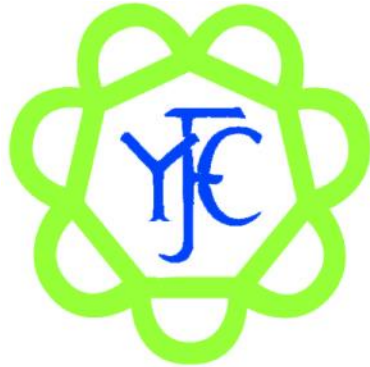


YORKSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB



STOCK JUDGING TRAINING GUIDE

2019

HINTS & TIPS

**DAIRY – BEEF - PIGS –
LAMBS - SHEEP**

NOTES:

GENERAL

Clean clothing & suitable footwear – this is a must.

Clean White Coat & Pen.

Ideally Shirt & Tie.

Judging Card – please ensure this is filled out correctly.

This helps the judge & steward but also shows you can follow basic instructions.

Also ensure you have put the same order on your placing card on your reasons half as well

Correct

| YORKSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------------|--------------|--|
| STOCK JUDGING PLACING CARD FOR RINGS OF FOUR ANIMALS Sponsored by www.landypressurewashes.com | | | | | | |
| Competitors Name: <u>TOM STARETON</u> | | | | | | |
| Club: <u>SILSDEN WITH SCIPTON</u> | | | | | | |
| Class: <u>INT BUTCHERS LAMBS</u> | | | | | | |
| COMPETITOR'S PLACING | | | | | | |
| 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Max. Marks | Marks Gained | |
| | | | | 50 | | |
| Accuracy of observation | | | | 25 | | |
| A comparative rather than a descriptive statement | | | | 15 | | |
| Style and ability | | | | 10 | | |
| SUB TOTAL | | | | 100 | | |
| LESS TIME FAULTS | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | | | |

INCORRECT

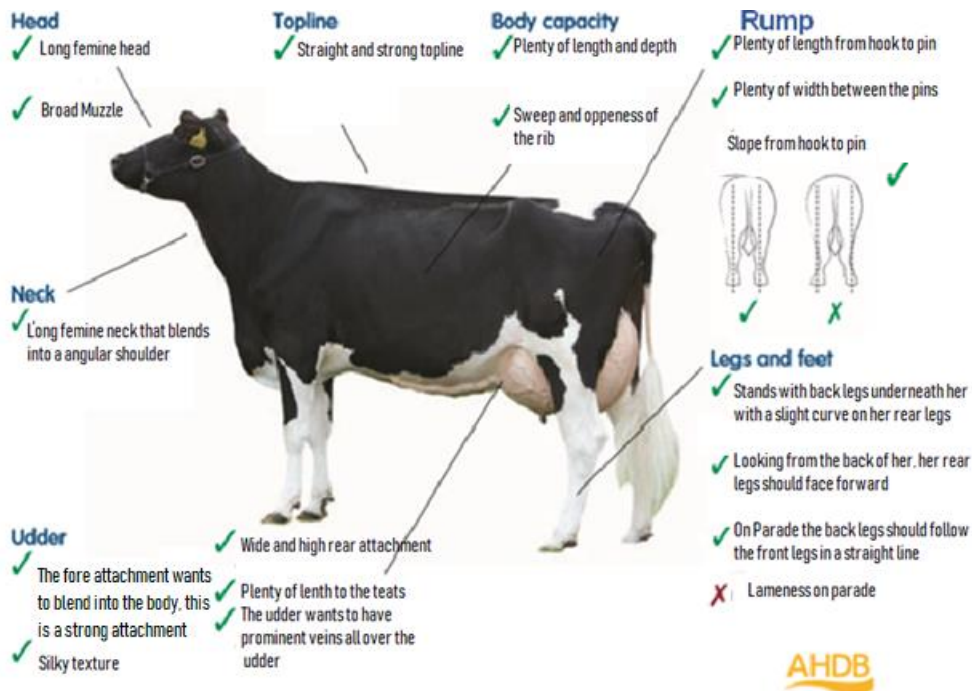
| YORKSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------------|--------------|--|
| STOCK JUDGING PLACING CARD FOR RINGS OF FOUR ANIMALS Sponsored by www.landypressurewashes.com | | | | | | |
| Competitors Name: <u>Tom</u> | | | | | | |
| Club: <u>SUS</u> | | | | | | |
| Class: <u>LAMBS</u> | | | | | | |
| COMPETITOR'S PLACING | | | | | | |
| 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Max. Marks | Marks Gained | |
| | | | | 50 | | |
| Accuracy of observation | | | | 25 | | |
| A comparative rather than a descriptive statement | | | | 15 | | |
| Style and ability | | | | 10 | | |
| SUB TOTAL | | | | 100 | | |
| LESS TIME FAULTS | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | | | |

