

# Dairy Cattle Evaluation

A Special Project of the South Dakota FFA Foundation

**Important Note:** Please thoroughly read the General Rules at the beginning of this handbook for complete rules and procedures that are relevant to all South Dakota FFA Career Development Events.

## Purpose

The purpose of the Dairy Cattle Evaluation 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.

## Event Rules

Each team will be comprised of three or four members.

The top three individual scores and the team activity scores will be used to determine the final team score.

## Event Format

The CDE shall consist of 7 classes, including: a pedigree class, sire selection classes, oral reasons, a written test, and a team activity.

### Placing Classes – 200 points

Four classes of dairy cows or heifers will be placed first, second, third and fourth.

Placings will be based on general appearance, body capacity, dairy character, and on the mammary systems of cows.

The participants will not be allowed to handle the animals.

Ten minutes will be allowed for each placing class.

### Oral Reasons – 50 points

Oral reasons will be given on two placing class. When oral reasons are to be given will be announced prior to the placing of the class.

Oral reasons will be given to specific judged based on contestant numbers. Contestant number 1 will give reasons to judge number 1, contestant number 2 will give oral reasons to judge number 2, Contestant number 3 will give reasons to judge number 3 and Contestant number 4 will give reasons to judge number 4.

**Written Test – 100 points**

The written test will consist of 50 true/false and/or multiple-choice questions and will include the herd summary questions.

Fifty minutes will be allowed for the written test.

**Team Activity –300 points**

The team activity will consist of a herd record management exercise, sire selection classes, and pedigree problem to be conducted following the dairy cattle exam.

It will consist of six multiple choice questions valued at 25 points each.

Thirty minutes will be allowed for the team activity.

**Sire Selection Classes (100 points)**

The sire selection exercise will consist of ranking potential mates for two cows.

Four bulls will be ranked for each cow. Linear evaluation and production information on the cows will be provided, along with the transmitting ability estimates of the sires.

A minimum of 15 minutes will be allowed for this exercise.

Fifty (50) points per class may be earned.

**Pedigree Class (50 points)**

Pedigrees will be ranked as to their indication of the animal's ability to transmit superior production and type traits to offspring. Other factors include completeness (number of daughters or records), accuracy (reliability), level of performance (type and production), and profitability. A total of 30 minutes will be allowed to complete the pedigree class and two sire selection classes.

Pedigree evaluation will constitute the equivalent of one placing class. Ranking of pedigrees will be scored on the basis of 50 points for a perfect placing.

A total of 30 minutes will be allowed to complete the pedigree class and two sire selection classes.

**Scoring**

	<b>Possible Points</b>
Placing Class (4 classes at 50 points each)	200
Oral Reasons (2 class at 50 points)	100
Written Test (50 questions at 2 points each)	100
<b>Total Possible Individual Score</b>	<b>400</b>
Team Activity	300
<b>Total Possible Team Score (3 members count)</b>	<b>1600</b>

**Tiebreakers**

In the case of a team tie, the order to break the tie will be:

1. Total Team Oral Reasons Score
2. Total Team Written Exam Score
3. Total Team Placement Score

In the case of an individual tie, the order to break the tie will be:

1. Total Individual Oral Reason Score
2. Individual Written Exam Score
3. Individual Placing Score

## References

National FFA Core Catalog – Past CDE Material (<http://shop.ffa.org/cde-qas-c1413.aspx>)

Hoard's Dairyman – Judging contest and materials, youth tests and quiz questions:  
[www.hoards.com](http://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:  
<http://www.vtdairy.dasc.vt.edu/docs/Youth-docs/2012bowlmat.pdf>

Dairy Herd Improvement: [www.drms.org](http://www.drms.org)

2009 Dairy Unified Scorecard:  
[http://www.usjersey.com/Reference/PDCA\\_Dairy\\_Cow\\_Unified\\_scorecard\\_2009update.pdf](http://www.usjersey.com/Reference/PDCA_Dairy_Cow_Unified_scorecard_2009update.pdf)