

Official Livestock Judging Results - May 2022



SURE•CHAMP

Mark that Card

Duroc Gilts Placing: 4-2-3-1 with Cuts: 3-6-2

I like the Duroc gilts 4231. I'm high on the breeding value of both gilts up top. I like to build them from the ground up, so 4's more durable bone and foot give her the nod. I've got her over 2 to begin. I'm extremely impressed 4's so stout and flexible in her hind leg while still remaining so correct in the set to her pasterns. But it's driving profile where she further separates herself as the ultra-feminine high headed female is so tall bladed yet still correct in the curvature to her forearm and knee. It doesn't hurt that she's cranked high at the base of her tail and holds the edge for pin width.

Now she's not the biggest chested and that's where I prefer the 2 gilt, because driving at me this bold bladed big forearmed gilt comes back out of her sternum with the most curvature to her forerib and center body. I love her maternal image from the side and soft pliable ribcage, but the more I break her down she's a bit smaller in her foot size and needs to be picked up in her pasterns; so I left a good one 2nd.

But it's still an easy 2/3 mark in the middle as here lies the largest gap in quality. A better-balanced look and attractive, functional build are all I need to mention. When shown by herself the dark red 3 gilt can give some impressive looks, she's bold and broody in her ribcage and is no slouch for power. I really appreciate that her added flesh should help her recycle sooner post-weaning. But next to an elite top pair she's too flat-footed, plain fronted and round out of her hip. She's just not in the same league I've got her as a distant 3rd.

Still, I prefer a 3/1 mark in a closer bottom decision where she just has the upper hand in skeletal width and rib shape. From profile, I appreciate that she hooks up stronger behind her blade and stays more consistent down her spine. Sure 1's more feminine headed, taller bladed and fresher in her condition, but I'm out on the flattest bodied gilt who's stale over her chine and off behind it. I'll leave the light red gilt 4th. Thanks for your time.



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Market Hogs Placing: 4-2-1-3 with cuts of 3-4-2

I'll sort the market hogs 4-2-1-3 and in a challenging class, I'm still the most comfortable starting the 4 barrows extra width and product. The stout structured, heavy weight, blue barrow is the most opened up in his skeleton, he's the boldest in his rib and this allows him to open up with the most terminal shape from blade to hip. What truly makes him my class winner is when I put him on the drive he is the up headed, attractive barrow who is set higher at the base of his tail.

Now like my class winner the belted barrow in second is stout out through his hip and stifle has lean shape over his 10th and he is fresher at the top of his neck and cleaner hocked. I'd personally like to raise him in his pin set and lengthen him out of his hip.

Still I stay committed to muscle in product in the middle pair and write them 2-1, driving at me 2 is more opened up in his chest, set out in his forearm and blade and just comes so much truer into the back of his shoulder. To me the barrow that's more impressive in his shape going away should have the advantage in lean cut out value and total product. Now I like 1's shape out of his blade and he is fresh backed, but the white tailed, strait hocked barrow gets too flat in his rib for me and gives up product.

Bottom pair of barrows could both use more lean shape to maximize their endpoint value, but 1 is still the bigger chested stouter forearm barrow that has more turn and shape to his top and should have the advantage in cutability. Now 3 is a good looking attractive barrow as he drives at a profile, but the frail boned light muscled blue barrow just needs more product.



Simmental Heifers Placing 4-2-3-1 with Cuts 5-2-3

I like the Bred Heifers 4-2-3-1. There's no doubt in my mind 4 wins. She's the best structured highest quality female, who's body shape and freshness read to be the most cow like. She's easily the freshest female with a great presence and she still has a nice spine, clean joints, and a quality hind leg. Now I'll admit 2 brings more real cow dimension when you step behind the cattle. But I thought she pushed refinement to an extreme, so I left the frailer made, big chested heifer a distant second.

Yet in the middle it's her cow power and brood cow body that pushes me to a 2-3 mark. 2's the more genuine source for mass and substance of body and I'm more confident that will equate to more real brood cow being left post calving. 3 is tempting from the side because I prefer the way the top of her neck and shoulder are shaped and she stays more jet level in her topline. But not only do I question how much real cow is there, but she hasn't perfected structure, as I'd change her hind leg both on the stand and in motion.

Then on bottom 3 beats 1 because from the side, she offers more quality. I like that heifers' angles and symmetry and 3 offers the fresher and more feminine features. Sure 1, likely has more brood cow shape to her body and more substance to her hip, but the plainest heifer lacks the quality of her contemporaries. She's plain headed, pushed out in her chest, and short hipped.



Angus Bulls Placing: 2-4-1-3 with Cuts: 3-2-4

I like the Angus Bulls 2-4-1-3. That short tail 2 bull's undeniable power and body shape paired with a functional skeleton positions him as my herd sire of choice. Personally, his balanced look from the profile is best complimented with a masculine, beef bull look. Plus, step behind the cattle, and his clear advantage in muscularity will enable his sire group to rise to the top, whether geared for seedstock or commercial production. Now, 4's upheaded and ultra level look grabs your attention from the start. I just wish the flatter foreribbed, narrower pinned bull came with the same power.

Both bulls in middle pair have value in a herd bull battery. But, if your goal is to improve length of body, structure and add a quality look to the next generation, I'd bet on 4. Watch the cattle go and 4's slope of shoulder and knee allows him to maintain a more comfortable spine. Yet, it's hard to deny 1's depth of rib and more rugged appearance doesn't hold merit for the right program. But, it's the straight shouldered bull's structure that makes him my 3rd pick. In the final decision, I relied on my first impression of performance and extra body shape to drive the 1 over 3 mark. It wouldn't surprise me if the neat necked and smoother shouldered 3 bull read the most impressive in his calving ease column. And I'd trust the sounder structured bull out on heifers. Without ages, it's hard to make a case for the frailest featured and flattest made bull that clearly falls behind in performance.