Always observe the ring of stock before you enter the pen, you can get a rough idea of your order before you touch the stock.

Always ensure you know what you are judging the ring of stock for – Breeding, Butchers, Stores etc.

THIS BOOKLET HAS BEEN CREATED TO OFFER HANDY HINTS AND TIPS – PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE VOLUNTEERS WHO WILL HAPPILY VISIT YOUR CLUB OR DISTRICT TO OFFER FURTHER TRAINING OR GUIDANCE

Dairy Cows



Key words / terminology - additional to above:

Angular
Wider
Deeper
Longer
Capacious
Stronger
Superior
Dairyer
Flatter Boned

Judging dairy cows can be daunting as there are a lot of points to cover. Our advice would be to stand back and watch them parade (walk) first of all. A big fault can be legs and feet so pay attention to them initially as they parade around. You may want to look for faults first and work your order out from which cow has the most faults to begin with etc. Remember dairy reasons are positive reasons so don't say anything negative.

Finished beef

Before you start

Stand back and have a good look from a distance at the group. Get a general impression of the animals to judge, appearance, type, distinguishing features, etc.

Be methodical: start at one end and work your way to the other end inspecting and handling as you go. Remember, you should always handle the loin on the left hand side, as the kidney hangs loose on this side.

What to look for

Always look for length, width and depth of fleshing throughout.

Above and below the dotted line:

As much as possible above the line
– good quality, expensive cuts

As little as possible below the line
– lower quality, cheaper cuts

The shoulder

- ✓ Broad and deep
- ✓ Well-developed
- ✓ Well-fleshed
- ✗ Lacking flesh
- ✗ Narrow

Brisket

- ✓ Light
- ✗ Broad, full or wasteful

Chine

- ✓ Full fleshed
- ✗ Weak, lacking flesh

The back

(Topline)

- ✓ Long
- ✓ Wide
- ✗ Short
- ✗ Narrow

Loin

- ✓ Long and deep
- ✓ Full
- ✗ Lacking flesh
- ✗ Narrow



Hindquarters

The round

Hindquarters

- ✓ Well fleshed in first and second thighs
- ✓ Muscle development carried well down to the hocks
- ✗ Flat and shallow
- ✗ Narrow, lacking width
- ✗ Lacking muscle development

Rump

- ✓ Well-rounded
- ✓ Broad
- ✗ Shallow and concave
- ✗ Pin bones prominent

Belly (Undertine)

- ✓ Clean
- ✓ No waste
- ✓ Parallel with top line



Finish

Should carry an even degree of finish. **ie the fatter the animal the softer to the touch it becomes.**



Key words / terminology - additional to above:

- Full
- Firm
- Soft
- Sex
- Breed
- Slope – over the plates
- NEVER say meaty or fat

Sometimes you may not be able to touch the beef animal depending on temperament but you can judge a beef animal on looks alone if this is the case

The image above taken from Eblex mentions the brisket, ribs and belly – these are below the “line” and therefore are not as imperative compared to the points mentioned above the “line”

We would recommend that you do not go into depth on the topline – this is not a major point when judging beef

