle and trimness, he should rail a carcass with superior cutability.
- Will hang the least pounds of red meat in the class.
- Will hang the most total pounds of product from the last rib back.
- Was a short-coupled, lighter-muscled wether that will yield a lower percentage of salable lean.
- Was a leaner-made lamb that should harvest a carcass with a more desirable yield grade.

Terms for Comparing Conditioning, Finish, and Leanness

Advantages
- Leaner
- Trimmer
- More correctly finished (market only)
- More desirable degree of finish (market only)
- More uniform finish (market only)
- More correctly conditioned
- Lighter conditioned
- Freer of excess condition
- Trimmer through (breast, foreribs, rear rib)
- Cleaner breast
- Trimmer middled (primarily market)
- Cleaner middled (primarily market)
- Tighter middled (market only)
- Cleaner pattern
- Firmer handling (market only)
- Fresher handling (market only)
- Harder down his top (market only)
- Cleaner through lower one-third

Criticisms

- Thin
- Bare
- Fatter
- Wasty, wastier
- Overfinished (market only)
- Excessively finished (market only)
- Uneven in finish (market only)
- Heavier conditioned
- Wasty breasted (market only)
- Fuller breast (market only)
- Wasty through his/her lower one-third
- Wasty middled (primarily market)
- Heavy middled (primarily market)
- Softer handling (market only)
- Soft finish (market only)
- Soft over foreribs (market only)
- Patchy over his ribs (market only)
- Rough over the rump and dock (market only)

Sample Finish and Leanness Statements

- Was trimmer patterned and lighter conditioned, with less cover over his fore and rear ribs, and was cleaner through his breast and lower one-third.
- Was an overfinished wether, being softer made and heavy middled.
- More correctly finished and firmer handling, with less cover down the top and over the ribs.
- Was an extremely thin, harsh made ewe that appears to be the hardest doing in the class.

Terms for Comparing Sex Characteristics, Fleece and Skin, and Breed Character

Sex Characteristics

Advantages

- More femininity
- More feminine headed
- Longer, cleaner necked
- More refined head
- More masculine-headed ram

Criticisms

- Lacks femininity
- Plain headed
- Coarser headed
- Shorter, thicker necked
- Less masculine-headed ram

Fleece and Skin

Advantages

- Denser/tighter fleece
- Greater crimp
- More uniform fleece from shoulder to britch
- Heavier shearing fleece
- Finer
- Longer staple
- More uniform grading fleece
- Freer of black fiber
- More character
- More uniform crimp
- Should shear more pounds of clean fleece
- Bolder crimp of fiber

Criticisms

- Loose/open fleece
- Lacks crimp
- Uniform
- Pounds light fleece
- Lacks character
- Contains black fiber
- Coarse in her britch wool
- Harsh
- Dirty belly wool

Breed Character

Advantages

- More (breed) character
- More open-faced (Hampshire, Rambouillet, and Shropshire)
- More open in the eye channels
- Blacker about the points (Suffolk)
- More correct set to the ear
- More complete (fuller) wool cap (Hampshire, Rambouillet, Oxford, and Columbia)
- Longer, more bell-shaped ear (Suffolk)
- Longer headed (Suffolk)
- Smaller, thicker ear (Hampshire and Dorset)
- Shorter muzzle (Dorset)

Criticisms

- Long, narrow head
- Roman nosed
- Wooly headed
- Wooly eared

- Parrot mouth
- Short eared (Suffolk)
- Brown legged (Suffolk)
- Brown headed (Suffolk)
- Smaller eared (Suffolk)
- Broken wool cap (Hampshire, Rambouillet, Oxford, and Columbia)
- Black in the poll (Hampshire)
- Large ear (Hampshire and Dorset)
- Longer muzzle (Dorset)
- Wool blind

Sample Sex Characteristics and Breed Character Statements

- Was more stylish, feminine, and longer and cleaner in her neck, tied in neater at the top of her shoulder, and had a more refined head.
- Lacked femininity as she was shorter necked, coarser shouldered, and coarser and plainer about her head.
- Was a heavier-boned, more masculine-headed ram with more testicular development.
- A more feminine, refined head with a more desirable ear set.
- Was a coarser-headed ewe with a shorter, thicker ear.
- Was plainer headed and more off type.
- More open-faced and darker at her points, with more Hampshire breed type and character.
- More desirable Suffolk breed character, as she was longer faced and carried a longer, more bell-shaped ear.
- Less desirable Suffolk breed character, as she was shorter headed and had a shorter ear.
- More desirable Suffolk breed character, being blacker about her points.
- Less desirable Suffolk breed character, as she carried more wool extension on her head.
- More desirable Hampshire breed character, being darker at her points.
- Poorest Hampshire breed character, as she was lighter at her points.

Sample Fleece and Skin Statements
- Longer, denser fleece with more character.
- Shorter, more open fleece that lacked character.
- Brighter, denser fleece.
- Duller, more open fleece that had dark fiber.

Sample Sets of Sheep Oral Reasons

EXAMPLE 1

Suffolk Ewes (3-2-1-4)

*I placed this class of Suffolk ewes 3-2-1-4. I started the class with 3, **as she** best combined growth, volume, and breed character. I preferred 3 over 2 in my initial pair, **as she was** a larger-framed ewe that stood on more length of cannon. 3 was also a higher-volumed ewe that was deeper ribbed and bolder sprung. Finally, she had the best Suffolk head in the class, **as she was** blacker at her points and had a more bell-shaped ear. I do admit that 2 was a more feminine ewe, **as she was** longer necked and neater and tighter in her shoulders. However, I criticized her, **as she was** sickle hocked on her rear legs and was the lightest-muscled ewe of the class.*

*In my middle decision, it's still 2 over 1, **as she was** a more feminine ewe that was more refined in her head and neck. She was a more symmetrical ewe that blended more smoothly from front to rear. In addition, 2 was more correct and higher in her neck set and leveler docked. I do grant that 1 was blacker at her points, and she was also heavier muscled, being thicker through her center and lower leg. But she places third, **as she was** weak topped, steep rumped, and labored in her movement off her rear legs.*

*In my final placing, I like 1 over 4, **as she was** simply larger framed and more extended, exhibiting more potential for future growth. Moreover, the blue tagged ewe was easily more feminine featured. There is no doubt that 4 is a higher-volumed ewe in proportion to her body size, being especially deeper ribbed. Furthermore, she is heavier muscled, **as she was** wider based and thicker in the lower leg. But that does not compensate for the fact that she has the least Suffolk breed character, being brown on her legs and poll, and is the coarsest-fronted, most conventionally framed, and earliest-maturing ewe in the class. Thank you.*

Critique for Suffolk Ewe Reasons

Good points: (1) good organization of the top pair; (2) excellent discussion of the breed character traits; (3) finished strong with a thorough discussion of the bottom pair; and (4) good variety of transition phrases and terms for introducing the grant and fault statements.

Areas to improve: The phrase "as she was" (shown in bold print) was overused. It was used a total of nine times.

