AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES COUNCIL OF NSW LTD

Your Country Show Movement

YOUNG JUDGES COMPETITIONS

INFORMATION HANDBOOK

FOR

AGRICULTURE TEACHERS

THE JUDGING COMPETITIONS

The Agricultural Societies Council (ASC) is the organisation that co-ordinates the country show movement in NSW. The ASC assists country shows in a variety of ways: it organises group insurance, liaises with the Showman's Guild and other entertainment providers, co-ordinates show dates and many other things that assist country shows.

The ASC in conjunction with the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS [Sydney Show]) have, for many years, run state wide judging competitions for young people between the ages of 15 and 25 years. These competitions start with competition at local show level and culminate with State Finals at the Sydney Royal Show.

ASC - RAS competitions are conducted in:

   # Beef Cattle

   # Dairy Cattle

   # Meat Breeds Sheep

   # Merino Sheep

   # Merino Fleece

   # Grains

   # Fruit and Vegetables

While there are many other judging competitions for students e.g. steer judging competitions held in conjunction with steer shows etc, the ASC judging competitions may offer other advantages. Judging competitions held at local shows may offer students a friendly non-threatening environment in which to start their judging career, there are a variety of judging competitions being held at the one location on the same day and there is the opportunity to progress to a higher level in the same judging category.

Students start their judging at local competitions, progress to Group finals (the ASC has divided all NSW country shows into 14 groups) and then to the NSW finals at the Sydney Royal Show. Winners from Sydney then have the opportunity to progress to the National Finals. The National Finals rotate around the Royal Shows held in each state in Australia.

Involvement in these judging competitions may provide many opportunities for students involved in agricultural activities in schools.

- The Stage 4/5 Agricultural Technology syllabus requires students to study a number of enterprises, both plant and animal and that students spend at least 50% of their time involved in practical activities. Involvement in appropriate judging competitions would allow students to achieve a number of syllabus outcomes.
- Many Primary Industries students in Year 11/12 study the elective unit RTE3133A Prepare livestock for competition. Preparation for and involvement in appropriate judging competitions could meet many of the outcomes for this elective.
- The oral section of these competitions can help to develop self confidence and self esteem in students.
- Involvement in the "local show" through these judging competitions can showcase students in a positive way in the community.

Unfortunately not all local shows conduct Young Judges Competitions and of all of those that do conduct competitions not all have them in all the different categories.

So, if you consider these Young Judges Competitions offer something of value to your students, what can you do?

- Contact your local Show Society to see if they conduct Young Judges Competitions and if so which ones. Then get your students involved in the next show.
- Become involved in your local Show Society. Offer to act as steward for the Young Judges Competitions. You could then implement judging competitions in areas that suit your requirements. Most shows modify the competition rules to suit their needs eg. allow students under 15 to compete, give advice and instruction during the competition, only judge one class of fleeces etc.
- Take students on excursions to compete at neighbouring shows that conduct Young Judges Competitions.
- Perhaps, if there are no local competitions, take students directly to a Group Final Competition. However, remember that Group Finals are designed to select and prepare students for competition at the Sydney Royal Show level. Students need to be well trained and prepared to compete at this level.

If your local Show does not conduct any Judging Competitions and you are considering implementing any of these competitions you should probably choose to implement competitions that:

      Suit you

      Suit your school program

      Suit your students interests

      Are relevant to your local district

Information on each competition is available on the ASC website.   This information will give you a start in setting up a local competition. Further information and assistance may be obtained from

- Your local Show Society
- Other Shows in your Group [your Show secretary can tell you about these]
- Your Group ASC delegates
- ASC

