

**West Tennessee FFA**

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**Dairy Cattle Evaluation  
Handbook**

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**2017-2021**

## Purpose

*The purpose of the West Tennessee FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management Career Development Event is to provide a competitive event for agricultural education students which emphasizes skills in dairy cattle management and evaluation.*

## Objectives

- To provide a practical experience to students enrolled in agricultural education with an interest in dairy cattle to help prepare for 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. (Examples: dairy breed associations, artificial breeding organizations, state extension dairy specialists, state dairy herd improvement associations, dairy equipment manufacturers, local dairy farmers and breeders, etc.)

## Event Rules

- Each team will be comprised of four members. All four participant scores will be used to determine total team score.
- FFA Official Dress is required for the state event
- The most current and updated information will be used as industry standards change.
- Scantrons from [judgingcard.com](http://judgingcard.com) 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. Responses that are not correctly recorded on the computer score sheet cannot be considered due to the large number of participants' responses that must be processed.
- Event information may be added or deleted as changes occur in the livestock industry. When new criteria are adopted, the information will be forwarded to all chapters by Feb. 1 of the event year by the Tennessee FFA program manager responsible for career development events.

## Event Format

Each participant must have:

- Two sharpened No. 2 pencils, a dairy evaluation scantron from [judgingcard.com](http://judgingcard.com), and a clear clipboard with no notes attached.

## INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

### GENERAL KNOWLEDGE EXAM (75 POINTS)

- The exam will consist of a 25 question exam involving dairy management practices and DHI Records. The exam questions will come from the previous five years National FFA Dairy General Knowledge Exam located on [ffa.org](http://ffa.org).
- Participants will have 40 minutes to complete the exam.

### EVALUATION AND SELECTION (200 POINTS)

- Four classes of four dairy animals will each be placed on type. Classes will be selected from the recognized breeds of dairy cattle. The class selection committee, however, shall give priority to selecting quality cattle in the breeds available and not be obligated to having all breeds represented in the evaluation classes. Classes will consist of heifers, young cows or mature cows.
- Class or classes may contain production (DHI) data as part of the evaluation process.
- Participants will be permitted to view the animals from all angles but will not be permitted to handle them.
- The dairy cattle handlers will wear numbers which identify the animals.
- Each class is worth 50 points maximum for a correct placing.
- Participants will have 12 minutes to place each class. For classes on which oral reasons will be given, participants will be given 15 minutes.

### ORAL REASONS (100 POINTS)

- Oral reasons will be required on two classes. These two classes will be designated by the event superintendent prior to the actual evaluation of the class.
- Oral reasons will be given in another location immediately following the evaluation classes.
- Participants may not use notes during delivery of reasons. Points will be deducted for the use of notes.
- Each class is worth 50 points maximum for each set of reasons.
- Participants will have 12 minutes to prepare each set of oral reasons. No more than two minutes may be used to deliver the reasons before the judges.

## Scoring

| Individual                       | Maximum Points |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| General knowledge exam           | 75             |
| Evaluation                       | 200            |
| Oral reasons                     | 100            |
| <b>TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE</b>      | <b>375</b>     |
| <b>TOTAL POSSIBLE TEAM SCORE</b> | <b>1,500</b>   |

## TIEBREAKERS

If a tie occurs, the following events will be used to determine award recipients:

### INDIVIDUAL

- Oral reasons score
- General knowledge exam score
- Evaluation score

### OVERALL TEAM

- Total oral reasons score
- Total general knowledge exam score
- Total evaluation score

## References

*This list of references is not intended to be all-inclusive.*

Other sources may be utilized, and teachers are encouraged to make use of the very best instructional materials available. The following list contains references that may prove helpful during event preparation.

- National FFA past CDE material: *FFA.org*
- Hoard's Dairyman- Judging contest and materials, youth tests and quiz questions and current industry issues: *www.hoards.com*
- Cornell University Department of Animal Science Dairy Resources: *http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/4H/dairycattle/dairyresources.html*
- Virginia Dairy Quiz Bowl study materials: *https://www.vtdairy.dasc.vt.edu/youth/quizbowl/youth-quiz-bowl.html*
- CEV Multimedia, Inc.: *www.cevmultimedia.com*
- Holstein Foundation Education Workbooks: *http://www.holsteinfoundation.org/Holstein Foundation Youth Programs: Quiz Bowl Materials: http://www.holsteinfoundation.org/*
- Dairy Herd Improvement: *www.drms.org*
- Current Dairy Unified Scorecard: *http://www.purebreddairycattle.com/pages/Literature.php*
- Gillispie, James R. Modern Livestock and Poultry Production most current edition. Albany, NY: Delmar Cengage Learning, Inc. 2015. Note: confirm publisher and publisher contact. Cengage Publishers *cengage.com*.