Overall evaluation: The proper use of sheep terms and breed character discussion makes this set seem authentic to other sheep people. A common error for beginning judges with a cattle background is to give sheep reasons that sound like cattle reasons.

EXAMPLE 2

Hampshire Rams (4-1-2-3)

*I liked the Hampshire Rams 4-1-2-3. I started with the heavier-muscled, growthier rams in 4 and 1. **In aligning my opening pair**, I placed 4 over 1, as 4 is **easily** the largest, fastest-growing sheep in the class. Furthermore, 4 is the heaviest muscled, longest profiling ram in the class. 4 would **simply** add the most performance to his progeny. **I know that 1** is a longer fronted, more upheaded sheep, but I placed 1 second, as he is smaller and earlier maturing.*

*In differentiating my intermediate comparison, I still preferred 1 over 2, as the buck with the most testicular development is straighter lined and more correctly balanced. 1 lays correctly into his shoulder and appears more youthful and later maturing. I grant 2 is a heavier-structured, stouter-featured, wider-chested ram, **but 2 places in the bottom pair**, as he is the smallest-framed, poorest-balanced ram in the class.*

*With these concerns in mind, I still placed 2 over 3 in the bottom pair, as 2 has an **overwhelming advantage** in muscle and skeletal width. **When compared to 3**, 2 is much wider chested, stouter featured, and masculine headed. I would expect 2 to **inject more muscle and base width into his progeny**. **I admire** the extension and balance in 3, as he is **comparatively** longer in his neck and shoulder. **But I close** with 3, as he is the narrowest, least-expressive ram in the class. Thank you.*

Critique for Hampshire Rams Reasons

Good points: (1) good transition and emphatic/descriptive word use (shown in bold print); and (2) very good use of masculine terminology (such as stout featured, testicular development, buck, etc.)

Areas to improve: (1) Redundant terminology was used three times in this set of reasons. The first time was in the top pair, where two successive sentences ended with the phrase "in the class." The second time was also in the top pair, when the words "longest " and "longer" were used. The third and most noticeable time was the use of the phrases "stouter featured" and "wider chested," which was used to describe ram 2 twice (in both the middle and bottom pair reasons); (2) There was no discussion of Hampshire breed character; and (3) The bottom pair criticism of ram 3 was somewhat brief, considering the fact that he was beat by a ram (ram 2) that was described as "the smallest-framed, poorest-balanced ram in the class."

Overall evaluation: This set of reasons is somewhat brief, but that is OK. Reasons do not have to be long to be effective. However, redundant terminology is much more noticeable in brief sets.

EXAMPLE 3

Crossbred Market Lambs (2-4-3-1)

I aligned the Crossbred Market Lambs, all of which were wethers, 2-4-3-1. In my initial comparison of the two trimmer, heavier-muscled lambs, I chose 2 over 4, as 2 was the longest-loined, longest-rumped lamb in the class with the least excess fat throughout. Therefore, I would expect 2 to hang the highest percentage of hindsaddle product on the rail. In addition, when compared to 4, 2 was pounds heavier and would likely yield more dollars to the packer and producer. I do realize that the black wether was nicer profiling. He was higher in his neck set, tighter and cleaner fronted, and leveler docked. But if I could redesign 4, I would make him larger framed and longer loined.

*Nevertheless, in my intermediate pair, I used 4 over 3, as 4 was meatier, heavier muscled, and displayed more **natural thickness** to his top. 4 was wider and deeper in his loin, exhibited more **natural thickness** over his rump and down through his stifle, and would hang a heavier-muscled, more shapely carcass. **As for the pelty Hampshire-appearing lamb, I placed him third**, as he tapered in his rump, was flatter through his stifle and lower leg, and **was lighter-muscled** than my top pair.*

Moving to my bottom pair of lighter-muscled, higher-conditioned market lambs, I selected 3 over 1, as 3 had a decided advantage in natural thickness. When compared to 1, 3 showed more meat animal shape over his rack and handled with a wider, deeper loin, carrying down to a more three-dimensional leg. I know that the Suffolk-appearing lamb was longer loined and was the largest framed in the class. However, I criticized 1 and placed him last, as he was both the fattest and lightest muscled, having the least to offer the market chain. Thank you.

Critique for Crossbred Market Lamb Reasons

Good points: (1) very effective coupling of traits in the top and bottom pairs; (2) good use of ID traits throughout the set of oral reasons (such as black wether, pelty Hampshire-appearing lamb, Suffolk appearing lamb); (3) a variety of carcass terms were used; and (4) the lack of a grant statement in the middle pair was handled effectively with the phrase "as for the pelty Hampshire-appearing lamb, I placed him third" (shown in bold).

Areas to improve: A phrase such as "2's combination of carcass merit and performance would likely yield more dollars to the packer and producer" would more effectively make the point when describing the top animal. The phrase "natural thickness" was used in back-to-back sentences. Due to the fact that no grant statement was used in the middle pair, an emphatic word to further separate the top pair from the bottom pair should have been inserted in the phrase "was lighter muscled" (see last sentence of the middle pair). For example, "was simply lighter muscled" or "was especially lighter muscled."

Overall evaluation: Overall, this is a very good set of oral reasons, and, if accurate and delivered effectively, the contestant should score well.

APPENDIX 3

Swine Judging Oral Reasons Terminology

Kevin Laurent, Extension Beef and Swine Associate, Aaron Arnett, Collegiate Livestock Judging Team Coach, and Richard Coffey, Ph.D., Extension Swine Specialist

Terms for Comparing Structure and Soundness

Advantages

- More structurally correct
- More structurally sound
- Sounder made
- More confinement adaptable as she is....
- More functional
- More mobile
- Sounder feet and legs
- Freer or easier moving
- More fluid stride
- Longer and looser in his stride
- Has more freedom of movement
- Longer strided
- Straighter tracking
- Looser structured
- Looser made
- More flexible in her spine
- More even toe size
- Sets down a bigger foot
- Angulation/cushion of pastern
- More correct set to her pasterns
- Moves out with more cushion to his pasterns
- More slope to his pasterns
- More cushion up front
- Truer from knee to ground
- More flex (give) through her hock or knee
- Looser jointed
- Cleaner or flatter jointed
- More desirable slope to his/her shoulder
- Better angle to the shoulder
- More nearly level topped
- More nearly level rump
- Longer rumped
- Higher tail setting
- Heavier bone
- More durable, heavier structured
- Greater diameter of bone

Criticisms

- Unsound
- Structurally incorrect
- Least structurally correct
- Least confinement adaptable
- Least functional
- Ill designed
- Tighter moving
- Short strided
- Poor moving
- Tighter made
- Tighter wound
- Stiff and peggy behind
- Tight jointed
- Swollen or puffy jointed
- Tighter spined
- Uneven toe size
- Small footed
- Stiff or steep in her pasterns
- Straight in her pasterns
- Over in his knees
- Buck-kneed
- Stiffer and straighter in the hocks
- Postlegged
- Sets under on hind legs
- Cow hocked
- Steep rumped
- Low tail setting
- Short rumped
- High topped
- Too high in his/her arch
- Straight shouldered
- Weak top
- Broken topped
- Broken behind the shoulders
- Low behind the shoulders
- Finer boned
- Frail featured
- Refined

Sample Structure and Soundness Statements

- Is a sounder-structured gilt who has more flex and cushion to her knee and pastern, allowing her to have more reach off her front end.
- Was a heavier-boned, bigger-footed boar that was more durable and functional in his overall design.
- Was a tighter-hipped, straight-shouldered gilt that labored on the move, making her the least confinement adaptable in the class.
- Was more structurally sound, as he stepped out with more flex and give to his hip, hocks, and pasterns, enabling him to move with a more fluid stride.
- Was a straighter-fronted, tighter-spined barrow that took the shortest step in the class.

