Livestock Judging Guide

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Module 1

Introduction to Livestock Judging
Four Steps in Judging Animals

- Information
- Observation
- Comparison
- Conclusion
Judging Steps

Information
- Know the intended use

Observation
- Carefully observe each individual
- Note how it meets or fails to meet requirements of use

Comparison
- Compare individuals with all others
- Establish differences & similarities

Conclusion
- Arrive at a logical placing
- Be able to defend the placing
Parts of the Animal

The First Step
Learn the Parts of Each Species
Terms Vary Among Species
Ham versus Quarter
Many parts have the same name
Selecting Breeding Animals

Foundation of Animal Production

Select Animals that Possess:
- High reproductive efficiency
- Efficient conversion of feed
- Type of pattern that will reproduce desirable:
  - Carcass composition
  - Fleece characteristics
  - Performance capabilities
- Sound feet & legs and structural correctness
Terms are same across species

Different terms associated with:
- Different views
- Different parts of the animal

Compare deviation with ideal
- Correct versus Incorrect
Profile View

Sheep & Goats
Profile View

Beef Cattle
Profile View

Swine
Profile View

Examples of Correct Structure
Profile View

Examples of Poor Structure

Post-legged & Too Steep in Shoulder  Broken-topped or Broken-shouldereded
Test Your Skills

Identify each structural problem in the photos below:

- Buck-kneed
- Post-legged
- Sickle-hocked
Test Your Skills

Identify the structural problem in the photos below:

Weak pasterns or Too much angle to pasterns
Front View

Correct  Splay-footed  Pigeon-toed  Knock-kneed
Front View

- Knock Kneed or Splayfooted
- Bowlegged or Pigeon Toed
- Correct
Test Your Skills

Identify the structural problem in the photo below:

Splay-footed or Toes turned out
Rear View

Correct  Bow-legged  Cow-hocked
Rear View

CORRECT
COW HOCKED OR SPLAYFOOTED
BOWLEDGGED OR PIGEON TOED
Rear View

Examples of Correct Structure
Test Your Skills

Identify the structural problem in the photo below:

Cow-hocked
Selecting Market Animals

- High Percentage of Muscle
- Low Percentage of Fat
- Indicators of Muscle:
  - Thickness through rear quarter
  - Natural thickness & turn over edge of the top
  - Forearm muscling
  - Natural width of leg placement
- Be sure thickness is natural muscling and NOT excess fat
Selecting Market Animals

Fat is Measured by Three Criteria:
- Kind
- Amount
- Location

Appraise fat by observing the finish:
- Along the edge of the animal’s top
  - From shoulders back to tail head
- Along his side
  - From head to rear quarter
- Along his underline
  - From his neck to his twist
Selecting Market Animals

- Enough fat must be present to:
  - Indicate quality in the carcass
  - Ensure acceptable palatability
- Excess fat is undesirable
- Slaughter animal must meet the demands of:
  - Producer
  - Feeder
  - Processor
  - Consumer