



Livestock Judging

A 4-H Animal Science Project

Activity 5, Express Yourself

CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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Activity 5

OBJECTIVES: For youth to:

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

LIFE SKILL:

- Communicating Skills
- Self-confidence

MATERIALS:

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

- Easel and flip chart or chalkboard
- markers or chalk

TIME: 1½ Hours

SETTING: A comfortable room with tables and chairs.

ADVANCE PREPARATION:

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

EXPRESS YOURSELF

BACKGROUND BASICS...

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

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

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

Sexual character varies widely in each breed within a species; however, there are some common types and ideals found within most species. These can be broken up into necessary and desirable sexual characteristics. **Necessary** sexual traits are those necessary for reproduction in that individual. Some of these traits might include the development and spacing of the appropriate number of teats, lack of difficulty during parturition (giving birth) and the proper formation of testicles and vulvas. **Desirable** sexual traits are genetic traits that producers wish to pass along to the individual's offspring. The traits that a producer finds valuable vary widely with personal preference, use and breed demands. Some desirable traits might include femininity or masculinity of the head and neck, maximum number of offspring per year or lack of pendulous (hanging) sheaths.



INTRODUCTION

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

DO

Play “phrase it” in livestock terminology

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



REFLECT

- Why is there a variety of ways to say or express the same thing?
To provide ways to express a certain trait in almost any situation; to give some variety to a set of reasons.
- What is the difference between an animal's frame or scale and its growth?
Frame or scale describes an animal's length, height, and width as serves as a prediction of growth. Growth is used to describe size and weight at a certain age, but also to predict future growth potential of his/her progeny based on performance records.
- List a creative and specific term you used when describing traits.
- Was it challenging to describe a single trait in many different ways?
- Why might it be necessary or important to know this?
It is important to learn the terms used to describe and compare livestock to aid in evaluating the animals and to give effective oral reasons.
- List some examples of new words or phrases you learned in this activity.

APPLY

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



BREEDING CATTLE TERMINOLOGY

GROWTH/MATURITY

Positives

Higher performing
Faster growing
More weight per day of age
Stouter featured
More powerfully constructed
Heavier boned
More moderate in frame and ultimate mature size

Negatives

Slow growing
Frail featured
Fine boned
Excessively large framed
Excessively small framed

PHRASES:

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

STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS

Positives

More correctly structured
Longer strided
Truer moving
Sounder moving
Bigger footed
More structurally correct
More functionally correct

Negatives

Short strided
Ill structured as evidenced by
Straight shouldered/kneed/pasterned/hocked
Small footed

PHRASES:

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



BREEDING CATTLE TERMINOLOGY

MUSCLING

Positives

Heavier muscled
Thicker made
More muscle shape

Negatives

Light muscled
Flat/narrow made
Tapers out of hip

PHRASES:

- a thicker made, heavier muscled bull

BALANCE

Positives

Better/ nicer balanced/patterned
Better/ nicer/ more attractive profiling
Flatter shouldered
Cleaner/more attractive fronted
Longer fronted/bodied/hipped
More extended
Stronger topped
Leveler hiped
More eye appealing

Negatives

Poor balanced
Coarse shouldered
Short/necked/fronted/bodied/hipped
Broken/weak topped

PHRASES:

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



BREEDING CATTLE TERMINOLOGY

SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS

Positives– Heifers

More feminine featured
More maternal appearing
Broodier
Larger and more correct vulva size
Longer bred as shown by her udder development
Shorter, more refined teats

Negatives

Coarse featured
Small, missapened vulva
Shorter bred
Long, coarse teats

Bulls

Larger testicled
More ruggedly made
More masculine
Cleaner/less pendulous sheath

Small testicled
Frail
Coarse/pendulous sheath

PHRASES:

- a more feminine featured, broodier heifer, that is heavier bred as shown by her udder development
- a more ruggedly made, larger testicled bull

VOLUME

Positives

Higher volumed
Better/bigger bodied
Bolder sprung/ribbed
More capacious
Should be easier keeping
Deeper bodied/flanked
Wider tracking

Negatives

Low volumed
Tight ribbed/flanked
Shallow bodied
Flat ribbed

PHRASES:

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



MARKET CATTLE TERMINOLOGY

BALANCE– See Breeding Cattle Section

MUSCLE

Positives

Heavier muscled
More meat-animal shape
More expressively muscled
More shape/dimension over the rib and loin or top
Squarer hipped
More bulging/bulging/thicker quarter

Negatives

Light muscled
Flat/narrow made
Tapers out of hip
Flattens through quarter
Narrow topped

PHRASES:

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

CORRECTNESS OF FINISH/MATURITY

Positives

More correctly/optimally finished
More market ready
Mellower handling
Trimmer
More compositionally correct

Negatives

Thin finished
Over finished
Bare handling

PHRASES:

