

# Eastern Regional Dairy Cattle Management Career Development Event

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the Eastern Regional FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management Career Development Event is to provide a competitive event for agricultural education students which emphasize skills in dairy cattle management and evaluation. Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Cluster Content Standards with the recommendation of the National FFA Board of Directors, all national FFA programs have incorporated these standards to guide the direction and content of program materials and activities. Refer to Appendix A in this chapter of the handbook for a complete list of the measurable activities that participants will carry out in this event. For details about the incorporation of AFNR standards refer to the Introduction chapter of the CDE handbook.

## OBJECTIVES

- A. 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.
- B. To develop students' skills in observation, analysis, communication and team collaboration.
- C. To provide experience in the evaluation of dairy cattle type, production records and dairy herd management.
- D. To encourage agriculture instructors to seek assistance from various resources in the dairy industry. (Examples: dairy breed associations, artificial breeding associations, state extension dairy specialists, state dairy herd improvement associations, dairy equipment manufacturers, local dairy farmers and breeders, etc.)

## EVENT RULES

- A. Each team will be comprised of four members. All four scores will be used to determine total team score.
- B. It is highly recommended that participants wear FFA Official Dress for this event.
- C. Participants will report to the team orientation meeting for instructions at the time and place shown in the current year's team orientation packet.
- D. The most current and updated information will be used as industry standards change.
- E. 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. Responses that are not correctly recorded on the computer score sheets cannot be considered due to the large number of participants' responses that must be processed.

## EVENT FORMAT

- A. Each participant must have:
  - 1. A clean, free of notes clipboard
  - 2. Two sharpened No. 2 pencils

3. An electronic calculator. Calculators used in this event should be battery operated, nonprogrammable and silent with large keys and displays. Calculators should only have 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.

## **B. Team Activity - Dairy Management Activity - 600 points**

1. Each team will be provided with a dairy farm management scenario to identify problems and determine possible improvements. (See team activity example in Appendix C.) All necessary information will be provided. Teams should assume the role of a hired consultant advising a producer (judges). Teams will be given 40 minutes to prepare their recommendations to be presented to a panel of judges. It is not necessary to describe the scenario to the judges since they are the producer. Teams will be allowed 10 minutes to present their recommendations, followed by 5 minutes of clarifying questions from the judges.

2. The scenario will be based on the following rotating topic areas:

2017 Feeds/Nutrition

2018 Housing/Facilities

2019 Health/Diseases

2020 Genetics/Reproduction

3. Each scenario may include animal welfare, biosecurity, business management, current issues, and environmental management and safety concerns related to the topic area.

## **C. Individual Activities**

1. General Knowledge Exam - 150 points

a. The exam will consist of a 50 question exam involving dairy management practices and DHI records.

i. Forty questions will cover various dairy management and industry related topics.

ii. Ten questions will be answered using a dairy herd record evaluation data sheet to analyze individual cows.

b. Appropriate information necessary to answer the DHI questions will be provided.

c. Participants will have 30 minutes to complete the exam.

2. Evaluation and Selection - 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 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.

b. Participants will be permitted to view the animals from all angles but will not be permitted to handle them.

c. The handlers/cattle will wear numbers which identify the animals.

d. Each class is worth 50 points maximum for a correct placing.

e. Participants will have 12 minutes to place each class. For classes on which oral reasons will be given, participants will be given 15 minutes.

### 3. Oral Reasons - 100 points

a. 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.

b. Oral reasons will be given in the horse barn at the Big E fairgrounds immediately following the evaluation classes.

c. Participants may not use notes during delivery of reasons. Points will be deducted for the use of notes.

d. Each class is worth 50 points maximum for each set of reasons.

e. 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 150

Evaluation 300

Oral reasons 100

Total possible score 550

Team Maximum Points: Dairy management activity 600

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

#### Individual

1. Oral reasons score
2. General knowledge exam score
3. Evaluation score

#### Overall Team

1. Team activity score
2. Total oral reasons score
3. Total general knowledge exam score
4. 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 Core Catalog—Past CDE Material (both general knowledge and team event materials)

Virginia Dairy Quiz Bowl study materials:

[http://youth.dasc.vt.edu/content/dam/youth\\_dasc\\_vt\\_edu/quiz-bowl/2017vadqb-materials.pdf](http://youth.dasc.vt.edu/content/dam/youth_dasc_vt_edu/quiz-bowl/2017vadqb-materials.pdf)

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

Please refer to the National FFA Dairy Cattle management CDE rules and regulations for team scoring rubrics and a sample team event scenario.