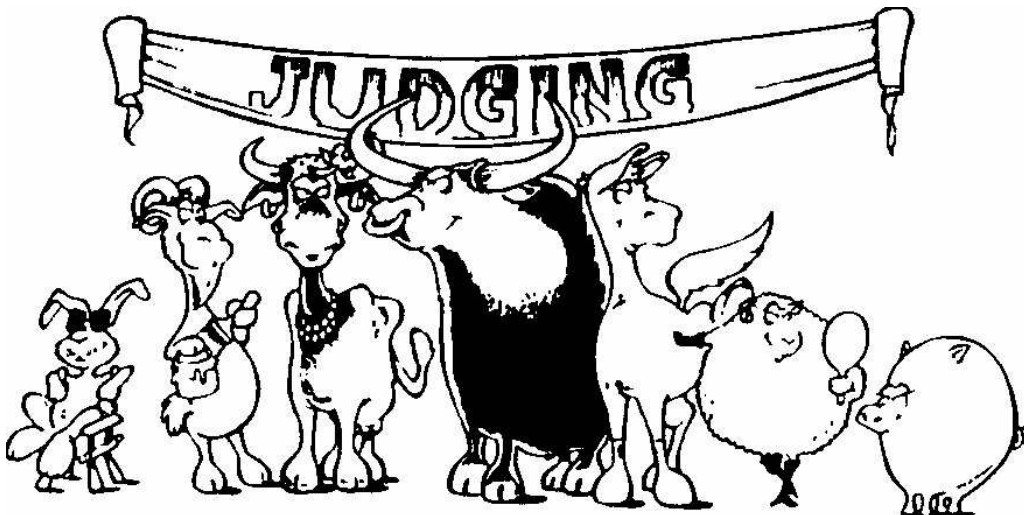For further information you may contact the ASC:-

Phone	02 98796777
Fax	02 98796043
Email	admin@agshowsnsw.org.au
Web	www.agshowsnsw.org.au

Judging Competitions Committee Chairman

Mr David Peters
Phone   02 6355 2332
Email   david@agshowsnsw.org.au

ASC President

Mr Tim O'Brien
Phone   0428 650 544
Email   president@agshowsnsw.org.au

<u>BEEF CATTLE JUDGING COMPETITION</u>

For a student competing in or a teacher preparing students for a beef cattle judging competition the following may be helpful.

<u>The Competition:</u>

- You may find Local Shows only have one class to judge, at Group Final level you could be expected to judge up to three classes. These may be classes of bulls, females or steers.
- Animals in each class should be of a similar age, breed etc.
- Where there is more than one class to be judged the oral class will be nominated by the overjudge before judging commences.
- Each animal should be judged on its present showing and not on what it has done or might do.
- Animals should be judged against the standard of what is considered a good beef type rather than one that pays strict attention to specific breed points.

<u>Bulls:</u> When judging bulls we should look for bulls that:-

- Have adequate height and length.
- Have adequate frame size and body capacity - low frame score indicates early maturity and high frame score indicates later maturity [this relates to market suitability].
- Are highly fertile - testicular size and shape can be an indicator of fertility.
- Have free movement - structural problems can restrict movement.
- Have good strong sound structure [structural traits are highly heritable therefore must be structurally sound]. Problems include straight prominent shoulders, post legs, straight pasterns, sickle hocks and feet problems.
- Have good muscle and fat composition - don't want extremes of muscling.

<u>Females:</u> The main selection criteria to apply to females are:-

- Fertility - The main function of a cow is to produce and feed a live calf each year. A highly fertile cow has a graceful feminine appearance, a clean face neck and throat, long smooth muscling, is long from hip to pins and is wide between the pins, has an angular shoulder and is triangular in appearance and is not broad and flat.
- Milking ability - The udder should be strong and evenly attached, be of good capacity with even moderate sized teats.
- Body shape, size and capacity.

Steers: The main areas to look for when judging steers are:-

- Muscle - muscularity can be assessed by looking at the forearm, shoulder and muscle seams in the hind quarter.
- Fatness - fat can be detected in the brisket, cod, flank and tail head.
- Trade suitability - this is a combination of fat cover, weight and conformation. Each market requires a specific weight range and fat depth.
- Structural soundness - less important than in bulls or females but may separate similar steers in the class.

Glossary: In any judging it is important to use the correct terminology. The following terms may help:-

- Bos indicus breeds - Brahman and Brahman derived breeds eg. Brangus, Braford, Santa Gertrudis, Drought Master.
- British breeds - breeds that originated in Great Britain eg. Hereford, Angus, Shorthorn, Red Poll.
- Bull - entire male
- Calf - young from birth to about 12 months of age, either sex.
- Cow - female after the birth of her first calf.
- Cull - to remove an animal from the herd.
- E.B.V. - estimated breeding values.
- European[Euro] breeds - breeds that originated in Europe eg. Charolais, Limousin, Simmental.
- Gestation - time from conception to birth [length of pregnancy].
- Heifer - young female before she has her first calf.
- Lactation - the process of milk production.
- Steer - male, castrated when young.
- Structure - the way the skeleton of the animal is made up. If the structure is correct the animal will be able to walk, feed and breed to their utmost ability.

