

# Livestock Evaluation – Career Development Event Sponsored by: 1986- 1987 State Officer Team



**Purpose:** The purpose of the Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE) is to provide a competitive event for agricultural education students, emphasizing skills in livestock evaluation, selection and management.

**Background:** The Livestock Evaluation CDE is one of the oldest of the FFA Contests. One of the reasons agricultural education students met in Kansas City when the FFA was organized was to participate in the American Royal Livestock Judging contest. The CDE has evolved to include communication skills and team building exercises. The objectives are:

- To understand and to interpret the value of performance data based on industry standards.
- To measure the students' knowledge of making observations of desirable traits, logical decisions, discussing and defending these decisions.

- To develop the ability to select and market livestock.
- To become proficient in communicating in the terminology of the industry.
- To identify the criteria used in grading livestock.
- To provide an opportunity for participants to become acquainted with professionals in the industry.

A team consists of four students with the three highest grades used to determine the team score. Students compete on the regional and state levels before advancing to the national CDE in Livestock Evaluation. Members advance as a team. The top two teams from each region advance to the state competition. Livestock specialists are used to help conduct the CDE by selecting the animals to be used, providing herd records, making official placings, and listening to oral reasons. The state winning team represents Tennessee at the national CDE held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention each October.

**Visibility:** The sponsor of this award will be recognized in the following ways:

- Immediate press release recognizing the new partnership.
- Statewide recognition at the state FFA convention in front of 2,500 FFA members.
- Statewide media recognition through press releases in agricultural publications.
- Name of sponsor on plaques received by FFA members.

**Budget:** The annual cost of this three-year commitment is \$1500.00. This amount of support each year will provide the award plaques with sponsor's name on each of three regional levels and at the state level, regional CDE expenses, lunch at the

state CDE, and travel expenses for the winning team to the National FFA Convention.

Expected Results: This partnership will generate added interest and excitement in this award area. Through this increased interest more students will focus their skill development in livestock management.