Terms for Comparing Growth and Production

These terms can also be effectively used to describe frame size and maturity.

Advantages
- Growthier
- Higher performing
- Pounds heavy
- Appears to have taken fewer days to 250 lb
- Appears to be faster growing
- More apparent weight per day of age (W.D.A.)
- More youthful appearing, later maturing
- Larger (framed, scaled, outline)
- More production oriented
- Bigger skeletoned
- More size and scale
- Longer cannon
- More flexible in end market weight

Criticisms
- Lower performing
- Appears to have taken the most days to 250 lb
- Slowest growing
- Poorer doing
- Earlier maturing
- Smaller framed
- Small scaled, short bodied
- Pounds light
- Shorter cannon
- Less flexible in end market weight

Sample Growth and Production Statements

- Is the biggest-skeletoned, largest-outlined gilt that offers the most market weight flexibility.
- Is wider constructed and faster gaining and should take fewer days to 250 lb.
- Is the smallest-framed, earliest-maturing barrow that offers the least potential producer profit.
- Is bigger outlined, pounds heavier, and more production oriented.
- Was a short-fronted, short-sided, small-scaled gilt that was the poorest doing in the class.

Terms for Comparing Degree of Muscle

Advantages
- Heavier muscled
- More muscle mass
- Meatier
- More natural thickness
- More descript in muscle shape
- More expressively muscled
- More true meat animal shape
- More (correct, desirable) in her muscle (design, pattern) [mainly used for breeding swine]
- Longer and looser in her muscle design (mainly breeding)
- More rear base width
- Wider tracking when viewed from the rear
- Wider through the center portion of the ham
- More shape to the ham
- More outer turn to the ham
- Deeper ham
- More width to his ham
- More expression of ham
- Most flare to the ham loin junction
- Bigger stifle
- Longer hammed
- More three-dimensional in ham shape
- Wider rumped
- Squarer and thicker (rumped, hipped, ham)
- More muscle volume from blade to hip
- Channels a deeper groove from his blade back
- More distinct groove down his (top, loin)
- More muscular down her (top, loin)
- More correctly shaped down her (top, loin)
- More expressive down her (top, loin)
- Meatier spread down his (top, loin)
- Squarer more muscular (top, loin)
- More turn of muscle down the (top, loin)
- More distinct dimple above the tailhead

Criticisms

- Lighter muscled
- Less descript in muscle shape
- Less true meat animal shape
- Too terminal in her muscle design (mainly breeding)
- Tight in her muscle design (mainly breeding)
- Tight wound (mainly breeding)
- Round muscled (mainly breeding)
- Bunchy muscled (mainly breeding)
- Less rear base width
- Narrow tracking when viewed from the rear
- Narrower through the center portion of the ham
- Flat hammed
- Less three-dimensional in ham shape
- Tapers through the (hip, ham)
- Tapers from front to rear
- Narrow rumped
- Less descript (top, loin) shape
- Plainer down her (top, loin)

Sample Degree of Muscle Statements

- Has the most turn and shape of top and the most flare to her ham loin juncture.
- Is the lightest-muscled and narrowest made gilt that has the least-width behind.
- Displayed a distinct groove down his top and a dimple above his tailhead. Plus, exhibited more bulge and thickness to the center and lower portions of his ham.
- Came out squarer and wider at his hip, where he exhibited more volume and expression of muscling to all portions of his ham.
- Tapered through his hip and was flat through his lower ham, therefore lacking the overall muscling to place higher.

Terms for Comparing Leanness (Fat)

Advantages

- Leaner/trimmer
- Trimmest, cleanest made
- Cleaner made
- More correctly finished
- Leanest, trimmest barrow
- Rawer designed
- Cleaner conditioned
- Cleaner top
- Leaner shape of top
- Cleaner turn of top
- Cleaner over the loin edge

- Freer of fat down the top
- More shoulder blade action
- Showed more blade action, movement
- Cleaner blades
- Cleaner elbow pocket
- Cleaner in the lower one-third
- Cleaner jowl
- Cleaner throated
- Trimmer in the seam of the ham
- More prominent at the ham-loin junction
- Cleaner and more prominent tailhead

Criticisms

- Fatter/wastier
- Wasty
- Heavier condition
- Overfat
- Overdone
- Overfinished
- Round topped
- Deeper probing
- Fatter over the loin edge
- Least blade action
- Wasty middled
- Wastier in the lower one-third
- More condition in elbow pocket
- Wastier in the seam of the ham
- Wasty jowl
- Countersunk tailhead

Sample Leanness Statements

- Is a heavier-conditioned, wasty-middled gilt that pushes more fat in her elbow pockets.
- Cleaner-throated barrow who is freer of fat through his lower one-third.
- Was overfinished, wastier through his lower one-third, and displayed the least blade action in the class.
- Leaner-designed barrow that revealed more blade action on the move, was cleaner topped, and trimmer middled.
- Puts more correct composition on a bigger frame, as she is a cleaner-fronted, trimmer-middled gilt who reads with a leaner, more muscular turn to her loin edge.

Terms for Comparing Balance

Advantages

- Nicer balanced
- More style and balance

- More eye-appealing
- More proportionally balanced
- Leveler design/leveler topped
- Straighter lined
- High tail setting
- Taller fronted
- Taller at point of the shoulders
- More upheaded
- Longer necked, longer fronted
- Longer sided
- Cleaner fronted
- Cleaner headed
- Cleaner throated
- Neater jowl
- Firmer jowl

Criticisms
- Poorly balanced
- Off balanced
- High topped
- Steep rump
- Broken topped
- Low fronted
- Short necked
- Cresty necked
- Short fronted
- Coarser fronted
- Coarser headed
- Wasty jowl
- Short sided (coupled)

Sample Balance Statements
- Is a more eye-appealing, upheaded, cleaner-throated barrow.
- Was nicer profiling, being taller and cleaner fronted and leveler hipped.
- Was a more correctly-designed barrow that was taller fronted, more nicely balanced behind his shoulder and was simply more attractive on the profile.
- Was the most poorly balanced barrow in the class, being low fronted, high-topped, and steep rumped.
- Was cresty necked and broken topped, lacking the overall balance and completeness to compete in the class.