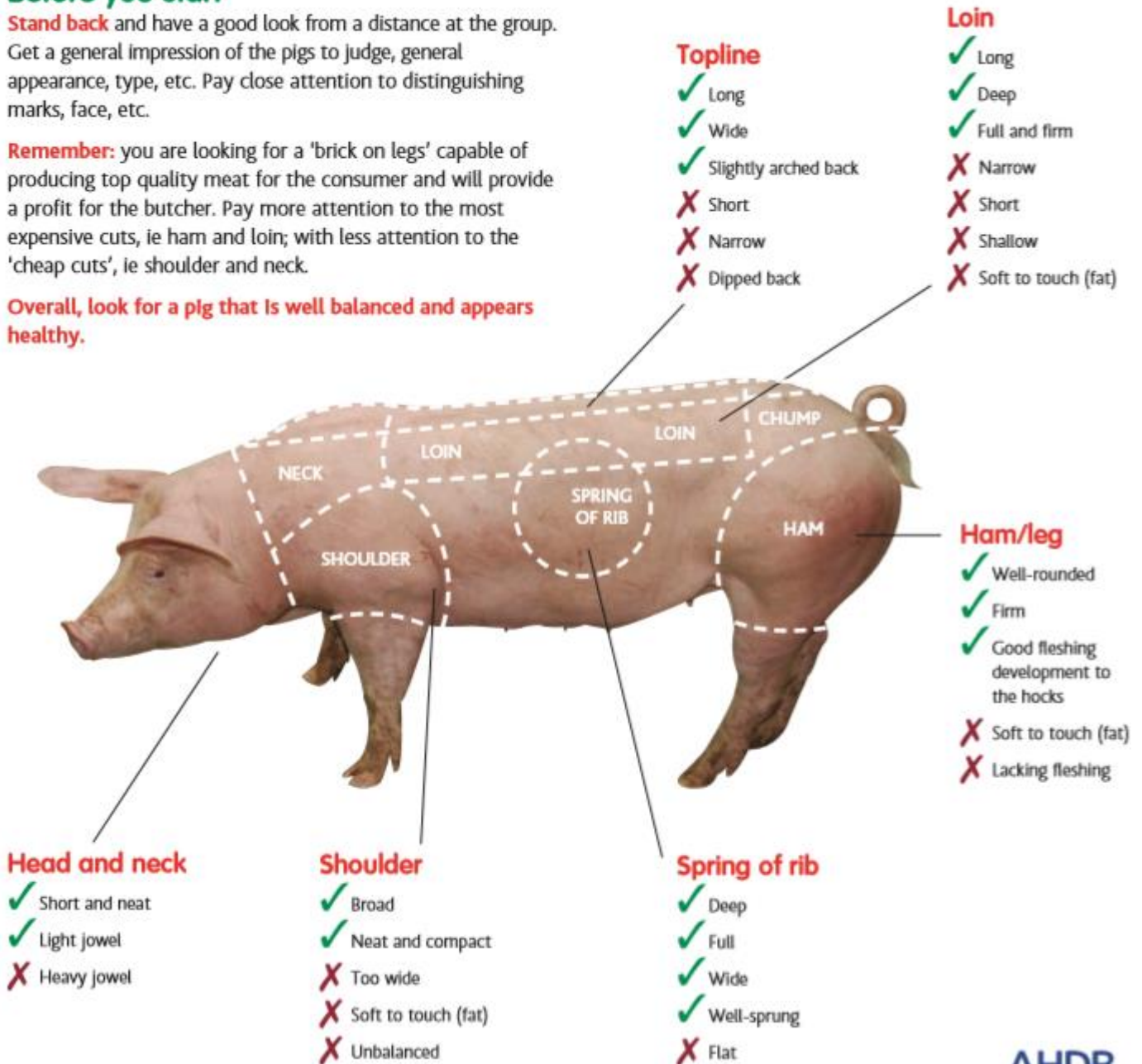
Finished pigs

Before you start

Stand back and have a good look from a distance at the group. Get a general impression of the pigs to judge, general appearance, type, etc. Pay close attention to distinguishing marks, face, etc.

Remember: you are looking for a 'brick on legs' capable of producing top quality meat for the consumer and will provide a profit for the butcher. Pay more attention to the most expensive cuts, ie ham and loin; with less attention to the 'cheap cuts', ie shoulder and neck.

Overall, look for a pig that is well balanced and appears healthy.