Ewe Lambs Placing: 3-4-1-2 with Cuts: 4-2-3

I like the ewe lambs 3412. There's an awfully good one to win in 3, and I think it all starts with her skeletal build. She's so stout structured and correct on her feet and legs, her spine is perfectly level, and she puts together all of the fundamentals of a good brood ewe while having the extra bells and whistles needed to make competitive show sheep. I love that she's elevated in her chest floor and runs uphill while coming back perfectly round bodied and extra stout and dimensional in terms of her pin width from behind. Now when it comes to 4, I'm a big fan of her power. She's bold bodied and arguably the most dimensional from behind. However, in comparison to 3 she's just not as unique in her design. She's lower tying in terms of her neck and shorter coupled from the profile.

Now the middle is where it gets close. However today, there's just a shot more natural dimension and power in 4. She's bolder in the shape of her fore rib and center body, she's bigger and squarer loined, while being wider constructed at the base of her skeleton. 1 still has plenty of value and I like a lot of things about her in terms of her youthful look and build. She's feminine and attractive up front and actually reads more correct in terms of the angle to her shoulder. However, when you study her from directly behind, I would just like to open up her rib cage and make her stouter pinned, while strengthening her in her loin ever so slightly.

But in the bottom pair she's easily the higher quality option that just comes more intangibles of look and balance from the side. 2 is certainly a broody appearing ewe with some body shape and power. But unfortunately it comes at the cost of her build. She's the open shouldered, roundest constructed ewe that is just the plainest to look at and the most upright in terms of her shoulder, so she's fourth.



Market Lambs 3-1-2-4 with Cuts: 2-5-5

I like the Market Lambs 3-1-2-4 I am quick to sort up a top pair of stout, muscular built ewes. I prefer the body shape and lines of the gray tinged, thin hided sheep to start. Here is the biggest raked ewe that is the best in her forerib shape and in terms of topline, I like this one the best in her loin. Now, what makes the top close is the hip and hind leg design in tandem with her extra length and body found in the stout skulled, big boned ewe, but she is flat in her forerib, plain in her rack and I am just okay with how her loin ties in.

There is no question her muscle mass and quality easily keep her over the remaining two. From a carcass perspective 1 is stouter hipped, bigger stifled and will rail more pounds of product. Not to mention, the better build and balance of the closed faced ewe makes the cut even bigger. From the side, the 2 ewe is better in her topline, however she is one of two narrow based sheep with a drastic muscle and quality disadvantage.

With that stated, it's the view from behind that sorts the bottom 2, 4. The wider pinned sheep comes fuller out of her dock, has more outer hip shape and takes that shape deeper into her leg. I get 4 is stout featured and big footed, but when you try to make sheep progressively wider from shoulder to hip this one needs more muscle from her last rib back and is easily the off quality, light muscled ewe.



Breeding Does Placing: 3-1-4-2 with Cuts: 5-4-3

I like the Breeding does 3142. That big footed 3 doe is just flat impressive. Not only is she so incredibly attractive in her look from the side with an elite hip and hind leg assembly, but to do so while maintaining competitive wether making pieces of skeletal width, roundness of body, and mass up high makes her next level. If you are chasing power, the stout forearmed 1 fits the bill. I would love to replicate the big pinned does round ribcage, extra mass, and feature. It's just the extra set to her hock and plainer chest keeps the more moderate doe a distant second.

Still, it's just easy to latch on to that kind of maternal mass and power to mark the middle 1-4. Don't get me wrong, I know the value in the black headed does awesome skeleton and feminine look from the side. Personally, I wish she came with more. The flatter ribbed narrower pinned doe is just not near wide enough. With that being said, I know how hard it is to keep does with that kind of feature to still lay in correct in her knee and relaxed in the angle of her shoulder while having the right kind of posture to her hip and hind leg, so the bottom goes 4-2. I get it, the stouter pinned, bigger hipped 2 might throw wether prospects that can touch as good as any. Outside of a deeper chest and plainer front-end the round hipped doe sets a sharper hock on the frailest rear leg of the set, so she'll be the hardest to breed around. Thank you.



Market Goats Placing: 1-4-2-3 with Cuts: 2-5-3

I like the Market Goats 1-4-2-3. Among the pair of elite, high-quality wethers, the more exotic, dark headed wether is simply the hardest to make. Not only is he round bodied and impressively expressive in terms of shape up high, but where that one truly separates himself from his contemporaries is in his ability to combine his power with an athletic build and easily the most striking silhouette from the side. He's the taller, smoother shouldered wether that ties a longer neck in higher at the point of his shoulder. Now, the more conservatively marked 4 wether's elite status comes from the fact that he's just so hard to pick apart. That's an incredibly wide skeletoned, round bodied goat that's actually bigger chested and stouter featured compared to the class winner. It's just unfortunate that he doesn't come equipped with the extra bells and whistles that make the one that precedes him a standout.

4's already established stoutness, muscularity and power is exactly what keeps him over 2 in the middle. It's true, the red footed wether props up with a dynamic look from the profile, and he's actually longer spined and smoother shouldered. However, against the goats that precede him, he's just comparatively narrower constructed, flatter bodied wether that needs to be stouter out of his hip.

I still prefer the stouter skulled, bigger fore armed wether in the bottom, where he undoubtedly offers more shape out of the backside of his shoulder and more dimension through his lower stifle. Don't get me wrong, the 3 wether doesn't sort down due to a lack of quality and look. That one is one of the taller shouldered, more extended ones of this set. But with that comes a lack of true width and shape and amongst his elite contemporary group, he's just pretty apparently the most fragile about his feature, the flattest bodied and narrowest constructed from the side.