Terms for Comparing Volume (Stoutness)

Advantages
- Higher volume/more capacious
- More internal dimension
- Wider based
- Wider chested
- Wider (constructed, centered)
- Wider chest floor
- More width of skeleton (or more skeletal width)
- More opened up underneath
- Wider (between/ through) his blades
- Bigger bladed
- Bolder bladed
- Bolder fronted
- More spring of rib
- Greater (arch, curvature) to the center rib
- Bolder sprung
- Wider sprung
- Deeper chested
- Deeper ribbed
- Deeper foreribs
- Deeper flanked
- Stouter designed
- More durably designed
- Heavier boned
- More rugged
- Heavier structured
- More substance of bone
- Longer bodied
- Longer sided
- Broodier (breeding only)
- Roomier gilt (breeding only)

Criticisms
- Lower volume
- Least capacious
- Narrow skeleton
- Less skeletal width
- Narrow based
- Narrow made
- Narrow chested
- Flat ribbed
- Narrow and flat shouldered
- Shallow ribbed/tight ribbed

- Shallow bodied
- Shallow foreribs
- Shallow flanked
- Tight shouldered
- Shorter bodied
- Shorter sided
- Frailer featured
- Finer boned
- Stands close (front, behind)

Sample Balance Statements
- Is a longer-bodied, deeper-flanked, more productive appearing gilt who comes at me more opened up underneath.
- Was a stouter made, wider-centered, higher-volume barrow that stood on a greater diameter of bone.
- Was a heavier-constructed barrow that had more width of skeleton and stepped out on a bigger, bolder blade.
- Was a narrow-chested, flatter-ribbed gilt that appeared to be harder doing.
- Was fine boned, flat shouldered, and tighter flanked, being the least durable in the class.

Terms for Comparing Sex Characteristics

Advantages (Gilts)
- More prominent underline
- More evenly spaced underline
- More uniformly spaced teats
- Finer, more desirable texture
- More correct teat (nipple) design
- Set further forward
- Greater number of functional nipples
- More uniform in teat size and shape
- More refined underline
- Higher-quality underline
- More feminine underline
- Cleaner, more feminine head and neck
- More maternal appearing

Criticisms (Gilts)
- Flat underline
- Uneven spacing
- Coarse underline
- (Inverted, pin, blunt, blind) nipples or teats
- Fewer functional nipples or teats
- Lacks mammary development
- Coarser headed

Advantages (Boars)
- More testicular development
- Cleaner, tighter sheath
- More rugged/muscular appearing
- More aggressive/active
- Sounder underline (maternal-line boars)

Criticisms (Boars)
- Least testicular development
- Wasty sheath
- Frail, fine boned
- Slower, least aggressive

Sample Sex Characteristics Statements
- Is the higher-volumed, more maternal appearing gilt of the pair and has a finer textured underline.
- Is tight ribbed, fine boned, and has a pin nipple on her right side.
- Was a bigger-outlined gilt that was especially longer and more feminine about her front.
- Was a longer-bodied gilt that had the most prominent and evenly spaced underline in the class.
- Was structurally incorrect, being wasty sheathed, blunt, and coarse in his underline, offering the least potential as a gilt sire in the class. (Maternal-line boars only.)

Terms for Comparing Carcass Merit

Advantages
- Rail a carcass requiring the least fat trim
- Yield a carcass with a higher percentage muscle
- Have a greater lean yield
- Have a leaner, more shapely carcass
- More muscular, shapelier carcass
- Have a higher percentage of primal cuts
- Have a carcass with the highest-percentage lean
- Heavier-muscled carcass
- Higher lean-to-fat ratio
- More total pounds of pork
- Higher percent high-priced cuts
- More total pounds of ham and loin
- Hang a carcass with more value
- If sold on lean value, should generate more premiums

Criticisms
- Most fat trim
- Lowest percentage muscle or lean
- Most discounts in a lean value system
- Lowest-valued carcass

- Carcass with the smallest loin eye area
- Fattest at the 10th rib

Sample Carcass Merit Statements

- Expect her to go to the cooler requiring the most fat trim and grade and yield discounts.
- Should lead to the most shapely, muscular carcass with the highest percentage lean when harvested.
- Should yield a carcass with more pounds of merchandisable product.
- Due to his advantage in leanness and muscularity, should hang a thicker, meatier carcass with more total pounds of primal cuts.
- Was the lightest-muscled, fattest barrow that, when taken to the hook, would generate the least profit in lean value system.

Sample Sets of Swine Oral Reasons

EXAMPLE 1

Crossbred Market Hogs (4-2-3-1)

I placed the Crossbred Market Hogs 4-2-3-1. I started with 4, the only gilt, as she is the nicest-balanced, heaviest-designed hog that I would call more than adequate in her muscle. More specifically, she is the barest bladed, rawest topped, and freest of fat in her lower third.

Consequently, I would expect her to rail the highest percent lean. Additionally, she is a big-framed, long-bodied gilt that has more flex to her hock. I realize that 2 is the thickest-shouldered barrow that has the most muscle content through his ham. But, comparatively, he is smaller scaled and shows more evidence of fat along his loin edge and into his ham seam.

However, his decided advantage in natural width of skeleton places him over 3 in my middle pair. Not only is he wider based, but he also shows more muscle expression and meat animal shape to his top and down into his stifle. I would, therefore, expect him to rail a more packer-oriented carcass. I do admire 3 for being bigger scaled and pounds heavier. However, I faulted him and placed him third as he simply lacks the overall muscle expression and dimension of my top two hogs. He is also less structurally correct, as he is straight shouldered and breaks at his loin.

Now in my final pair of hogs that are more incorrect in their skeletal composition, extension places 3 over 1. 3 is bigger, longer bodied, cleaner headed, and has more dimension to his top and through his hip. I realize the white barrow is looser structured and sounder footed, but at the same time he is the lightest muscled and will likely rail a carcass with the most fat trim of the four.

Critique for Crossbred Market Hog Reasons

Good points: (1) good variety of terms; (2) excellent transition to the middle pair (shown in bold); and (3) good coupling statement in the bottom pair.

Areas to improve: The top pair opening statements could be more effectively organized. The statement "that I would call more than adequate in her muscle" is somewhat weak. The way the top pair reads, it sounds as if the most complete hog wins the class. It also sounds as if this hog is the leanest in the class and larger framed than 2. An alternative opening would be: "Although my class winner was not the heaviest-muscled hog in the class, the lone gilt was simply the most complete market hog, combining..." Then talk about 4's advantages over 2 in terms of leanness and frame.

Overall evaluation: Overall, this is a very good set of oral reasons. A more effective opening statement would make this an excellent set of oral reasons.

EXAMPLE 2

Yorkshire Breeding Gilts (2-3-1-4)

I placed this class of Yorkshire Breeding Gilts 2-3-1-4. In my top pair, 2 was wider based, heavier skeletoned, and more flexible in her movement. She came at me with more width between her blades and more shape and spring to her foreribs, displayed more width through her chest, and had more muscle volume when viewed from the rear. In addition, she was more mobile, having more flex in her spine, more rotation in her hip and flex in her hock. I realize 3 was more feminine, being more refined in her teat size and more extended through her front end, showing more Yorkshire femininity. **However, I criticized** 3 and place her second, as she was narrower based, flatter ribbed, and tighter in her hip, giving her a shorter, choppier stride off her rear legs.