Key words / terminology - additional to above:

Width

Depth

Flesh covering

Sex

Breed

NEVER say meaty or fat

ALWAYS TOUCH THE PIGS – as it can appear full in the hams but could be soft to the touch

The image above taken from Eblex mentions the “Spring of Rib” – this is one of the minor points when judging a butchers pig.

We would recommend that you do not go into depth on the topline – this is not a major point when judging pigs

Finished lamb

Before you start

Stand back and have a good look from a distance at the group. Get a general impression of the lambs to judge, appearance, type, etc.

Pay close attention to distinguishing marks, colour of wool, face, etc.

Remember: wool can mask a great deal about the animal, so handle animals at the key points.



The shoulder

- ✓ Neat and compact
- ✓ Eye muscle development extended well forward
- ✗ Narrow and lacking flesh

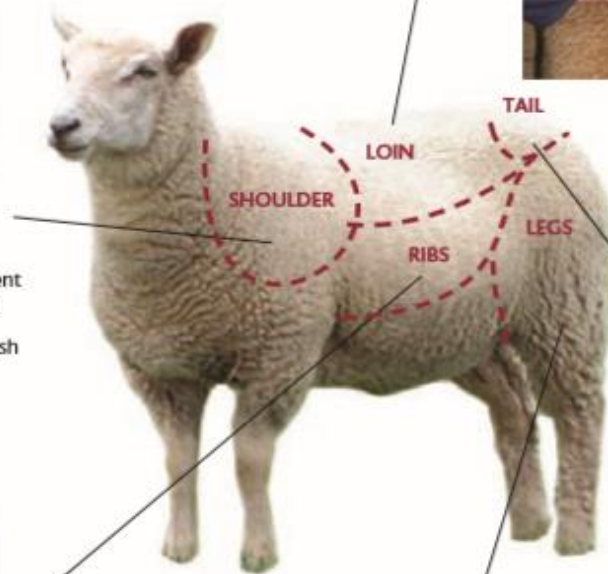
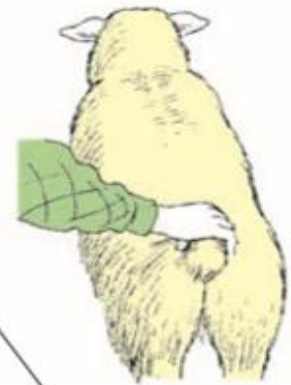


The ribs

- ✓ Light covering, individual ribs easily detected
- ✗ Not too lean (bare)
- ✗ Not too fat (individual ribs undetectable)

The loin

- ✓ Spinous and transverse processes felt as corrugations with light pressure
- ✓ Good width and fullness of eye muscle



The legs

- ✓ Broad and well-filled to the shank

The tail (dock)

- ✓ Individual bones easy to detect with light pressure
- ✗ Not too lean (narrow and bones bare)
- ✗ Not too fat (broad, soft and individual bones undetectable)



Key words / terminology - additional to above:

Width

Depth

Flesh covering

Full

Firm

Soft

Sex

Breed

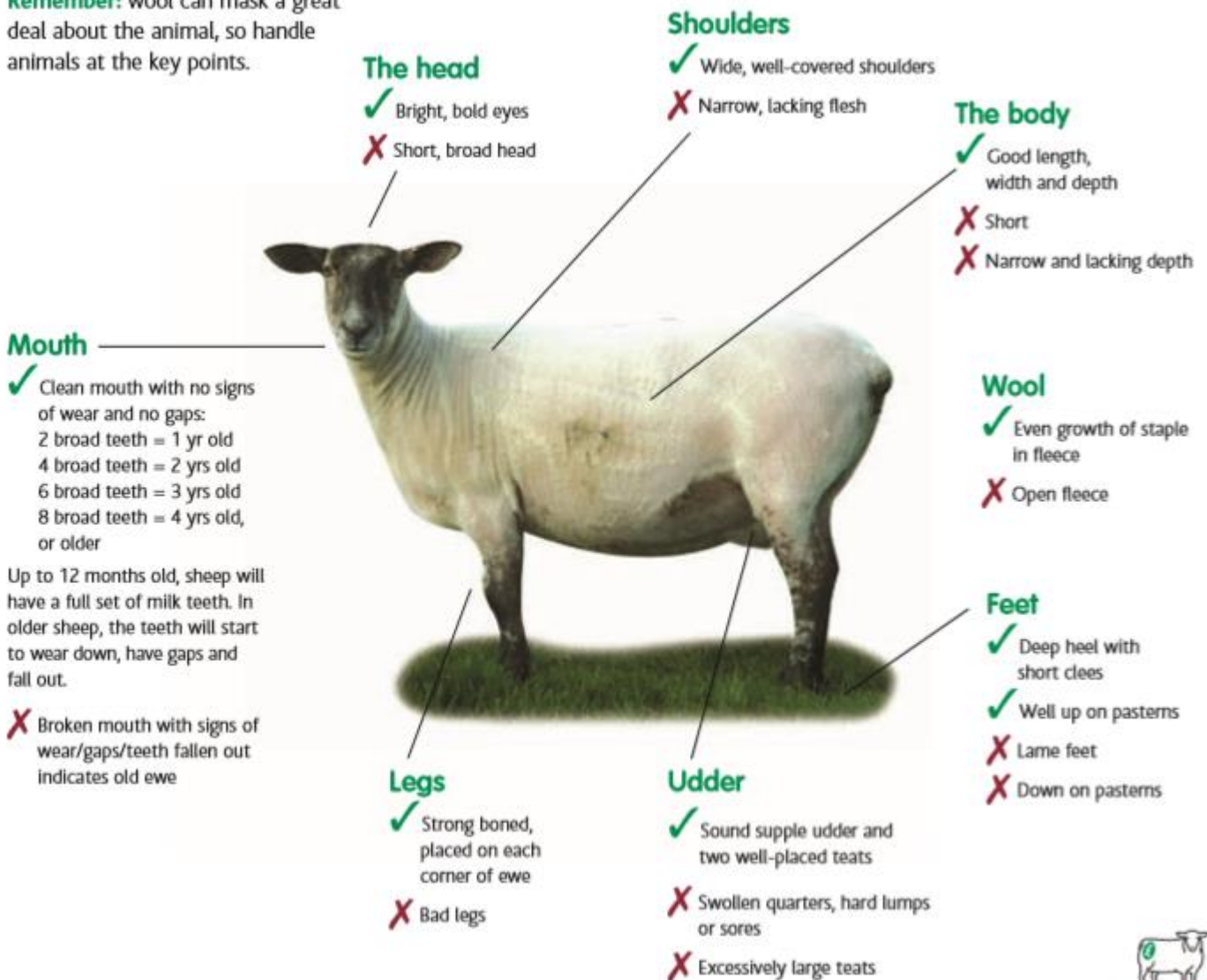
NEVER say meaty or fat

ALWAYS TOUCH THE LAMBS – You cannot judge a lamb without touching it because of the wool – a large lamb can sometimes be more wool than flesh

The image above taken from Eblex mentions the “eye muscle development“(within shoulder) - this cannot be seen on a LIVE lamb and we would recommend you do not mention it.

Breeding Sheep

Remember: wool can mask a great deal about the animal, so handle animals at the key points.



Try and find out what breed of sheep you are judging before the competition – the above points are applicable to ALL breeds BUT each breed has its own characteristics so if you can find out the breed and research the facial/leg colours, shape of face, wool (purl)

Also, be aware that **sometimes** ewes cannot be provided for judging so **sometimes** it will be tups you are judging. All points from the image above/below, will remain the same, with the exception of the udder/teats, as a tup does not have one! Instead you need to make sure it has 2 stones/testicles, so that it is a full working tup.

Key words / terminology - additional to above:

Strength
Wide/Well bodied
Good Length
Confirmation
Weatherproof (fleece)
Even colouring

Reasons:

Reasons are just as important as your placings

If you have gained for example 44 out of 50 for your placings, and another person has gained 50 points, if your reasons are fuller and give more terminology than the other person, you could still be awarded 1st or 2nd place.

Reasons therefore can be the difference between 1st, 2nd or 3rd place and qualifying to the next round

This includes being smart and wearing a tie – if the judge has difficulty splitting you and a fellow judge – if you wore a tie and your opponent didn't – the judge would note this and mark you up.