Judging a Class of Beef Cattle

1. The animals in the class will be identified by "breastplates" numbered 1,2,3,4 and will be paraded in that order. The "breastplate" may also contain the date of birth, weight and any other relevant information available for the animal.

2. The animals in the class will be paraded in order in a clockwise direction around the ring for 2 minutes. Position yourself in the centre of the ring where you can observe each animal as it walks. View each animal from the side and compare each animal with your mental image of the ideal shape and proportions of a beef animal. Make a mental note of your initial rough placings.

3. The animals in the class will then be lined up head to tail, in order for 2 minutes. This allows time for you to move around each animal and make a more detailed individual assessment of the animals.

4. The animals in the class will then be led around the ring again for a further 2 minutes. Position yourself where you can see the animals walking toward and away from you. Use this time to confirm any structural faults and assess the soundness of each animal. You will also be able to compare the muscularity, condition and growth of each animal.

5. The animals in the class will then be lined up side by side for a further 2 minutes. During this time move around so that you can observe the whole class from the front and the rear and make comparisons between the animals. At this stage you should have identified and memorised the faults and characteristics of each animal.

6. Reassess your initial thoughts about the placings of the animals. Make your final decision about the way you want to place the animals.

Descriptive parts of a beast:
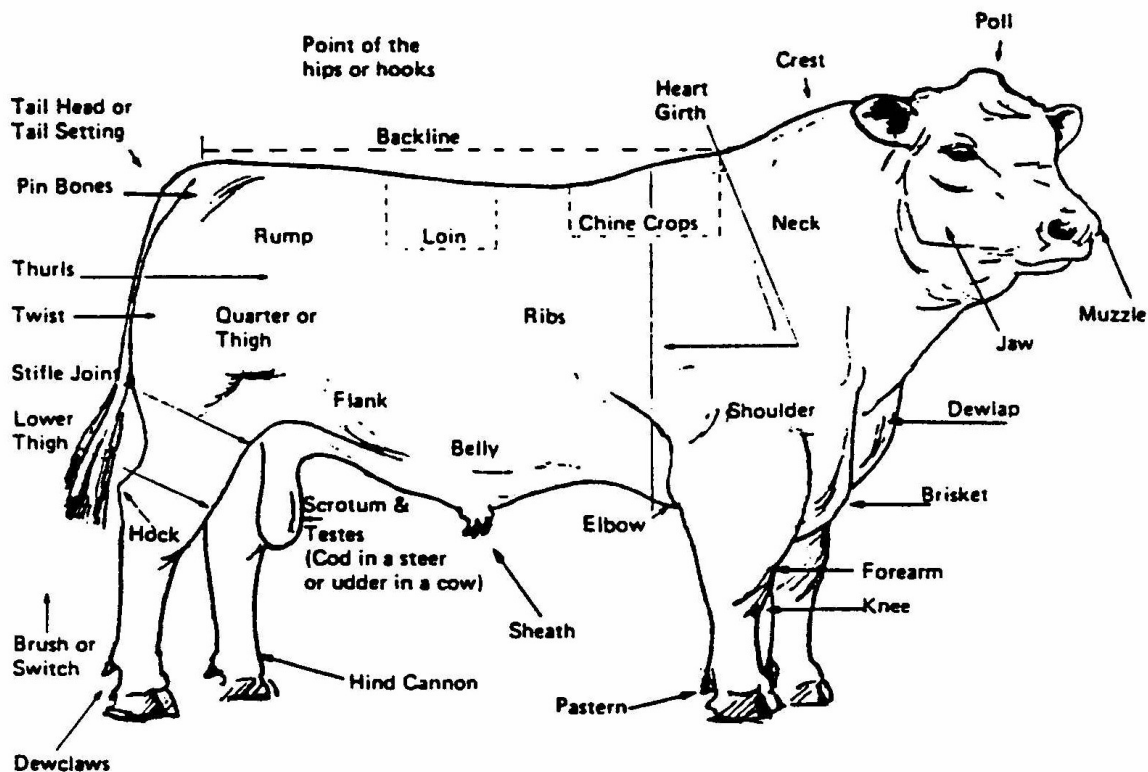
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES COUNCIL

NEXT GENERATION GROUP

A great way to meet new people, travel and have a lot of fun

For further information on the ASC Next Gen Group contact:-

Secretary: email: ascnextgen@agshowsnsw.org.au

DAIRY CATTLE JUDGING COMPETITION

The following notes may be helpful for students preparing for dairy cattle judging competitions.