Moving to my middle pair, I preferred 3 over 1, as she was larger outlined, growthier, and leaner. 3 is longer sided, pounds heavier, exhibiting more growth/day of age. In addition, 3 was carrying less condition throughout and was more feminine, being more extended in her neck, more prominent and refined, and having higher-quality Yorkshire underline. I grant 1 was heavier structured and exhibited more spring to her rib cage, more width through her chest, and more muscle volume through her rump. **However, I criticized** 1 and placed her third, as she was shorter sided and smaller outlined. She was also less feminine, being coarser in her underline lacking the refinement and femininity of my top pair. In addition she was lighter muscled, lacking width and dimension to her hip and ham.

Now, in my bottom pair, I placed 1 over 4 as 1 was heavier skeletoned as she stood with more base width. 1 was heavier boned and stepped out with a larger, softer foot. She had more width between her blades, was more expanded in her upper rib, was deeper chested, and had more width in the lower one-third of her skeleton. In addition, 1 has more slope to her shoulders and took a longer stride off her rear legs, as she was looser in her hip, longer and smoother in her muscle design, and had more flex to her hock. I admit that 4 was trimmer and more feminine, being more prominent in her teats. **However, I criticize** her and place her last for being the narrowest, poorest-moving gilt in the class. 4 was flatter ribbed, shallower bodied, straighter footed, and tighter in her hip. In addition 4 was the pounds lightest, least growthy gilt in the class.

Critique for Yorkshire Breeding Gilt Reasons

Good points: Very detailed terminology.

Areas to improve: (1) too lengthy and almost too detailed (Remember to use a couple of general terms to introduce the big differences, and then break the general terms into details. The use of general terms to introduce a pair placing helps the reasons official to follow along more effectively.); (2) used the same criticism phrase in each pair discussion (shown in bold); and (3) no ID traits, such as ear notches and pigment, were used.

Overall evaluation: Great use of a variety of terminology, but this set needs to be briefer and better organized.

EXAMPLE 3

Duroc Boars (4-3-2-1)

I liked the Duroc Boars 4-3-2-1. I started the class with a pair of boars that best combine growth, muscle, and correctness of structure. In my initial comparison, I preferred 4 over 3, as 4 is the widest-chested, stoutest-featured boar in the drive. 4 overpowers the class with muscle shape, growth, and performance in an aggressive stride. I would expect 4 to sire the most desirable progeny in production. I know that 3 is leaner and, therefore, more expressive, but 3 goes second, as he is less rugged and growthy when compared to 4.

In differentiating my intermediate comparison, 3 easily places over 2, as 3 is leaner and heavier muscled. 3 shows a bigger turn to his loin edge and is deeper and wider in the lower ham. 3 is also cleaner headed and barer bladed than 2, evidencing a leaner composition. I admire 2 for his openness of foreribs and chest, but this does not compensate for the fact that 2 is the smallest-framed, fattest boar in the drive.

__Nonetheless, it is 2's decided advantage in muscle and width of skeleton that aligns him over 1 in the closing pair__. 2 is wider and stouter featured. Likewise, 2 should provide more muscle and substance to his progeny. I grant the darkest red boar is ultralean when compared to 2, but 1 ends the class, as he is the most two-dimensional boar in the drive. 2 is the lightest-muscled and narrowest-chested boar that would make the least addition of muscle and ruggedness to a production setting.

Critique for Duroc Boar Reasons

Good points: (1) good variety of transitional phrases; (2) effective use of boar /masculine terminology, such as "stoutness," "ruggedness," and "aggressiveness"; and (3) excellent transition to the bottom pair discussion [shown in bold].

Areas to improve: Adding an additional ID trait, such as ear notch or testicle size, would improve this set of oral reasons.

Overall evaluation: Reasons do not have to be lengthy to score well. This is an excellent example of a brief set of reasons that should yield a very good score.

APPENDIX 4

Dairy Cattle Judging Oral Reasons Terminology

D. P. Dickson, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Edited by George Heersche Jr., Extension Dairy Specialist, University of Kentucky

Any discussion of dairy cattle requires the use of accurate, meaningful terminology. In presenting reasons for a placing, it is necessary to use comparative phrases and expressions that are clearly understood by whomever may be listening. Developing an extensive vocabulary of dairy cattle terms is a prerequisite to becoming a skillful dairy cattle judge.

The accompanying list is not a complete collection of all the terms used by dairy judges. Instead, it is a guide that students may use to broaden their dairy cattle vocabularies. The phrases and expressions in the list are comparative rather than descriptive. A good judge always compares cattle to other animals in the class; he never describes them. Weaknesses (e.g., winged shoulders) are not included in the list for reasons of clarity. All the terms listed are desirable characteristics and should be considered strengths or advantages for the animal that possesses them.

Because accuracy is absolutely necessary in presenting reasons, each phrase on the list must be completely understood before a student attempts to add that phrase to his or her vocabulary. Examples will be necessary to teach the correct usage of many of the expressions. Do not attempt to memorize the list overnight. Developing a vocabulary is a gradual process.

Certain phrases are set off by quotation marks. These are expressions sometimes used by experienced cowmen when they give reasons. They are less formal but often more colorful than the phrases commonly used. When carefully used in a set of reasons, the colorful expressions can add interest and grab the listener's attention.

Terms for Comparing Frame

Height
- Taller, more upstanding
- Taller at the point of the withers
- More stature
- More height at the point of withers
- Taller in the front end

Head
- More breed character about the head
- More femininity about the head
- More alertness and style
- Stronger through the jaw
- Wider in the muzzle
- More style about the head
- Brighter eye

Shoulders
- Smoother in the shoulder
- More tightly built or more firmly set at the point of shoulder
- More tightly built or more firmly set at the top of the shoulder
- Fuller in the crops
- More smoothly blended through the shoulder
- More smoothly blended with the neck and body
- More tightly built or more firmly set at the point of the elbow

Topline
- Straighter down her topline
- Stronger in the loin
- Higher in the chine
- Smoother down the top
- Wider in the loin
- "Harder down that topline"
- "Harder in the loin"
- "Straighter on top"

Rump
- More correct tilt from hooks to pins
- Longer and leveler from hips to pins
- Longer from hips to pins
- Wider through the pins
- Neater at the tailhead
- More correct in the tailhead setting
- Wider through the rump
- Wider at the thurls
- Thurls more centrally placed between hooks and pins

Terms for Comparing Feet and Legs
- Straighter in her rear legs (as viewed from the side or from behind)
- More correct set to the hock
- Cleaner through the hock (more cleanly molded)
- Handles her legs more correctly on the walk
- Moves more correctly on her rear legs
- Stronger bone (more substance of bone)
- Cleaner bone
- Flatter bone
- Stronger in the pasterns

- Shorter in the pasterns
- Deeper in the heel
- Walks more correctly on her front feet
- "Tracks straighter ahead on hose front feet"
- "Moves or travels more comfortably"
- "Tracks straighter on the move"
- Front legs straighter and more squarely placed
- Steeper foot angle

