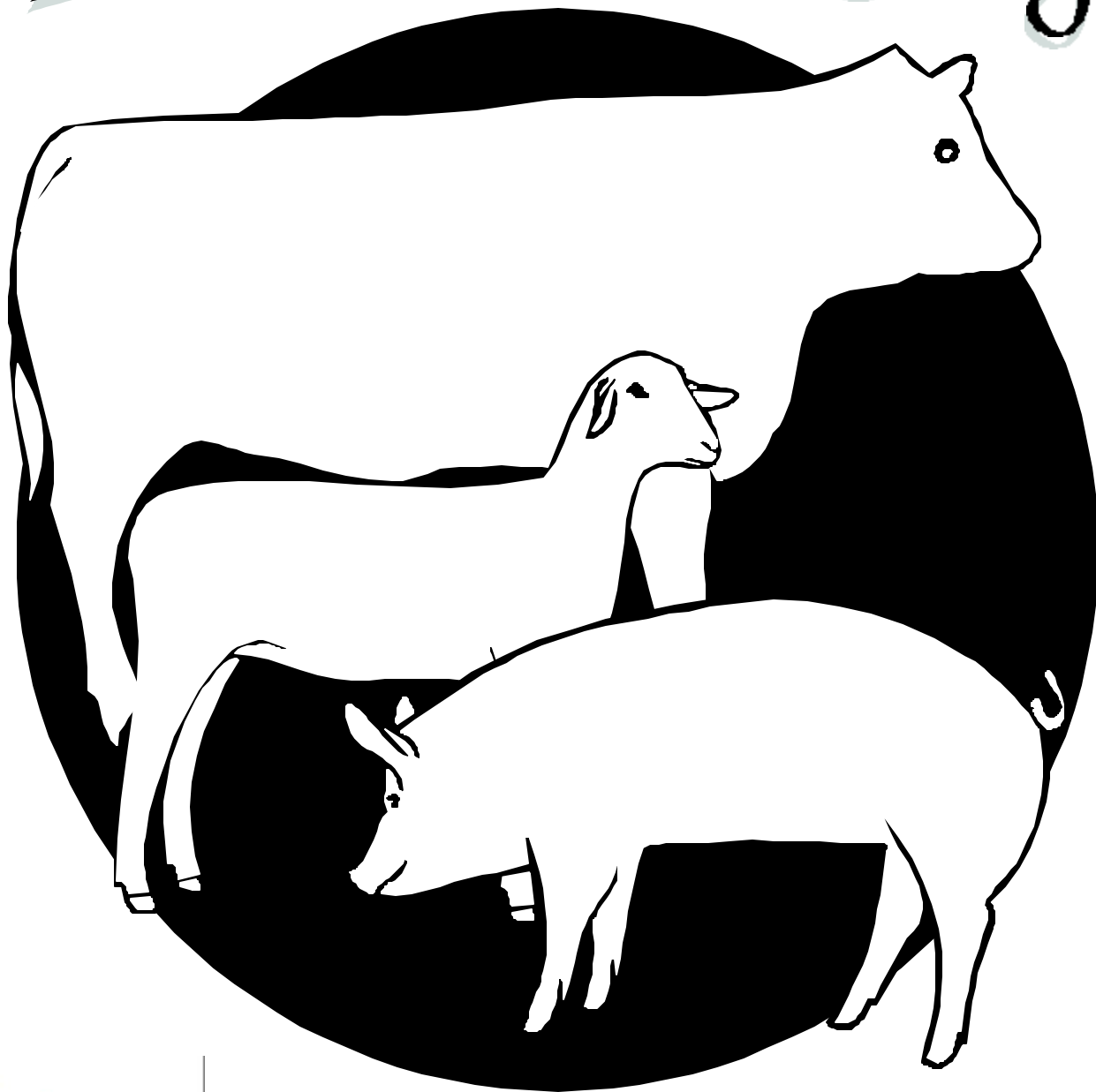


Livestock Judging

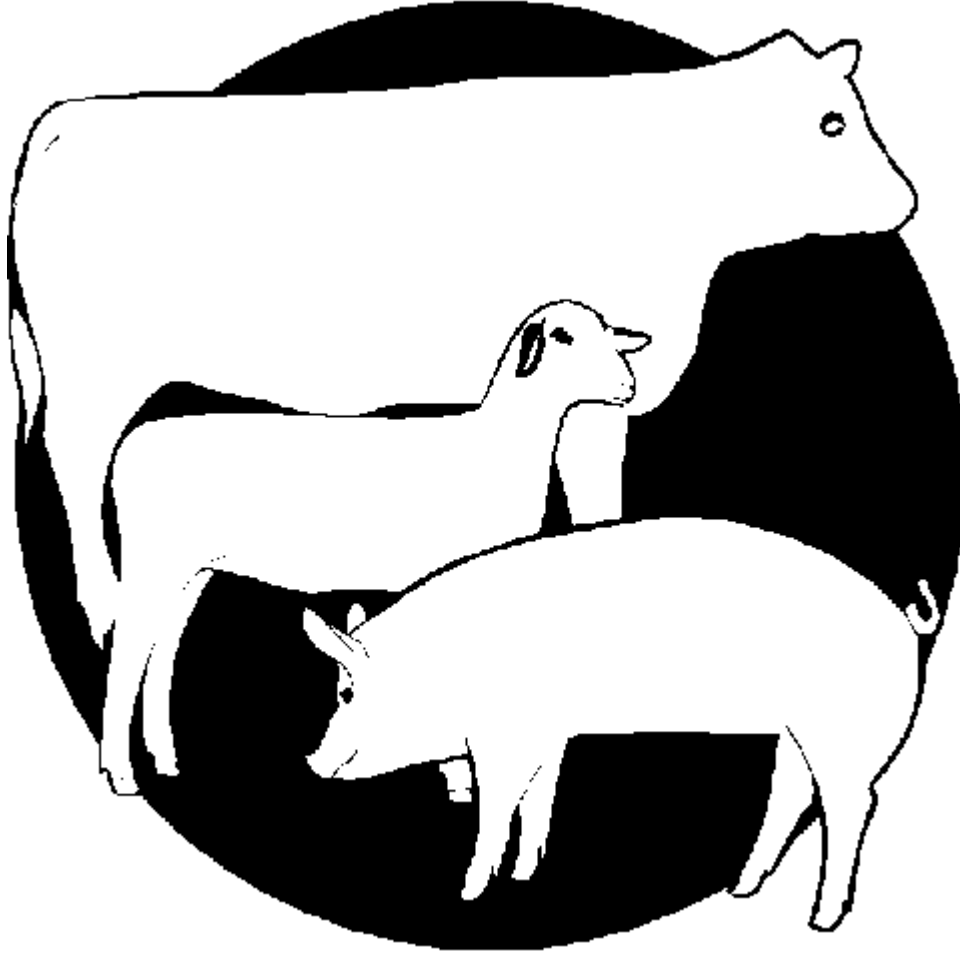


LEADER'S GUIDE
Florida 4-H Animal Science Program



UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
IFAS Extension

Livestock Judging



An Animal Science Project

UF | UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
IFAS Extension

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PREFACE

4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING

An Animal Science Curriculum for 13-18 year olds

The new Florida 4-H Livestock Judging Curriculum, a part of the OUR LIVING WORLD curriculum framework, includes the basic premise that judging activities provide youth with an excellent opportunity to develop communication, decision making and organizational skills, and enhance their confidence and self esteem. The 4-H Animal Science program provides an opportunity for young people to practice a variety of life skills while learning subject matter.