The Competition:

- Many local shows may not have the facilities [access to dairy cattle] to conduct a dairy cattle judging competition. It may be necessary to go straight to a Group Final in order to participate in this judging competition.
- Where competitions are conducted one, two or three classes may be presented for judging, depending on availability of cattle. Each class should consist of a different breed.
- Where there is more than one class to be judged the oral class will be nominated by the overjudge before judging commences.
- Each animal should be judged on its present showing and not on what it has done or might do.
- Animals should judged against the standard of what is considered a good dairy type rather than one that pays strict attention to specific breed points.

Cows: As the prime function of a dairy cow is milk production when judging a dairy cow we should be looking for one that has a well structured udder, is fertile [produces a calf each year] and can walk and feed herself.

Some indicators of these characteristics are

- Udder large, not fleshy, and well balanced
- Fore-udder full and running forward
- Rear-udder well up, protruding behind and not rounding abruptly at the top
- Four teats of good uniform length and size, wide apart and squarely placed
- Milk veins large and prominent
- Hips wide apart, rather prominent and fine in the bone
- Hind legs squarely placed when viewed from behind and not to cross or sweep when walking
- Back straight from withers to setting of tail
- Barrel deep broad and long denoting large capacity; ribs round in shape

Heifers: Heifers should show similar characteristics to cows except the udder will not show the development that could be expected to be seen in a cow.

Glossary: In any judging it is important to use the correct terminology. The following terms may help:-

- Barrel the area from the shoulder to the hip - ideally should be long and broad
- Bull - entire male
- Calf - young from birth to about 12 months of age, either sex.
- Cow - female after the birth of her first calf.
- Cull - to remove an animal from the herd.
- Gestation - time from conception to birth [length of pregnancy].
- Heart girth - measurement around the chest - should be deep and broad with well sprung ribs
- Heifer - young female before she has her first calf.
- Lactation - the process of milk production.
- Structure - the way the skeleton of the animal is made up. If the structure is correct the animal will be able to walk, feed and breed to their utmost ability.
- Udder [fore and rear] the milk producing mammary tissue

Judging a Class of Dairy Cattle

The procedure for judging a class of Dairy Cattle is similar to that for judging a class of Beef Cattle. Therefore when judging Dairy Cattle you will approach the task in a similar manner as to that indicated in the Beef Cattle guidelines. However remember you are looking for different characteristics in Dairy Cattle.