Terms for Comparing Dairy Character
- More length and stretch
- More openness of ribbing
- More open in her conformation
- More angularity throughout
- More clean-cutness
- Has the appearance of more dairyness
- Longer and leaner in the neck
- Cleaner down her topline
- More clean-cut about the hips and pins
- Flatter (leaner or thinner) in the thighs
- More quality and refinement
- Sharper at the point of withers
- Longer from end to end
- "Spells more milk"
- "Looks like more milk"
- "A wetter cow from end to end"
- "Not so thick in the pants"
- "Milkier looking cow"
- More sweep to the ribs
- More feminine
- More refined
- Exhibits correct dairy form

Terms for Comparing Body Capacity

Heart and Chest
- Fuller in the heart
- Deeper in the heart
- Wider through the chest floor
- Fuller in the crops
- Fuller at the point of the elbow
- Fuller behind the shoulders
- Deeper in the foreribs
- More power in the front end
- More width and strength up front
- "More strength up front"
- "A strong, more powerful cow"
- "A cow with more strength and power"

Barrel
- Longer in the barrel
- Deeper in the barrel
- More spring of foreribs
- More spring of rear rib
- Deeper in the rear rib
- Deeper in the flank
- More body capacity
- "Room for more feed"
- "More capacity throughout"
- "More total capacity"

Terms for Comparing Mammary System

Fore Udder
- Longer fore udder
- Fore udder that carries further forward
- Less bulgy fore udder
- Fore udder that blends more smoothly into the body wall
- Stronger fore udder attachment
- Tighter fore udder attachment
- Firmer in the fore udder attachment
- Smoother in the fore udder attachment
- "Tied on more tightly"
- Moderate length
- Ample capacity

Rear Udder
- Higher in the rear udder attachment
- Wider in the rear udder attachment
- More height and width of rear udder
- More fullness of rear udder
- More correct shape to the rear udder
- More symmetry of rear udder
- Fuller in the rear udder

Udder Support
- Stronger in the median suspensory ligament
- A stronger center attachment
- More clearly defined halving in the udder
- Carries her udder higher above the hocks
- "An udder carried further off the ground"
- "More halving when viewed from behind"

General Udder Terms
- Larger, more capacious udder
- More symmetry of udder
- More balance of udder (quarters more evenly balanced)

- Leveler udder floor
- Less quartering
- More bloom of udder
- More youthful udder

Udder Quality
- More quality in the udder
- Softer, more pliable udder
- More desirable texture
- Less meatiness
- Less fleshiness in the udder
- Less congestion in the udder
- More tortuous veining

Teats and Teat Placement
- More correct size and shape of teats (more correct length and diameter)
- Teats placed more correctly beneath each quarter
- Teats hanging more nearly plumb
- Squarer teat placement

- More evenly placed teats
- More correct teat size
- Teats placed more squarely under the fore (rear) quarters
- More correct teat placement as viewed from the side

Miscellaneous Terms
- A more youthful cow
- More style and balance
- More harmonious blending of parts
- More symmetry and balance
- A cow with more bloom
- More balance throughout
- More size, scale, and substance
- A smother cow throughout
- A cow with more quality from end to end
- More eye appeal
- More smoothly blended throughout
- Stylish/fancy/beautiful
- More desirable

APPENDIX 5

Horse Oral Reasons Terminology

Robert Coleman, Ph.D., Extension Equine Specialist, and Kristen Janicki, Extension Equine Associate

Terms for Comparing Conformation

General Terms
- The best combination of...
- Dominated the class in terms of his/her ...
- Represents the ideal (breed)
- Due to his/her advantage in muscling and overall quality
- I realize and appreciate the fact that all of the horses in today's class possess superior quality

Terms Used to Describe Balance
- Longer, more sloping shoulder
- More angulation to the shoulders
- Deeper barreled horse
- Deeper ribbed, wider chested
- More prominent withers with a more functional top to bottom line ration
- More spring of rib
- More powerful topline
- Shorter and stronger over the top
- A nicer turn of croup
- Stronger, more horizontal over the back, loin, and croup
- Less course about the head
- Noticeably deeper chiseled from eyes to muzzle
- Brighter about the eyes
- Wider between the eyes
- Had a longer, leaner neck
- Higher tying from the neck into the shoulder
- More naturally arching neck
- Typier, more elegant head

Terms Used to Describe Structure and Travel
- Is more structurally correct by being...
- Stood on straighter legs
- Stands more squarely on all fours
- Cleaner about the knees and hocks, with a finer and flatter cannon bone
- More substance of bone
- Stood on a straighter column of bone
- More correct angel at the hock
- Longer, more sloping pasterns

- Was a wider traveling horse
- Moves out straighter and more correct at the walk/trot
- Tracked straighter and with a truer stride
- Moved out with a longer stride, showing more freedom of movement
- More flexion to the hocks, with more elevation and reach from the forehand
- More forward impulsion
- Stylistic and athletic mover

Terms Used to Describe Muscling
- Showed a greater volume of muscling over a larger frame
- Exhibited more ripple and bulge of muscling
- Was more powerfully muscled in his/her shoulder, loin, hip, and through the plan of his stifle
- Stood on a wider, more desirable foundation
- More evidence of V muscling
- V-ed up deeper in the front
- Exhibited more muscle development in his/her quarter
- Wider from stifle to stifle
- Bulging through the inner and outer gaskins
- Forearm muscling extended from shoulder to knee

Terms Used to Describe Breed, Sex Character, and Quality
- Was a more stylistic, eye-appealing, higher-quality horse
- Shows more breed character about the head and neck
- Showed more masculinity/femininity
- Finer hair coat
- Showed more beauty, bloom, and vigor

Terms for Describing Faults

General Terms
- Lacked balance and quality
- Smallest, least balanced horse in the class
- Lacked style and presence
- Could merit no higher placing in today's class

Terms Used to Describe Balance
- Lightest-quartered mare/stallion/gelding
- Lacked the capacity and depth of those I placed above him

- Long back
- Was long and weak over the topline
- Steep shoulder and croup
- Mutton withered
- Thick throat latch
- Low neck attachment at the chest
- Neck joined in low into steep shoulders
- Cresty neck
- Long face
- Long ears
- Coarse head

Terms Used to Describe Structure and Way of Going

- Shorter, straighter in the pasterns
- Longer, weaker in the pasterns
- Postlegged
- Bench kneed
- Pigeon-toed
- Cow hocked
- Sickle-hocked individual
- Crooked through the front legs with the cannon bones coming out of the side of the knees
- Calf kneed
- Buck-kneed
- Splayfooted
- Round, course bone
- Too fine of bone
- Stocked up behind

- Lacked definition of tendons
- Appeared to be the least athletic
- Coarser-moving individual
- Paddled out with the right front leg
- Winged in
- Tracked shorter and choppier
- Rough, pounding gait
- Tracked with more deviation from a straight plane of motion

Terms Used to Describe Muscling

- Was the narrowest-based horse, lacking the muscling of the ideal
- Lacked volume and dimension through the hip, gaskin and stifle
- Least definition of stifle and inner and outer gaskins
- Least V-ed up in the pectoral region
- Showed little definition of the shoulder and forearm region

