

COURSE SYLLABUS FOR LIVESTOCK EVALUATION 1 & 2

Instructor: M. Anema

Course Description and Objectives:

This is a course in the practical application of livestock evaluation criteria and methods used in judging production livestock species (beef cattle, sheep, hogs, and meat goats). Students will overview commercial breeds of livestock, livestock animal anatomy, standards for evaluating live animals, quality/yield grading of market animals, and selection criteria for breeding animals. Students will also become more familiar with popular production practices of livestock. Emphasis is placed upon the ranking of both market and breeding animals according to ideal standards, as well as developing and presenting oral reasons.

Class Structure:

The course is worth 0.5 elective credit, is structured as a two semester course (0.25 credit per semester), and meets once weekly (Fri; 2 hour instructional periods). The class will consist primarily of lecture format, comparative judging, and LOTS of practice. Practices will include evaluating slides, videos, and taking general knowledge practice tests. Students will also be required to learn how to take notes on animals, develop and present oral reasons to defend their class rankings. Competitive judging teams will be selected from class participants, and include contest opportunities through FFA events. Occasionally, optional extra practice sessions will be held to help students develop technical skills and practice for contests (STRONGLY recommended for competitive team members). These practices will take place on-site at local livestock shows (AZ State Fair or ANLS).

****Prerequisites:** none, Animal Production Systems 1 & 2 recommended

Class Expectations:

Participation: Success is 90% attitude, 10% aptitude. EVERYONE can learn how to judge livestock, regardless of their prior experience with livestock. Students are expected to arrive at class on time, prepared with their class materials, and willing to participate during class. A sincere, honest effort is the best way to assure success. **Students are expected to attend class with an open mind and leave personal biases at the door.**

Attendance: Regular attendance is CRITICAL for successful completion of this class. Students are expected to attend EVERY class, and be ON TIME. Regular attendance is essential to the successful completion of the class. Students anticipating an absence due to extracurricular activities are required to give the instructor PRIOR notification. Students absent due to illness MUST be called in by a parent PRIOR to class. No make-up opportunities exist for the activities or practices missed because of an absence. Students who miss an excessive number of classes lose valuable time spent practicing and developing critical technical skills essential for success. Students having more than 3 absences in a semester will likely be dropped from the class, receive a failing grade, and lose their eligibility to compete. **Come to class and be ready to learn and practice.**

Adherence to AAEC Policy: Students are expected to know and follow AAEC and PVCC rules concerning appropriate dress and conduct. No hats or sunglasses will be worn during class. Students not complying with dress code will not be allowed to attend class, and will take an unexcused absence. Cell phones are to be turned off, put away in backpacks or purses, and will be confiscated if they disrupt class. Confiscated cell phones can only be retrieved by a parent from the office. No drink, food, or gum is allowed in the classroom except for bottled water.

Respect: This class is an elective, and it is a privilege to attend. The critical thinking and public speaking skills learned in this class can be applied to all other areas of academic and life success. Students who participate join a tradition of excellence that has produced top caliber teams. Students are expected to demonstrate respect to the learning environment, their instructor, themselves and other students. This respect includes courtesy, kindness, compliance, tolerance, professionalism, and above all else, DEDICATION.

Recognize the good in yourself
Every person is special and has something to offer
Show consideration for those around you
Provide support and encouragement to your peers
Earn respect by showing respect
Cooperate with your peers and your teacher
Together, we can all make a difference!

Homework/Exams/Textbooks/Materials:

The Livestock Evaluation class is a “hands-on” class. Formal, graded homework will not be assigned. However, students are expected to review their notes, seek opportunities to observe animals, learn terms and practice at home. In addition, frequent quizzes will be given to test their mastery of basic knowledge regarding livestock evaluation and livestock production. Students will be provided a judging handbook to be kept in a three-ring binder and brought to class weekly and will need a single subject notebook for taking notes. Students will be taking online subject knowledge tests as well as a comprehensive final each semester. Students are *strongly* encouraged to have AND use a calendar/day planner.

Competitive Team Selection:

All students in the class will be eligible to compete in judging contests. Primary judging contests include AZ State Fair (October), ANLS (December), District FFA Contest (February), and the State FFA Contest (March). To be eligible for competition, students are required to enroll in FFA and pay the \$15.00 membership dues, as well as maintain a passing grade in ALL classes by earning a grade of C or higher. To be highly competitive, students are encouraged to complete additional Animal Science courses. The State FFA Team will be determined by the four high-scoring competitors at the District FFA contest. The contest includes a practical portion (judging and reasons), as well as a knowledge portion (online assessment of general animal science and production management concepts). The State Team, if successful at winning the state title, will become eligible to compete in the National FFA contest held the following October.

Grading:

Grades will be primarily determined by attendance and participation in class, and comprehensive semester finals. Students will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail system (70% or higher will receive a passing grade). Students who have more than three absences in a semester CANNOT receive a passing grade. In extenuating circumstances, a final determination of the grade will be made at the discretion of the teacher and administration.

Instructor contact information: manema@aaechighschools.com, 602-569-1101 (AAEC office)

*****Instructor's disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to change the class and grading policy as needed. Any changes will be in the students' best interests and announced when changed.***

COURSE TOPICS FOR LIVESTOCK EVALUATION 1 & 2

Instructor: M. Anema

- Unit 1: Characteristics of a Good Judge
- Unit 2: Introduction of Production Livestock Species/Breeds/Terms
- Unit 3: Products Harvested from Livestock Species
- Unit 4: Introduction of Yield & Quality Grades
- Unit 5: Anatomy of Livestock Animals
- Unit 6: Practical Evaluation of Finish/Back Fat Thickness
- Unit 7: Judging Methodology & Interpreting Cuts
- Unit 8: Judging Terminology
- Unit 9: Developing and Presenting Oral Reasons
- Unit 10: Practical Note-taking for Judging
- Unit 11: Beef Cattle Standards for Market/Breeding Animals
- Unit 12: Practical Evaluation of Beef Cattle
- Unit 13: Sheep Standards for Market/Breeding Animals
- Unit 14: Practical Evaluation of Sheep
- Unit 15: Hog Standards of Market/Breeding Animals
- Unit 16: Practical Evaluation of Hogs
- Unit 17: Meat Goat Standards of Market/Breeding Animals
- Unit 18: Practical Evaluation of Meat Goats
- Unit 19: Selecting Breeding Animals Based on EPD's
- Unit 20: Comparison of Carcass Traits
- Unit 21: Practical Exercises in Keep/Cull Selection
- Unit 22: Practical Exercises in General Animal Science/Production Knowledge

AAEC - Paradise Valley

Syllabus Receipt

Date: _____

Student Name: (print) _____

Class: _____ Livestock Evaluation 1 & 2 _____

Semester: _____

I have read a copy of the course syllabus for this class. Along with the instructor's discussion of the contents of the syllabus, **I have read it and understand the class objectives, procedures, and what is expected of me to earn credit and a specific grade for this class. I understand the attendance and competitive eligibility policies.** I have reviewed this syllabus with my parent(s).

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Student email: _____

Student cell*: _____

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent phone: _____

Parent email: _____

Parent contact preference: _____ phone _____ email

*Student cell phone numbers are kept filed and only used as needed for arranging and managing practice workouts at live events (i.e. AZ State Fair or ANLS at the State Fairgrounds).