Descriptive parts of a Dairy Cow
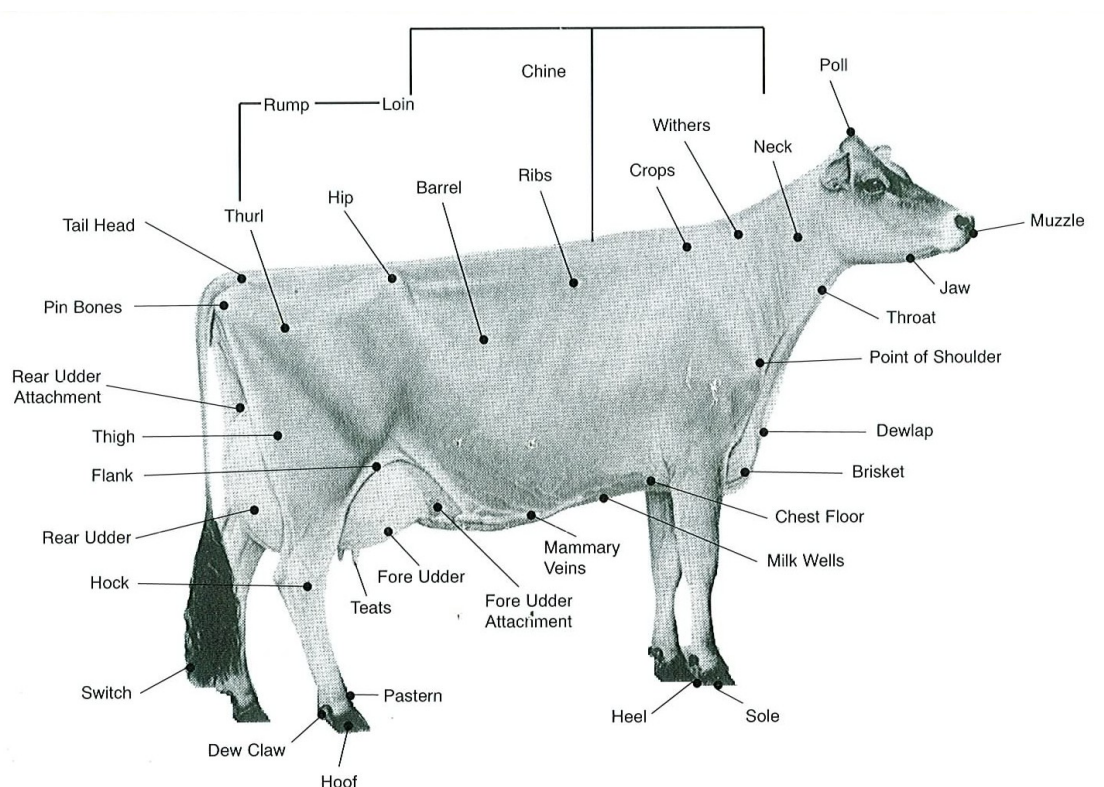
MEAT BREEDS SHEEP JUDGING COMPETITION

Some notes for students preparing to compete in or teachers helping students prepare for a Meat Breeds Sheep Judging Competition.

The Competition:

- Normally competitors are asked to judge two classes of sheep but local shows may only have one class to judge.
- The animals in a class should be all the same breed and sex and similar in age.
- Where there are two classes, one normally comprises sheep of one short wool meat breed and all of the one sex, e.g. Poll Dorset rams, while the other class consists of sheep which are all of a long wool meat breed and, usually, all of the opposite sex to the other class, e.g. Border Leicester ewes.
- Where there are two classes, the Oral Class will require competitors to speak on both classes.
- Animals should be judged against the standard of what is considered a good meat sheep type rather than one that pays strict attention to specific breed points.
- Competitors receive a score out of 50 for their placing in each class, a score out of 25 for their handling of the sheep in each class, and, if their scores earn them a place in the final phase of the competition, a score out of 50 for the Oral Class where competitors explain their placings.

Rams:

When judging rams it is essential to give preference to ones that:
- Are robust and masculine in appearance.
- Have adequate height and length with balanced proportions.
- Have adequate frame size and capacity for carrying meat.
- Have strong, sound structure (structural traits are highly heritable) with an absence of structural problems of body (such as prominent shoulders) or of legs and feet (such as being too erect or down in the pasterns).
- Have ample muscling and adequate fat cover.
- Have straight, free movement.
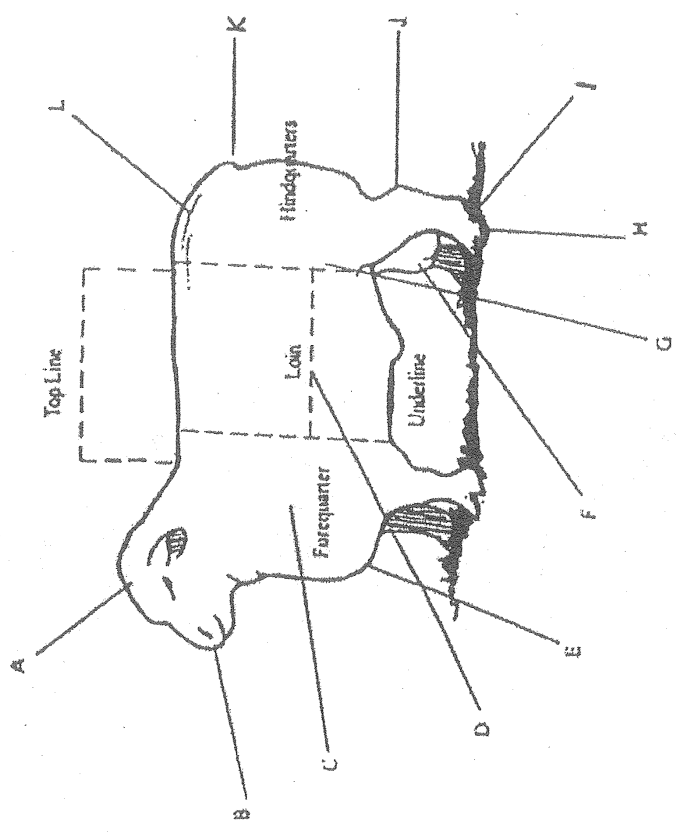- Are highly fertile (size and shape of testes can be an indicator).