Terms Used to Describe Breed, Sex Character, and Quality

- Showed the least breed character
- Lacked a powerful jaw
- Lower quality haircoat
- Lacks style, symmetry, and animation
- Was feminine about his head
- Was masculine about her head

Resources

AQHA *Competitive Horse Judging*

Purdue University *Horse Judging Manual*

APPENDIX 6

Meats Judging Oral Reasons Terminology

Benjy Mikel, Ph.D., Extension Meats Specialist

Beef Carcasses

Trimness
- Less fat over the (rib eye, lower rib, round, sirloin, loin, loin edge, rib, chuck, round collar, flank, plate, or brisket)
- Less cod or udder fat
- Less internal fat (kidney, pelvic, and heart fat)

Muscling
- Larger, more symmetrical rib eye
- Longer, thicker, wider, plumper-cushioned round
- Longer, more bulging round
- More muscular round
- Thicker sirloin
- More prominent sirloin
- Fuller, thicker loin
- Plumper rib
- Thicker chuck
- More bulging chuck
- More muscular

Quality
- Higher degree of finer marbling
- Greater amount of marbling
- Finer, more evenly distributed marbling
- Brighter cherry red rib eye
- More youthful cherry red rib eye
- Finer textured rib eye
- Whiter external fat covering
- More youthful bone

Cutout Phrases
- Higher percent of boneless, closely trimmed retail cuts
- Higher percent of boneless, closely trimmed steak and roast meat

Criticisms
- Revealed a small, soft, dark-colored, coarse-textured rib eye
- A thinly muscled, tapering round
- Lower percent of boneless, closely trimmed retail cuts
- Lower percent of boneless, closely trimmed steak and roast meat

- The fattest, wastiest, lightest-muscled carcass in the class
- Combined trimness and muscling to the lowest degree
- Would yield the lowest percentage of boneless, closely trimmed retail cuts
- Lowest-yielding carcass
- Excess fat over the round, loin, rib, rib eye, and chuck
- Combined quality, trimness, and muscling to the lowest degree
- Would yield retail cuts with the lowest merchandising value

Beef Ribs

Trimness
- Less fat over the (rib eye, lower rib, back, lower blade, blade face, or rib ends)
- Less seam fat in the blade face
- Less lip region fat

Muscling
- Larger rib eye
- More symmetrical rib eye
- Fuller, wider back
- Deeper, wider blade face
- Meatier (greater area of exposed lean) blade face
- Greater area of exposed lean in the blade face
- Larger eye in the blade face

Quality
- Higher degree of finer marbling in the rib eye
- Greater amount of marbling in the rib eye
- Finer, more evenly dispersed marbling in the rib eye
- More evenly distributed marbling in the rib eye
- Greater amount of marbling in the blade face
- Brighter cherry red rib eye and blade face
- More youthful cherry red blade face
- Firmer, finer textured rib eye and blade face
- Less ossification in the thoracic buttons

Cutout Phrases
- A greater amount or a higher percentage of boneless, closely trimmed retail cuts
- A higher cutout value

- A higher percentage of steaks and roasts
- Higher percent of trimmed steak and roast meat
- A higher lean-to-fat ratio

Quality Phrases
- Would yield retail cuts with a higher merchandising value
- Would yield steaks and roasts with a higher merchandising value
- Would yield retail cuts with a higher consumer appeal
- Would yield steaks and roasts with a higher consumer appeal

Beef Loins

Trimness
- Less fat over the (loin eye, loin edge, flank edge, sirloin-shortloin region, sirloin, or sirloin face [top sirloin, bottom sirloin])
- Less tail region fat
- Less seam fat in the sirloin face
- Less kidney fat (if observable)
- Less pelvic fat

Muscling
- Larger loin eye
- More symmetrical loin eye
- Fuller, wider short loin (back)
- More prominent sirloin
- Deeper, wider sirloin face
- Meatier sirloin face
- Larger top sirloin
- Larger bottom sirloin
- Greater area of exposed lean in the sirloin face

Quality
- A firmer, finer-textured loin eye and sirloin face
- A brighter cherry red loin eye and sirloin face
- A higher degree of marbling in the loin eye
- A greater degree of marbling in the loin eye and sirloin face
- Finer, more evenly distributed marbling in the loin eye and sirloin face

Cutout Phrases
- Higher percentage of boneless, closely trimmed steaks
- Higher percent of boneless, closely trimmed retail cuts

Beef Shortloins

Trimness
- Less fat over the (loin eye, loin edge, flank edge, back [strip loin], sirloin face, or top loin)

- Less kidney fat
- Less seam fat in the sirloin face
- Less tail region fat

Muscling
- Larger loin eye
- More symmetrical loin eye
- Deeper, wider sirloin face
- Meatier sirloin face
- Greater area of exposed lean in the sirloin face
- Larger top loin
- Larger tenderloin
- Deeper lumbar vertebrae

Quality
- Higher degree of finer marbling in the loin eye
- A greater amount of marbling in the sirloin face
- A firmer, finer-textured loin eye and sirloin face
- A brighter cherry red loin eye and sirloin face

Criticisms
- The lowest quality shortloin in the class with an insufficient amount of marbling to grade Choice
- The darkest, coarsest textured lean in both the loin eye and the sirloin face
- Combined quality and cutability to the lowest degree
- The fattest, wastiest shortloin in the class with the lowest cutout value
- Would yield the lowest merchandising value

Beef Rounds

Trimness
- Less fat over the (round face [rump and tip or knuckle], flank side, cushion, or heel)
- Less cod fat (never udder fat)
- Less seam fat in the round face
- Less pelvic fat

Muscling
- Deeper, wider round face
- Meatier round face
- More area of exposed lean in the round face
- Larger rump face
- Larger knuckle face
- Deeper, wider cushion
- Plumper cushion
- More bulging cushion
- Fuller heel

Quality
- Greater amount of marbling in the round face
- Greater amount of marbling in the rump or knuckle face
- Firmer, finer-textured round face
- Brighter cherry red round face

Cutout Phrase
- Higher percent of trimmed retail cuts
- Higher percent of trimmed steak and roast meat
- Higher muscle-to-bone ratio

Pork Carcasses

Trimness
- Less fat opposite the first rib, last rib, and last lumbar vertebra
- Less fat over the collar, in the belly pocket, along the navel edge, over the sternum, along the ventral side, in the clear plate, over the center loin
- Less fat opposite the loin eye and over the lower rib
- A trimmer carcass from end to end
- A higher lean-to-fat ratio

Muscling
- Heavier-muscled carcass
- Plumper-cushioned, heavier-muscled ham
- Heavier-muscled (or more muscular) ham, sirloin, loin, and shoulder
- More muscular ham with a meatier heel and shorter shank
- Fuller-fleshed, deeper-chined loin
- Fuller-fleshed, more-bulging sirloin
- Wider, more bulging shoulder
- Plumper-cushioned ham
- Larger loin eye

