I placed the Angus Heifers 4-2-3-1. In the top pair of nicer balanced, more correctly structured heifers I personally like the added volume and weight advantage that 4 has over 2. No doubt 4 is a wider based, bigger ribbed heifer that appears to be easier fleshing. I also like the fact that she is more muscular when I get in behind her and believe she has a substantial advantage in weight per day-of-age. I certainly appreciate the femininity and correctness of line found in 2. However, I placed her second because she narrows up underneath and is lighter muscled when compared to the heifers placed on either side of her.

However, in the middle pair I like 2 to beat 3. 2 is more striking from the side because she has a longer, cleaner neck that is attached more correctly into the top of her shoulder. Plus, she is cleaner in her conditioning and appears to have more female character. It’s easy to see that 3 has an advantage in apparent growth, is deeper bodied and more muscular. However, her problem deals with balance. She is thick and deep in her neck, coarse fronted and just a bit too plain in her look.

Nonetheless, I prefer her look of durability and used 3 over 1 in the bottom pair. 3 is just more powerful in her makeup. She has more body volume, is naturally thicker from behind and is built wider at her foundation. To add to this, she stands more correctly on her legs as I study her from side. Yes, 1 is cleaner fronted and smoother through her shoulder. However, this does not make up for the fact that she is the shallowest bodied, lightest muscled and in general, the lowest performing heifer in this class.
Class #2 - Shorthorn Steers

3 – 4 – 1 – 2
2 – 2 – 4

I placed the shorthorn market steers 3-4-1-2. In the top pair of more moderate framed, structurally correct steers I like the advantage in cutability that 3 has over 4. In my opinion, 3 is a cleaner finished steer that handles trimmer down his top and is freer of waste through his lower one-third. Plus, he is the more up-headed steer that is smoother in his shoulder and cleaner through his chest. Admitting, 4 is a heavier boned steer that is wider in his upper hip. However, I like him second because he is a coarse fronted steer, that is somewhat fatter at his 12th rib.

However, his more like the class winner in terms of moderation of frame and weight so I used 4 over 1 in the middle pair. 4 is more conservative in his frame size and potential carcass weight. He too, is a stouter hipped steer that stands on more bone and base width. True, 1 is a longer bodied steer that is trimmer through his middle. However, I placed him third, because he is a bit extreme in his frame and relative to this extra size he comes off lighter muscled when compared to the pair placed in front of him. Just as concerning, he is somewhat straight in his shoulder.

Nonetheless, 1 clearly has more dimension and needs to beat 2 in the final pair. 1 has a beefier shape to his top and ties this into a thicker hip. This compliments the fact that he is bolder in the shape of his rib and gauged wider underneath. He should cut open to a larger ribeye. Indeed, 2 is the cleanest pattern steer in this class. However, he must go fourth because he is the narrowest gauged, flattest shaped, lightest muscled steer in this class.
Class#3 – Market Meat Goats

4 – 2 – 1 – 3
7 – 4 – 2

4-2-1-3 is my placing on this class of market goats. I found the class to have an easy top, a logical second, and a close bottom pair. Ideally my class winner could have been leaner, nonetheless, it’s easily 4 over 2 in my initial pair as 4 was simply the most complete, proportionally balanced doe in the class. 4 was easily the overpowering kid being the most massive, pounds heaviest doe. She was meatier over his rack, spanned more width of loin, was wider based and especially more massive through her leg. Additionally, she was a heavier boned, stouter made doe that was deeper and bolder in her rib. These advantages should allow her to rail a carcass with more total pounds of high priced consumer preferred cuts. I realize that 2 was a leaner, trimmer kid, however, this doesn’t offset the fact that he was low in his pins and funneled in his leg.

In reference to my intermediate pair I preferred 2 over 1 as 2 was easily the higher performing, more skeletally extended, stouter made wether. He was longer and leveler down his top and was a fresher, smoother made wether. Additionally, he was a wider based, deeper twisted kid that should rail a carcass yielding more total pounds of leg and loin. I criticized the sandy colored wether and left him third as he was flat ribbed, sharp topped and narrow based.

Nonetheless, I still preferred 1 over 3 in my concluding pair as 1 was a nicer balanced, taller fronted, longer necked wether. Additionally, he was a sounder structured kid that was straighter and stronger on his pasterns and was a wider based, thicker chested, deeper ribbed kid. When taken to the rail he should hang a carcass with more total pounds merchandisable product. I criticized the coarse haired kid and left him last as he was a stale, narrow chested, shallow bodied, light muscled wether that when taken to the rail should hang the lowest yielding, least packer-preferred carcass in this class today.
2-1-3-4 is my placing for the market lambs. In the top pair of lambs that are similar in muscularity and correctness of finish it is the little things that allows me to place 2 over 1. The dark blue lamb is a tighter hided sheep that is thinner in his neck and smoother in his shoulder. Plus, he is more nearly level out to his dock and stouter in the upper part of his hip. I also like the fact that he is more correct in his rib depth. Perhaps 1 is longer bodied. However, I marked him second because he is a heavier middled lamb that is somewhat steep in his rump.

