<u>Dairy Cattle Evaluation</u>

<u>Contest Description and Rules:</u>

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) – All Teams

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 will include individual cow production records 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. Thirty minutes will be allowed for the exam.
2. Each contestant will complete the exam. It will not be a group or team exercise.
3. DHI records will be provided to answer the questions utilized within the exam.

B. Sire selection exercise (50 points) – All Teams

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) – All Teams

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) – All Teams

1. A placing class of four milking cows 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 15 minutes will be allowed for answering these 10 questions AND completing the placing on the class of four cows.

E. Oral reasons (50 points) – FFA Qualifying Teams 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 (Non-qualifying for FFA)

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 criteria will be used in order to determine award recipients. If a tie still exists after using the first tie-breaker, the second tie-breaker will be used and so on:

1. Oral reasons score
2. Dairy management / DHI record analysis exam score
3. Type analysis questions score

Tiebreakers – Ag Tech

If ties occur between individuals or teams competing within the Ag Tech contest, the following criteria will be used in order to determine award recipients. If a tie still exists after using the first tie-breaker, the second tie-breaker will be used and so on:

1. Dairy management / DHI record analysis exam score
2. Type analysis questions score
3. Cumulative score from the 4 placing classes (Evaluation and selection section)

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