

EASTERN REGIONAL FFA DAIRY CATTLE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Please thoroughly read the Introduction Section at the beginning of this handbook for complete rules and procedures that are relevant to all Big E FFA Career Development Events.*

PURPOSE

To provide a competitive event for agricultural education students, emphasizing skills in dairy cattle evaluation, selection and dairy herd management.

OBJECTIVES

To provide agricultural students with an interest in dairy cattle a practical experience that will serve them well in industry positions or in management of a modern dairy herd. To develop students' skills in observation, analysis, communication and team collaboration. To provide experience in the evaluation of dairy cattle type, production records and dairy herd management. To encourage agriculture instructors to seek assistance from various resources in the dairy industry. (Example: dairy breed associations, artificial breeding associations, state extension dairy specialists, state DHI Associations, dairy equipment manufacturers, local dairy farmers and breeders, etc.).

EVENT RULES

1. Team Make-up: A team consists of three or four members. A team score consists of the total of the top three individuals' scores plus the team activity score.
2. Participants will report to the event superintendent for instructions at the time and place shown in the current year's Big E FFA Schedule of Events.
3. It is required that participants be in official FFA dress in each event.
4. The most current and updated information, (DHI, Linear, Body Scoring, etc.) will be used as industry standards change.
5. Computer score sheets will be used in the event to record all responses. These forms must be completed within the time allotted for each section of the event. No additional time will be permitted to transfer responses to computer scoring sheets.

EVENT FORMAT:

Equipment

Each participant must have a clean, free of notes clipboard, two sharpened No.2 pencils, and an electronic calculator (optional). Calculators used in this event should be battery operated, non-programmable. Calculators should have only these functions addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, equals, percent, square root, +/-key, and one memory register. No other calculators are allowed to be used during the event.

Team Activity

Herd Record Evaluation

1. Members of a team will collaborate to analyze individual cow production records (DHI) from an approximately 50-100 cow herd. Individual cows are to be selected according to their appropriate status for culling, breeding or other management decision categories. Answers will be recorded on the team's answer form provided. (See sample herd production form and questions at end of Dairy Cattle CDE information). Each cow will have an assigned point value, which will accumulate points toward team score only. Individual scores and rankings will not be affected.
2. The Herd Record Evaluation exercise is worth a maximum of 50 points. Members will have 20 minutes to complete this exercise.

Individual Activities

1. Dairy Management Exercise (Possible 150 points)

- a. The exercise will consist of a 50-question written test involving dairy management practices and DHI records. Students will analyze individual cow production records and/or herd management summaries answering 15 questions concerning their use in making management decisions. The remaining 35 questions will be concerned with various dairy management and industry related topics.
 - b. Appropriate information necessary to answer the DHI questions will be provided.
 - c. Participants will have a minimum of 50 minutes to complete the exercise.
2. Pedigree Class (Possible 50 points)
 - a. One class of pedigrees (no animals present) will be ranked as to their indication of the animals' ability to transmit superior production and type traits to offspring.
 - b. Other factors include completeness (number of daughters or records), accuracy (reliability), level of performance (type and production), and profitability.
 3. Sire Selection Exercise (Possible 100 points)
 - a. The sire selection exercise requires members to use linear descriptive traits for two cows and sire summary information to make corrective mating. Participants will rank four potential mates for each cow.
 - b. Linear evaluation and production information on the cows will be provided along with the transmitting ability estimates of the sires.
 - c. A minimum of 15 minutes will be allowed for this exercise.
 4. Evaluation and Selection (possible 300 points)
 - a. Six classes of four dairy animals will each be placed on type. Classes will be selected from the recognized breeds of dairy cattle. The Superintendents shall give priority to selecting quality cattle from the breeds available, and not be obligated to having all breeds represented in the judging classes. Classes will consist of heifers, young, or mature cows.
 - b. Participants will be permitted to view the animals from all angles but will not be permitted to handle them.
 - c. Animals will be numbered 4-3-2-1 left to right as viewed from the rear. The handlers/cattle shall wear numbers identifying the cattle.
 - d. Each class is allowed 50 points for a correct placing.
 - e. Participants will have a minimum of 12 minutes to place each class. For the class on which oral reasons are required, participants will be given a minimum of 15 minutes.
 5. Oral Reasons (possible 50 points)
 - a. Oral reasons will be required on one class. This class will be designated by the superintendent before the actual judging of the class.
 - b. Oral reasons will be given in another location immediately following the judging classes.
 - c. Participants may not use notes during the delivery of the reasons, with the exception of a card showing only their placing.
 - d. Participants will be allowed 50 points for a perfect set of reasons.
 - e. Participants will have 12 minutes to prepare their oral reasons. No more than two minutes may be used to deliver the reasons before the judges.

SCORING

Individual Activities

Maximum Points

Dairy management exercise	150
Pedigree class	50
Sire selection	100
Judging	300
Oral Reasons	50
Total possible individual score	650

Team Activities	Maximum Points
Herd record evaluation	50
Top 3 individual scores	1950
Total possible team score	2000

TIEBREAKERS

Category awards will include all activities related to each activity. If ties occur, the following events will be used in order to determine the winners.

1. Oral reasons
2. Dairy management exercise score
3. Total linear evaluation score

REFERENCES

Participants and Coaches are advised to refer to the National FFA Career Development Event Bulletin pages 77 - 88 for sample problems and further information relative to this event. They are further encouraged to use the National FFA Career Development Event Bulletin's suggested references for this event. These references have been selected by the National FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation committee, which administers this event. This publication is available through the National FFA Headquarters or on the National FFA website. Hoard's Dairymen magazine; youth section, also contains management questions and answers. The most up-to-date information will be used.

STATE _____

DAIRY CATTLE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

CERTIFICATION

DUE AUGUST 1

DATE RECEIVED _____

TEAM COACH

Name of Teacher _____ Telephone _____

Home Address /P.O.Box _____ Street _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name of School _____ Email _____

School Address _____

TEAM MEMBERS

Name of Team Member _____ Age _____

Home Address /P.O.Box _____ Street _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name of School _____

School Address _____

TEAM MEMBERS

Name of Team Member _____ Age _____

Home Address /P.O.Box _____ Street _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name of School _____

School Address _____

TEAM MEMBERS

Name of Team Member _____ Age _____

Home Address /P.O.Box _____ Street _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name of School _____

School Address _____

TEAM ALTERNATE

Name of Team Member _____ Age _____

Home Address /P.O.Box _____ Street _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name of School _____

School Address _____

CERTIFICATION - HEAD STATE SUPERVISOR OR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Signature _____ State _____