Quality
- Greater amount or higher degree of feathering between the ribs
- Greater amount or higher degree of fat streaking in the exposed lumbar lean
- More desirable reddish pink color of belly lean or lumbar lean
- Higher degree of marbling, coupled with a firmer, finer-textured, more reddish pink color of lean in the loin eye

Cutout Phrases
- Higher lean-to-fat ratio
- Higher percent on bone-in, closely trimmed four lean cuts
- Higher percentage of closely trimmed retail cuts from the ham, loin, Boston butt, and picnic

- Higher percentage of bone-in, closely trimmed edible portion
- Higher percentage of bone-in, closely trimmed four lean cuts

Criticisms
- Fattest, wastiest, lowest-yielding carcass
- Lowest lean to fat ratio
- Lower percent on bone-in, closely trimmed four lean cuts
- Lightest muscled
- Excess trimmable fat
- Combined muscling and trimness to the lowest degree
- Yield the lowest percentage of boneless, closely trimmed retail cuts from the ham, loin, Boston butt, and picnic

Fresh Hams

Trimness
- Less fat beneath the butt face, alongside the butt face, over the collar, over the forecushion, over the center section, over the cushion
- Less seam fat in the butt face
- Less fat extending from the butt face to the cushion, over the collar and forecushion
- A higher lean-to-fat ratio

Muscling
- Heavier-muscled ham
- Longer, wider, deeper center section
- More bulging cushion and meatier forecushion
- Larger area of exposed lean in the butt face
- Deeper, wider butt face

Quality
- Firmer, more uniformly colored lean
- More reddish pink color of lean in the cut surface
- Higher degree of marbling in the butt face
- Firmer lean with less muscle separation

Cutout Phrases
- Higher percent of trimmed retail cuts
- Higher percent of bone-in, closely trimmed center cut slices
- Higher percent of bone-in, closely trimmed edible portion
- Higher lean-to-fat ratio
- Higher lean-to-bone ratio

Criticisms
- Fattest
- Wastiest
- Lowest yielding

- Lightest muscled
- Lower percent of trimmed retail cuts
- Lowest percentage of closely trimmed center slices
- Narrowest, most tapering center cut section
- Lower lean-to-fat ratio
- Lower lean-to-bone ratio

Miscellaneous Terminology and Phrases

Verbs
- Shown
- Exhibited
- Presented
- Indicated
- Had
- Contained
- Disclosed
- Excelled
- Produced
- Displayed
- Revealed
- Possesses
- Expressed
- Exposed
- Manifested (quality only)
- Featured

Grant Statements
- Grant
- Admit
- Recognize
- Concede
- Realize
- Acknowledge

Transition Words
- In addition
- Furthermore
- Additionally
- Moreover

Power Words
- Immediately
- Obviously
- Without a doubt
- Unquestionably
- Easily
- Most
- Certainly
- Substantially
- Readily
- Without hesitation
- Clearly
- Undoubtedly
- Without question
- Unmistakably
- Much
- Significantly
- Definitely
- Especially
- Positively
- Subsequently

Miscellaneous
- Least
- Sufficient
- Resulting
- Coupled
- Youthful
- Dispersed
- Also
- Insufficient
- Adequate
- Prominent
- Excess
- Acceptable (quality only)
- Distributed
- Finally

- Desirable
- Although
- Plus
- Even though

Comeback Words
- Nonetheless
- Thus
- Consequently
- However
- Therefore

Phrases
- As denoted by
- As indicated by
- Blended into
- In combination with
- Extended with
- Carried into
- As evidenced by
- As well as
- Result in
- Along with
- Combination of

Specialty Words
- As
- Because
- By virtue of
- Due to
- Since
- Merits in

Degrees of Comparison
- Greater
- Far
- Inferior
- Throughout
- Slight
- Firmer
- Trimmer
- Longer
- Deeper
- Much
- Superior
- Unsurpassed
- More
- Less
- Finer
- Deeper
- Wider

Words for Last Paragraphs
- Low
- Wasty
- Excessive
- Greatest
- Shallow
- Lightest
- Narrow
- Thinly muscled
- Tapered
- High
- Lowest
- Wastiest
- Excess
- Most
- Highest
- Heaviest
- Trimmest
- Deficient
- Tapering

Word NEVER to Use
- Good
- Best
- Better
- Bigger

- Abundant
- Cleaner
- "s" on the end of word (i.e., ham, loin, etc.)
- Finish
- Present tense verbs

Introductory Phrases for Opening Statements
- I placed 1 over 2
- In placing 1 over 2
- 1 placed over 2
- I placed 1 easily over 2
- 1 over 2, in a close pair
- I placed 1, an outstanding top, over 2

Last Paragraph Opening Statements
- 4 was placed last, realizing
- 4 was placed last because
- Although 4 was..., I nonetheless placed 4 last
- I realize 4 was..., however, I placed 4 last because

Glossary of Terms

General Terms
- Cutability—the relationship between muscle and fat
- Intermuscular fat—fat separating two muscles (seam fat)
- Intramuscular fat—fat located in muscle tissue; marbling
- Meatier— ratio of muscle and acceptable fat to total bone and trimmable fat
- Plumpness (bulge)—expression of muscling
- Trimness—amount of fat on a particular cut or carcass

Beef Carcass Terms
- Lower rib—ventral portion of the rib (usually the 12th rib)
- Round collar—collar of fat located above the aitch bone on the inner round
- Loin edge—region continuing along the ventral edge of the *longissimus dorsi* from the 12th rib to the sirloin

Beef Round Terms
- Knuckle face—the more circular, larger muscle of the two major muscles in the round face; the tulip-shaped muscle
- Round face—the cut surface of the round that exposes the knuckle and the rump face
- Rump face—the longer muscle of the round face
- Rump side—lateral region extending from the rump to the heel; opposite the flank side

Beef Loin Terms
- Back—region of the shortloin between the loin edge and the chine
- Flank edge—lateral edge of the short loin
- Loin edge—region continuing along the lateral edge of the *longissimus dorsi* from the rib end to the sirloin
- Sirloin/short loin juncture—region where the shortloin joins the sirloin

Beef Rib Terms
- Eye of the blade—*longissimus dorsi* muscle exposed in the blade face
- Lower rib—area between the rib eye and rib ends when viewed from the rib face

Pork Carcass Terms
- Fat back—external fat located along the back of a pork carcass, extending from the lumbar vertebra to the first rib; usually called backfat
- Ham/loin juncture—area located at the sirloin where the ham and loin meet
- Leaf fat—external fat that covers a portion of the ribs and lean in the rib cage area; usually removed during slaughter
- Lumbar lean—exposed area of meat that is located dorsal to the lumbar vertebra; a muscle indicator
- Rib feathering—fat streaks between the ribs; indicates quality in unribbed pork carcasses
- Sternum fat—external fat located along the ventral portion of the picnic shoulder

Fresh Ham Terms
- Butt face—cut surface of the ham
- Collar fat—fat from the tail head to the stifle; fat along the ham collar
- Forecushion—region continuing from the stifle to the butt face
- Stifle—area between the forecushion and the shank; opposite the heel