Nonetheless, 1 is clearly a wider gauged, more muscular wether and needs to beat 3 in the middle pair. No doubt, 1 handles with more product form his rack back into his leg, and in the end he will hang with more pounds from his last rib back. Moreover, 1 is wider based, heavier boned sheep that has an advantage in apparent weight. I can see that the white lamb is taller fronted, longer bodied and is leaner to the touch. However, he falls short of muscularity found in the pair of wethers in front of him. Consequently, I placed him third.

However, I like 3 to beat 4 in the bottom pair. It’s the simple fact that 3 is a bigger framed, longer measuring lamb that is fresher to the touch. Plus, from the profile I much prefer his correctness of topline. Yes, 4 is a bit more muscular through the center part of his leg. However, I placed him fourth because I find him to be a light muscled sheep that is the smallest framed, lightest weight and staldest handling wether in this class.

2-1-3-4 is my placing for the market lambs. In the top pair of lambs that are similar in muscularity and correctness of finish it is the little things that allows me to place 2 over 1. The dark blue lamb is a tighter hided sheep that is thinner in his neck and smoother in his shoulder. Plus, he is more nearly level out to his dock and stouter in the upper part of his hip. I also like the fact that he is more correct in his rib depth. Perhaps 1 is longer bodied. However, I marked him second because he is a heavier middled lamb that is somewhat steep in his rump.

Nonetheless, 1 is clearly a wider gauged, more muscular wether and needs to beat 3 in the middle pair. No doubt, 1 handles with more product form his rack back into his leg, and in the end he will hang with more pounds from his last rib back. Moreover, 1 is wider based, heavier boned sheep that has an advantage in apparent weight. I can see that the white lamb is taller fronted, longer bodied and is leaner to the touch. However, he falls short of muscularity found in the pair of wethers in front of him. Consequently, I placed him third.

However, I like 3 to beat 4 in the bottom pair. It’s the simple fact that 3 is a bigger framed, longer measuring lamb that is fresher to the touch. Plus, from the profile I much prefer his correctness of topline. Yes, 4 is a bit more muscular through the center part of his leg. However, I placed him fourth because I find him to be a light muscled sheep that is the smallest framed, lightest weight and staldest handling wether in this class.

Class #5 – Breeding Ewes (official reason unavailable)

1 – 2 – 4 – 3
2 – 5 – 2
Crossbred Market Hogs

3-2-1-4

3-2-1-4 is my alignment of the Market Hogs. I like 3 to win because she is the biggest, apparently fastest growing hog that is the most productive in her look. I base this on the fact she drives at me with the widest skeleton, she has the toughest shape to her rib, and she spreads the most muscle volume from blade to hip. This coupled with the fact she is the biggest in her kind suggests she will package up the most pounds of pork. Sure, 2 has a more defined groove from blade to hip and she is leveler designed. Yet, relative to the gilt that beats her she is narrower underneath and slower growing.

Even so, in an intermediate pair of blue butt gilts that are similar in type, I opted for 2 because there is more of her. As I get in behind her she is boulder bladed, squared up with a more genuine shape of muscle to her top and sends this into a stouter hip while clearly having more dimension to her ham. Bottom line; she should go to the cooler and kill with the larger eye. I admit 1 hooks in more correctly from her shoulder into her top line and she is taller fronted. Unfortunately though, she is flatter about her hip and ham, and she becomes too straight off both ends of her skeleton.

Still she has a distinct advantage in composition and freshness that easily aligns her over 4. To put it simple, 1 is a better kind of market hog that is more pulled apart in her skeleton. She has a more durable shape to her rib and sets down on a wider base and more substance of bone. Plus, she has more muscle content and in the end she should have the higher carcass value. I understand 4 has a more correct angle to her pastern. However her problems deal with composition because she is the lightest muscled, plainest shaped, poorest balanced hog of the drive.
I placed the Hampshire Gilts 3-4-1-2. Three needs to win the class because she better combines skeletal width, capacity and design into the most complete package. The wide belted gilt is hooked up more correctly behind her blades, is leveler to her rump and stands more correctly off her rear legs. It’s an added bonus that she has a bigger, squarer muscle laying down her top and ties it into a stouter hip. Perhaps, 4 is a bit cleaner underneath. However, I like her second because she’s a broken top gilt that is weak behind her blades and somewhat steep in her hip.

None-the-less, 4 is more like the gilt that wins the class and she needs to beat 1 in the middle pair. Clearly, 4 is a faster growing, wider constructed gilt that is heavier structured. Plus, I like the fact that she is bolder in her rib and has more cushion on both ends. In my opinion she should make the better replacement female. I understand 1 is the ultra raw, shapely gilt in the class. However, this leanness comes with a sacrifice and I placed her third, because she is shallow bodied, flat ribbed and the slowest growing gilt of the top three.

Even so, I still placed 1 over 2 in the bottom pair. The narrow belted gilt is longer bodied and leveler from blade to hip. Furthermore, 1 has a cleaner, more correct shape of muscle in her top and has more shape to all aspects of her ham. Yes, 2 is a deeper bodied gilt and has a more prominent underline. However, I placed her fourth because she is the shortest bodied gilt in the drive that is steep in her hip. But just as concerning, she is the heaviest conditioned, lightest muscled gilt in this class.

Acknowledgement:
Images and official reasons taken from: Livestock Judging 101 practice classes, University of Kentucky Animal & Food Science Livestock Judging practice pages and Discovering Ag Class Judging contest (Mr. Colby Lind).