Dairy Cattle Evaluation

Contest Description and Rules:

Please direct questions to:

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Materials Needed

- A clipboard free from notes or other markings
- Several sharpened No. 2 pencils – No Pens
- Scratch paper will be provided - no extra paper will be allowed

Event Format

A. Dairy Management / DHI Record Analysis Exam (50 points) – FFA and Ag Tech

1. The exam will consist of a 25-question written exam involving dairy management practices and DHI records. Ten questions will focus on interpretation of DHI records that may include individual cow production records, somatic cell count summaries, and herd management summaries. Fifteen questions will be concerned with various dairy management and industry-related topics. Each question will be worth two points for a total of 50 points. All questions will utilize a multiple choice or true/false format. Twenty minutes will be allowed for the exam.
2. DHI records will be provided to answer the questions utilized within the exam.

B. Sire selection exercise (50 points) – FFA and Ag Tech

1. The sire selection exercise requires participants to utilize linear descriptive traits for a single cow and four potential mates. A scenario will be presented that clearly outlines the goals of the breeder. Participants will rank the four potential mates from most desirable mating to least desirable mating.
2. Linear evaluation and production information will be provided on the cow along with predicted transmitting abilities for the sires.
3. Ten minutes will be allowed for this exercise.
C. Evaluation and selection (200 points) – FFA and Ag Tech

1. Four classes of four dairy cattle each will be placed on type. Three classes will utilize lactating cattle and one class will feature virgin heifers. Holstein or Jersey cattle will be used for evaluation classes.
2. Each class is allowed 50 points for a correct placing.
3. Participant will have at least 12 minutes to place each class. Fifteen minutes will be allowed for the class upon which oral reasons will be based.

D. Type analysis questions (50 points) – FFA and Ag Tech

1. A placing class of four animals will be used for this exercise. Ten questions will require the contestants to select the animal in the class which has the most desirable or least desirable feature (e.g. strongest fore udder attachment, sharpest at the withers).
2. Each question will have only one correct answer. Each question will be worth five points for a total of 50 points.
3. A total of 12 minutes will be allowed for this exercise.

E. Oral reasons (50 points) – FFA only!

1. Oral reasons will be required on one class of lactating cows. The class will be designated by the event superintendent prior to the actual judging of the class.
2. Oral reasons will be given immediately following the judging classes.
3. A maximum score of 50 points will be given to a perfect set of reasons. Participants are encouraged to refrain from utilizing notes during the delivery of reasons. If notes are used, a maximum score of 40 points will be given to a perfect set of reasons.
4. Participants will have at least 15 minutes to prepare for oral reasons.

Scoring Summary – Individual within the FFA Qualifying Contest

Exercise Maximum Points

A. Dairy Management / DHI Record Analysis Exam _________________50
B. Sire selection exercise ________________________________50
C. Evaluation and selection ________________________________200
D. Type analysis questions _______________________________50
E. Oral reasons __________________________________________50
TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE 400

Scoring Summary – Individual within the Ag Tech Contest

Exercise Maximum Points

A. Dairy Management / DHI Record Analysis Exam _________________50
B. Sire selection exercise ________________________________50
C. Evaluation and selection ________________________________200
D. Type analysis questions _______________________________50
TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE 350
**Tiebreakers – FFA**

If ties occur between individuals or teams competing within the FFA contest, the following exercises will be used in order to determine award recipients:

1. Oral reasons score (team total oral reasons score in the case of a tie between teams)
2. Dairy management / DHI record analysis exam (team total in case of a tie between teams)
3. Type analysis questions (team total in case of a tie between teams)

**Tiebreakers – Ag Tech**

If ties occur between individuals or teams competing within the Ag Tech contest, the following exercises will be used in order to determine award recipients:

1. Cumulative score from evaluation and selection section (4 live animal classes)
2. Dairy management / DHI record analysis exam
3. Type analysis questions

In the case of a team between teams, the same categories will be utilized but score will represent team totals rather than individual totals.

**Tentative Schedule of events**

8:30 – 9:00 Dairy mgmt / DHI record analysis exam and sire selection problem (on-campus)
9:00 – 9:10 Instructions for the remainder of the contest
9:10 – 9:30 Transport of participants to Dairy Learning Center – Mann Valley Farm
9:30 – 9:45 Class 1 and 2 (Two rings will judge simultaneously)
9:45 – 10:00 Class 2 and 1 (Cows will switch rings)
10:00 – 10:30 Type Analysis Questions
10:30 – 10:45 Class 3 and 4
10:45 – 11:00 Class 4 and 3
11:00 – 11:15 Reasons preparation
11:15 – 12:30 Oral reasons will be heard (delivered on the dairy farm)
Transportation of students back to University Center - Campus