Ewes:

The main selection criteria to apply to female sheep are:
- Must be feminine in appearance.
- Have adequate height and length with balanced proportions.
- Have adequate frame size and capacity for producing a lamb and for carrying meat.
- Have strong, sound structure with an absence of problems.
- Have ample muscling and adequate fat cover.
- Have straight, free movement.
- Have an udder with two even teats.

JUDGING POINTS—MEAT SHEEP

Short Wool Breeds

Top Line

Hindquarters

Loin

Forequarter

Underline

A Poll
B Muzzle
C Shoulder
D Ribs
E Brisket
F Testes
G Flank
H Hoof
I Pasterns
J Hocks
K Tail
L Rump

JUDGING POINTS—MEAT SHEEP

Long Wool Breeds
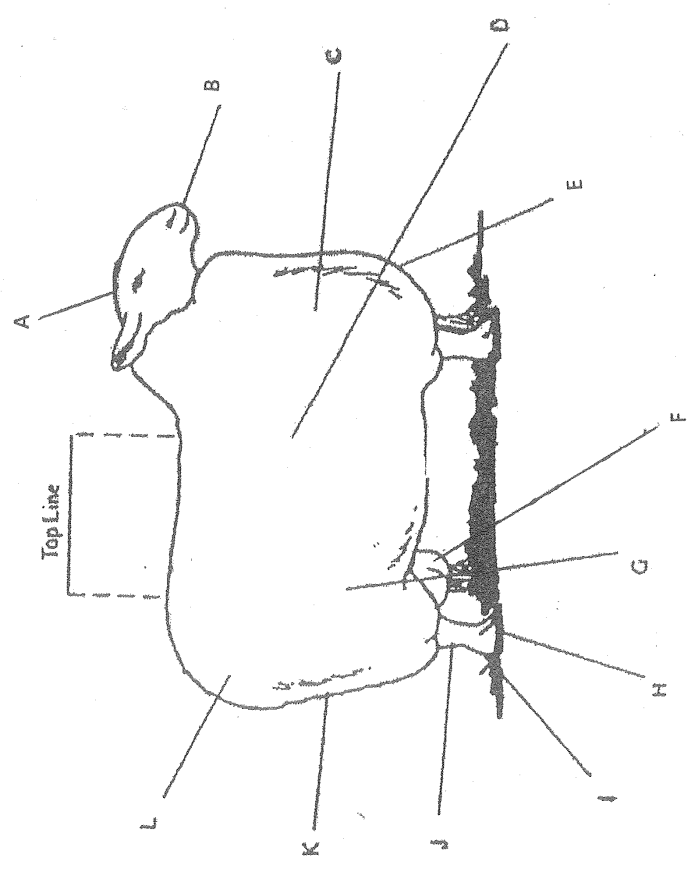
Top Line

A Poll
B Muzzle
C Shoulder wool
D Ribs
E Brisket
F Testes
G Flank
H Hoof
I Pasterns
J Hocks
K Breech Wool
L Rump

12

Glossary

- Breech: the rear of the hindquarters below the tail.
- Brisket: the front of the chest.
- British Breeds: breeds of sheep that originated in Great Britain.
- Ewe: adult female sheep.
- Hogget: a sheep with two adult teeth.
- Lamb: a young sheep with milk (baby) teeth.
- Long Wool Breeds: breeds of sheep that grow longer, strong wool, e.g. Lincoln.
- Pastern: the short bone immediately above the hoof.
- Poll: The top of the head / hornless.
- Ram: entire adult male sheep.
- Short Wool Breeds: breeds of sheep that grow shorter, strong wool, e.g. Suffolk.
- Structure: the bone shape of the animal.
- Twist: the area at the top of the inside of the hind legs.
- Wether: male sheep castrated at an early age.
- Withers: the point at which the shoulder blades come together where the neck joins the back.