Serving as a judging coach or leader can be a very rewarding and educational experience. So often, potential leaders will not become involved because they fear they lack knowledge, qualifications or experience that they need to work with youth in this area. However, some of the most effective and successful judging programs are organized by leaders who have very little subject matter background. You will have a tremendous influence on the young people with whom you will be working.

To the informed Florida citizen, it is not surprising that animal science commands a priority within the total Florida 4-H education curriculum. An investment in young people's knowledge, understanding and attitudes about animals affects their lives and cannot be ignored now or in the future.

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About Livestock Judging...

The development of this 4-H Animal Science Project Kit was driven by two basic principles:

1. Judging activities provide youth with an excellent opportunity to develop communication, decision making and organizational skills, and enhance their confidence and self esteem.
2. 4-H volunteer teaching activities must be ready-to-use. This project includes materials needed to conduct livestock judging animal science activities in an easy-to-use format. It was designed to be teacher friendly and takes much of the guesswork out of teaching this subject.

AGE OR GRADE LEVELS

This project was developed for youth ages 13-18. Both group and individual activities encourage participation and action in all aspects of animal science livestock judging education. Teachers and volunteers should use all of the activities and in the order that they are provided. They were designed sequentially so that youth could build upon skills developed in each activity.

CONTENTS

The following resource is the component of the 4-H Animal Science Livestock Judging Program:

- ! LEADER'S GUIDE - This three-ring notebook contains a complete, easy-to-read outline for activities which are a mix of games, experiments, role plays or demonstrations that help to teach the basic principles and concepts of livestock judging. The activities conclude with discussion questions for youth to REFLECT and APPLY.

ACTIVITY PROFILES

A brief description of the nine LIVESTOCK JUDGING Activities:

! ACTIVITY 1: PARTS IS PARTS

All animal body parts have a specific function and are necessary for daily survival. Adequate knowledge of parts is essential for evaluation of livestock and participation in the livestock industry. This activity introduces youth to this vital first step information for livestock judging.

! ACTIVITY 2: DIFFERENT STROKES

Like humans, all animals have a genetic make-up. In livestock, it is easy to categorize groups based on their breed and sex characteristics. It is important to be able to recognize and distinguish between the types, breeds, and sexes, and be able to discern ideal type within each breed. This is the next step involved in the livestock judging process and this activity helps youth identify these essential characteristics.

! ACTIVITY 3: THE BOTTOM LINE

This activity introduces youth to the livestock industry and allows them to become comfortable with the ever-changing demands placed on producers. It assists with the idea that producers must have goals for production that equate with economic gain or loss. The industry in which animals are expected to perform has the greatest impact on the selection of desirable characteristics.

! ACTIVITY 4: EXPRESS YOURSELF

Common terminology is an important consideration when communicating with others in the livestock industry. This activity introduces the basic vocabulary, meanings and the synonyms that will be crucial to understanding and relating to industry demands and for oral reasons.

! ACTIVITY 5: WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET!

The process of visual appraisal and selection involves the weighing of good and bad points of the individual animal. This activity introduces this concept and relays that the emphasis which is placed on each characteristic in visual selection depends on specie, breed, sex, age and use.

! ACTIVITY 6: JUDGING A CLASS

Evaluating an entire class of animals is much easier when you have a plan. This activity builds upon the skills developed and knowledge gained in the previous activities. It solidifies specific concepts which are an essential part of livestock judging.

! ACTIVITY 7: HOW DO I RATE?

Performance data is often confusing to livestock judging members who do not understand its purpose and use in placing a class. This activity provides an explanation and rationale for performance data and offers sample scenarios that youth might see in a contest.

! ACTIVITY 8: WHAT'S MY LINE?

Communication is a key to the future. Being able to express yourself, beliefs, goals and opinions is a skill that will have great impact on career goals. This activity enhances communication skills and builds on them for lifelong use.

! ACTIVITY 9: WHAT'S YOUR SCORE?

This activity explains the basic scoring system used in most livestock judging events. It involves the use of cuts from a perfect score of 50.