Cattle Judging Contest

Contest Overview & Guidelines

The GJCA Cattle Judging Contest is designed to develop participants' ability to evaluate livestock (cattle only), make informed selection decisions, and effectively communicate the reasoning behind those decisions. Contestants will demonstrate their knowledge of cattle evaluation through traditional placing classes, a keep/cull class, and oral reasons. The contest is modeled after the Georgia FFA Association's Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event, with modifications outlined below.

Participation in the GJCA Livestock Judging Contest is free for current GJCA members. Non-members may participate for a $25 registration fee, which includes a one-year GJCA membership. Membership also provides eligibility for additional GJCA contests, scholarships, and youth opportunities throughout the year.

Eligibility

- Junior Division: 6th-9th grade
- Senior Division: 9th-12th grade
- Open to GJCA members
- Teams must have four (4) members.
- All four team members' individual scores will count toward the official team score.
- Individual contestants may compete without being part of a team but will not be eligible for team awards.
- Both divisions will evaluate the same classes and animals.
- Collegiate GJCA members are welcome to attend for workout/practice but will not be eligible for scoring or contest awards.

Contest Format

- Maximum of Seven (7) Cattle Classes: Each class will consist of four animals; breeding and/or market cattle may be used. All placing classes will count toward each contestant's individual score. All placing classes are eligible for reasons.

- Maximum of Two (2) Oral Reasons: Two of the seven placing classes will be designated for oral reasons. Participants may not use notes during the delivery of reasons. Points will be deducted for the use of notes. Oral Reasons will count toward each contestant's individual score.

- Senior Division Only – One (1) Keep/Cull Cattle Class: This class will consist of eight animals presented as a single group. Contestants will select the four animals they would keep and designate the remaining four as cull based on genetic information and visual evaluation. The Keep/Cull class will count toward contestant's individual score in the Senior Division only.

Scoring: Contestants will be scored individually based on their division's designated contest components. All four team members' individual scores will be combined to determine the official team score.

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Junior Division – 450 Points Possible

- Seven (7) Placing Classes: 50 points each (350 points)
- One (1) Set of Oral Reasons: 100 points
- Maximum team scores will be 1,800 points in the Junior.

Senior Division – 500 Points Possible

- Seven (7) Placing Classes: 50 points each (350 points)
- One (1) Set of Oral Reasons: 100 points
- One (1) Keep/Cull Scenario: 50 points
- Maximum team scores will be 2,000 points in the Senior Division.

Contestant Expectations & Conduct

1. Contestants must follow all instructions provided by the contest superintendent and officials.
2. Contestants should bring one clean, note-free clipboard and two sharpened No. 2 pencils. Notepaper will be provided.
3. Contestants may not communicate with other contestants during the competition.
4. Contestants and their agricultural education instructors, advisors, and/or coaches may not communicate or gather until the completion of the contest.
5. Electronic devices, reference materials, and outside assistance are not permitted during the contest.
6. Contestants must remain with their assigned group and follow the designated contest schedule.
7. Contestants are encouraged to wear FFA Official Dress or professional industry appropriate attire.
8. Failure to follow contest rules or instructions may result in point deductions or disqualification at the discretion of contest officials.
9. Contest officials reserve the right to make final decisions regarding contest procedures, scoring, and rule interpretation.
10. Classes and animals will be selected based on availability and quality.
11. Performance data, genetic information, and production scenarios may be incorporated into appropriate classes.
12. All contest results and placings determined by the official judging staff will be final.

Tiebreakers

In the event of a tie, the following events will be used to break the tie for team and individual awards:

1. Total oral reasons score (all 4 scorers to break team tie)
2. Highest score on a pre-selected placing class (all 4 scores to break team tie)
3. Highest score on a second pre-selected placing class, if necessary.

Awards: Individual and team awards will be presented to recognize outstanding performance in the GJCA Livestock Judging Contest.