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



MARKET CATTLE TERMINOLOGY

PRODUCTION TRAITS

Positives

Stouter made/featured/boned
More powerful
More productive/practical appearing
Easier feeding
More feeding capacity
Sounder

Negatives

Frail
Low volumed
Less feeding capacity
Short strided
Ill structured

PHRASES:

- a more productive appearing, bolder ribbed steer with more feeding capacity
- a sounder footed, bigger bodied, easier feeding steer

CARCASS TERMS

Positives

Whole carcass should rib with a larger eye
Should rail/generate a higher cutability carcass
A carcass with greater red-meat yield
A higher dressing percentage
More apt to make/reach the Choice grade
Better potential yield and quality grade combination
Packer preferred

Negatives

Rib with a small eye
Overfinished, light muscled, low cutability carcass
Low dressing percentage
Least apt to make the Choice grade
The poorest potential carcass merit

PHRASES:

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



BREEDING SHEEP TERMINOLOGY

GROWTH/MATURITY

Positives

Higher performing
Faster growing
More weight per day of age
Larger statured/framed
Stouter featured
More powerfully constructed
Heavier boned
Growthier
More extended
More upstanding
Taller fronted
Later maturing
Trimmer patterned, more youthful and immature
More potential for future growth

Negatives

Slow growing
Frail featured
Small footed
Small statured/framed
Low set
Short coupled
Heavy conditioned and skeletally mature
Early maturing

PHRASES:

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

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



BREEDING SHEEP TERMINOLOGY

MUSCLING

Positives

Heavier muscled
Thicker made
More muscle shape

Negatives

Light muscled
Flat/narrow made
Tapers out of dock

PHRASES:

- a thicker made, heavier muscled ram

BALANCE

Positives

Better/ nicer balanced/patterned
Better/ nicer/ more attractive/more stylish
profiling
Flatter shouldered
Shallower breasted
Cleaner/more attractive fronted
Longer fronted/bodied/hindsaddled/hipped
Stronger topped
Leveler hipped/docked
More eye appealing
Squarer/leveler docked
Handles with a longer hindsaddle/loin
Handles longer from the last rib back

Negatives

Poor balanced
Round/coarse shouldered
Short/necked/fronted/bodied/hindsaddled/hipped
Broken/weak topped
Rounds out of dock
Steep hipped/docked
Handles with a short hindsaddle/loin
Handles shorter from the last rib back

PHRASES:

-from the side, she is cleaner fronted, longer hindsaddled, and squarer out of her dock
-a more stylish profiling ewe that is shallower breasted and becomes progressively deeper from breast to flank

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



MARKET LAMB TERMINOLOGY

BALANCE– See Breeding Sheep Section

MUSCLE

Positives

Heavier muscled

More meat-animal shape

More expressively muscled

Progressively widens from front to rear

Handles with more mass/shape/dimension to top
or rack and loin

Handles deeper/fuller/squarer in loin/down top

More bulging/thicker/fuller leg

Squarer/thicker out of hip/dock

Negatives

Light muscled

Flat/narrow made

Tapers out of hip/dock

Flattens through dock

Narrow topped

Handles narrow/shallow down top

Flattens through the leg

PHRASES:

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

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

CORRECTNESS OF FINISH/MATURITY

Positives

More correctly/optimally finished

Trimmer

Firmer/trimmer handling

Handles with a more adequate degree of finish

Negatives

Soft handling

Over finished

Bare handling

PHRASES:

- a trimmer patterned, more correctly finished wether that handles firmer down his top and through is forerib

-a more optimally finished wether which handled with a more adequate degree of finish down his top and through his lower rib



MARKET LAMB TERMINOLOGY

PRODUCTION TRAITS

Positives

Growthier
More upstanding
Larger statured
Stouter made/featured/boned
More powerful
More productive/practical appearing
Bolder ribbed
Deeper flanked
Higher volumed
Stands squarer

Negatives

Low set
Short coupled
Frail
Low volumed
Harder feeding
Stands:
Stand with his front legs/ kneed-in, turned out
Toed out
Buckneed
Stands: sickle hocked/on his rear legs
Cow hocked
With hocks bowed out

PHRASES:

- a growthier, stouter featured, bigger volumed wether which stands squarer on his rear legs
- a larger statured, more productive appearing wether which was deeper through his flank

CARCASS TERMS

Positives

Whose carcass should open with a larger eye
Should rail/generate a higher cutability carcass
A carcass with greater red-meat yield
A higher dressing percentage
A more shapely carcass, with a greater leg score
A more packer preferred carcass, resulting in less cooler shrink
A higher percentage of trimmed hindsaddle

Negatives

Open with a small eye
Overfinished, light muscled, low cutability carcass
Low dressing percentage
The poorest potential carcass merit

PHRASES:

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



BREEDING HOG TERMINOLOGY

GROWTH/MATURITY

Positives

Higher performing
Faster/easier growing
More weight per day of age
Stouter featured/boned/headed
More powerfully constructed
Heavier boned/structured
Taller fronted
Longer boned
More extended
Bigger/larger scaled
Later maturing
Leaner made/designed