Judging A Class of Meat Breeds Sheep

1. Begin by standing back and viewing the whole class from a distance comparing each sheep with your mental image of the ideal shape and proportions of a meat breeds sheep. View them from various angles and make a note of your initial rough placings.
2. Now move quietly to the left shoulder of the first sheep in the line-up, and, remembering to be gentle when handling the sheep, check the eyes, nostrils and bite, then the poll (or horns) and ears.
3. Next, feel the strength of the neck and its setting in the shoulders which should be tapered not square and without prominent withers.
4. Feel the brisket which should protrude forward of the front legs.
5. Now check the spine is straight, smooth and level right to the tail and measure its length by spanning it.
6. Check the spring of the ribs, the width of the loin and the fleshing of the hindquarter.
7. Span the distance from hip to pin, check the tail is set high and ensure the twist is well fleshed.
8. Without unnecessarily disturbing the animal, check the testes or udder.
9. Examine the wool (unless the sheep are woolless) making sure it is even, has no black fibres and is growing on soft, loose, pink skin.
10. Check whether the sheep stands square, has healthy looking hooves, and pasterns that are neither too erect nor too angled back.
11. When the sheep are walked, note whether each sheep is moving smoothly and bringing each foot through straight.
12. Stand back and check that the parts (forequarters, barrel and hindquarters) are in balanced proportions.

*****

MERINO SHEEP JUDGING COMPETITION

Some notes for students preparing to compete in or teachers helping students prepare for a Merino Sheep Judging Competition.

The Competition:

- Normally competitors are asked to judge two classes of sheep but local shows may only have one class to judge.
- The animals in a class should be stud Merino sheep, all the same sex and similar in age and wool type.
- Where there are two classes, one normally comprises ewes, while the other class consists of rams.
- Where there are two classes, the Oral Class will require competitors to speak on one class which will be nominated by the Senior Judge or the Steward-in-charge before the competition begins.
- Competitors receive a score out of 50 for their placing in each class, a score out of 50 for their handling of the sheep in one class, and, if their scores earn them a place in the final phase of the competition, a score out of 50 for the Oral Class where competitors explain their placings.

Rams:

When judging rams it is essential to give preference to ones that:
- Are robust and masculine in appearance.
- Have adequate height and length with balanced proportions.
- Have adequate frame size.
- Have strong, sound structure (structural traits are highly heritable) with an absence of structural problems of body (such as prominent shoulders) or of legs and feet (such as being too erect or down in the pasterns).
- Have wool which is of even type, soft and bright, dense, of uniform length, sound and of excellent character.(Wool is obviously of major importance in judging Merinos.)
- Have straight, free movement.
- Are highly fertile (size and shape of testes can be an indicator).

Ewes:

The main selection criteria to apply to female sheep are:
- Must be feminine in appearance.
- Have adequate height and length with balanced proportions.
- Have adequate frame size and capacity for producing a lamb and for carrying meat.
- Have strong, sound structure with an absence of problems.
- Have wool which is of even type, soft and bright, dense, of uniform length, sound and of excellent character. (Wool is obviously of major importance in judging Merinos.)
- Have straight, free movement.
- Have an udder with two even teats.