To explain the points system on the placing card – whether you are judging 4 animals or 6 animals see below

Placings – 50 points (4 animals) or 48 points (6 animals)

Always write your order down on the reasons side of the card (the section you keep) so when you hand your card in you can be sure what order you placed the ring of stock.

Accuracy of observation – 25 points (4 animals) or 32 points (6 animals)

This links into your order placing, however even if you have not got the order right, if you state the breed of the ring of stock and the sex of each animal, you will gain extra points

Tell the judge if you felt there were 2 pairs in the class today, or if you felt there was a definite 1st place or 4th place or if you struggled to split either 1st / 2nd, 2nd / 3rd or 3rd / 4th

These are all observations and confirms to the judge that you touched the stock as well

Please note, if you are unsure of the breed for example when judging beef or butchers lambs – say “continental cross”. If you are unsure of the breed when judging other stock do not say it and if you are unsure of the sex do not say it – there is nothing worse than saying it's a heifer when it is a bull!

The easiest place to pick up an extra point or 2 is by stating the breed and sex of each animal if known.

Comparative and not descriptive – 15 points (4 animals) or 20 points (6 animals)

This is exactly what it says on the tin.....do not just describe each animal, you must compare with the previous and give reasons WHY you have put 2nd below 1st, 3rd below 2nd and 1st and why you have placed the 4th animal 4th, compare each animal.

For example - the 3rd placed compared to my 1st 2 - was *lacking flesh, fullness, finish, was poorer, although still a good "lamb/heifer/pig/ewe/cow" I felt today it could not be placed any higher in the class.*

Remember that if there was only a SLIGHT difference between your 1st and 2nd for example, tell the judge that the loin was slightly narrower than my 1st and that is the main reason this animal was placed 2nd.

Do not say last – always say 4th – it was 4th in today's class.

Always remember the 4th placed animal is not the worst, it simply was not as good as the others in the pen today – there will always be a good point(s) on your 4th placed animal.

Style & Ability – 10 points

EASIEST place to get points – white coat, shirt, tie, boots, smart and SMILE

Hand behind back so don't fidget

No chewing gum

No pen or anything in hands

No extensive notes

It is very daunting when speaking to a judge if you have not done judging before – but remember when you give your reasons - you are telling the judge YOU are right and the JUDGE is wrong.

Be confident – ensure the judge can hear you – be aware if in an auction market or in a cattle trailer of noises surrounding you, so if need be, don't stand 10 foot away from the judge, move a little closer and don't shout – speak strong and confident.

General Points

Remember you have 2 minutes to fill – don't go over, but don't only speak for 1 minute or less. Aim for 1 minute 40 / 50 seconds

If you are judging 6 animals you have 3 minutes to fill – don't go over, but don't only speak for 2 minutes or less. Aim for 2 minutes 40 / 50 seconds

When you state the ring of stock you are judging, you are not judging fat lambs or fat beef or fat pigs – you are judging butchers lambs, breeding or butchers beef and pork or bacon pigs

Always open your reasons with

“Good Morning/Afternoon/Evening Madam/Master Judge - I place the ring of 4 _____ in the order ABXY

If judging 6 you would say 6 instead of 4 and the letters on the animals would be ABCXYZ

Always close your reasons with

Those madam/master judge are my reasons for placing the _____ in the order ABXY

Say Thank you and let the judge acknowledge you before you walk away

The contents of this booklet are a simple guide to help you understand what you are looking for when stockjudging and understand how the scoring of your reasons works

As mentioned on page 2 – there are volunteers who are willing to come to your club or district to provide further training. If you would like to receive training in any of the following areas please get in contact with the office:

STOCK JUDGING

PUBLIC SPEAKING

KNOW YOUR LIMITS (ALCOHOL AWARENESS)

EVENT BUDGETING

FARM SAFETY

DREAM TEAMS (TEAM BUILDING)

MEMBER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

YFC BACK TO BASICS

HELP PREPARING FOR YOUR AGM

RURAL PLUS

OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS:

01423 865870

office@yfyfc.org.uk