Negatives

Slow growing
Frail featured
Fine boned
Short coupled
Low set
Early maturing

PHRASES:

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

STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS

Positives

Sounder/looser/more flexibly structured
Greater confinement soundness
More structurally comfortable
Greater skeletal flexibility
More functionally correct in his/her structural design
More functionally sound
Better/leveler designed
Weak pasterned
Bigger footed

Negatives

Tight structured
Straight through shoulder/knee/pastern/hock
Tight in his/her hock
Round/short hipped
Small footed

PHRASES:

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



BREEDING HOG TERMINOLOGY

MUSCLING— See Breeding Cattle

SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS

Positives— Gilt

More feminine featured/headed
More maternal appearing
Larger and more correct vulva size
Longer necked
Broodier
Higher quality, more refined underline which starts farther forward
More evenly spaced teats

Negatives

Coarse featured
Short necked
Small, missapened vulva
Coarse underline
Has blind/pin nipples

Boars

Larger testicled
More ruggedly made
More masculine
Cleaner sheathed

Smaller testicled
Frail
Coarse sheath

PHRASES:

- a more maternal appearing, longer faced, more extended gilt with a higher quality, more refined underline
- a more ruggedly made, more athletic, larger testicled boar

VOLUME

Positives

Naturally wider structured
Bolder/more open ribbed
Wider chested/based
Higher volumed
Bolder bladed
Deeper bodied/flanked
More capacious

Negatives

Low volumed
Tight ribbed/flanked
Shallow bodied/flanked
Flat ribbed
Narrow chested

PHRASES:

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



MARKET HOG TERMINOLOGY

MUSCLE

Positives

Heavier muscled
More meat-animal shape
More expressively muscled
Works more muscle thickness from blade to hip
Works a greater volume of muscle down his top
More dimension of muscle
Bigger/bolder/thicker /squarer topped
More bulging/thicker/fuller ham

Negatives

Light muscled
Flat/narrow made
Narrow hipped
Narrow topped
Flattens through the ham

PHRASES:

- a heavier muscled barrow that has greater muscle dimension from blade to hip
- a thicker made gilt with more shape out of her hip and ham

LEANNESS/MATURITY

Positives

Leaner designed
Reads leaner down his top and in his elbow pocket/jowl/seam of the ham
Taller fronted
Later maturing
Longer boned/bodied
More extended
More natural/practical amount of external fat

Negatives

Fat
Short coupled
Low set
Early maturing

PHRASES:

- a barrow which reads to be leaner down his top, elbow pocket, and jowl.
- a taller fronted, leaner made, later maturing gilt which has more potential for continued lean growth

GROWTH

Positives

Higher performing
Faster/easier growing
More weight per day of age
Pounds heavier

Negatives

Slow growing
Light weight

PHRASES:- See Market Hog Production Traits



MARKET HOG TERMINOLOGY

PRODUCTION TRAITS

Positives

Naturally wider structured
Bolder/more open ribbed
Wider chested/based
Stouter made/featured/boned/headed
More productive/practical appearing
Bolder ribbed/bladed
Deeper flanked
Higher volumed
Sounder footed
Looser structured
Bigger footed

Negatives

Frail made/boned/headed
Low volumed
Harder feeding
Flat ribbed
Narrow chested
Tight structured
Straight through shoulder/knee/pastern/hock
Tight in his/her hock
Round/short hipped
Small footed

PHRASES:

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

CARCASS TERMS

Positives

Whose carcass should open with a larger loin eye
A heavier muscled more shapely carcass
A carcass which will probe leaner at the 10th rib
Should rail/generate a higher cutability/percent lean/percent muscle carcass
A carcass with greater lean value
Whose carcass should have improved belly quality

Negatives

Open with a small loin eye
Fat, low cutability/low percent lean/muscle carcass
A carcass with a thin, poor quality belly

PHRASES:

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



SYNONYMS

SHOWS:	exhibits, displays, reveals, indicates, evidenced by
GRANT:	concede, admit, realize, agree that, acknowledge, recognize
HOWEVER:	nevertheless, although, yet, nonetheless, but
ALSO:	in addition, furthermore, moreover, likewise
POSSESSES:	has, represents
SURPASSES:	exceeds, excels, overpowers
LACKS:	is deficient, devoid, inferior
MORE:	greater amount or quantity, higher degree, additionally, greater, more extensive, surpasses, exceeds, excels, more abundant
SINCE:	as, because, for the reason that
ESPECIALLY:	definitely, particularly, explicitly, distinctively





Name

4-H Club Motto

"To make the best better"

Address

4-H Pledge

I Pledge:

**My head to clearer thinking
My heart to greater loyalty**

My hands to larger service, and

My health to better living

**for my club, my community,
my country, and my world.**

Name of Club/School

Leader/Teacher's Name

4-H Colors

Green and White



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