JUDGING POINTS – MERINO RAM
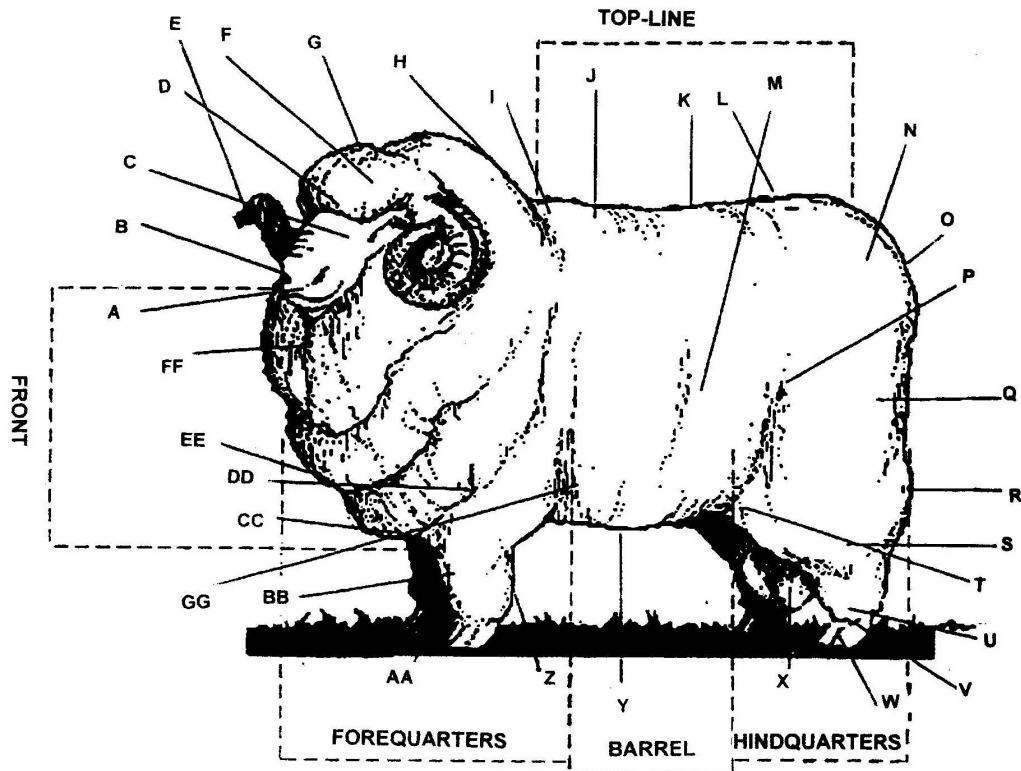
A	Muzzle	L	Loins	W	Hoof		
B	Nostrils	M	Ribs	X	Testes		
C	Face	N	Rump	Y	Underline		
D	Forehead	O	Tail	Z	Elbow		
E	Horns	P	Flank	AA	Knee		
F	Crest	Q	Twist	BB	Forearm		
G	Poll	R	Hock	CC	Brisket		
H	Scrag	S	Stifle	DD	Shoulder		
I	Withers	T	Lower Flank	EE	Apron		
J	Seat of Devils Grip	U	Fetlock	FF	Dew-lap		
K	Back or Saddle	V	Pasterns	GG	Girth		

Glossary

- Breech: the rear of the hindquarters below the tail.
- Brisket: the front of the chest.
- Devil's Grip : a depression behind the wither indicating a conformation fault which is associated with poor quality wool.

- Fine Wool: wool which comprises individual fibres of 18.6 to 19.5 microns diameter.
- Ewe: adult female sheep.
- Hogget: a sheep with two adult teeth.
- Lamb: a young sheep with milk (baby) teeth.
- Medium Wool : wool which comprises individual fibres of 20.6 to 22.5 microns diameter. (Fine medium wool comprises 19.6 to 20.5 micron.)
- Pastern: the short bone immediately above the hoof.
- Poll: The top of the head / hornless.
- Ram: entire adult male sheep.
- Strong Wool : Merino wool which comprises individual fibres of 22.6 to 24.5 microns diameter. (Extra strong wool is 24.6 micron and upwards.)
- Structure: the bone shape of the animal.
- Superfine Wool: wool where the average diameter of fibres is 17.6 to 18.5 micron. (Ultrafine Wool is of fibres 16.1 to 17.6 and Extra Ultrafine 16.0 and under.)
- Wether: male sheep castrated at an early age.
- Withers: the point at which the shoulder blades come together where the neck joins the back.

Judging A Class of Merino Sheep

1. Begin by standing back and viewing the whole class from a distance comparing each sheep with your mental image of the ideal shape and proportions of a merino sheep. View them from various angles and make a note of your initial rough placings.
2. Now move quietly to the left shoulder of the first sheep in the line-up, and, remembering to be gentle when handling the sheep, check the eyes, nostrils and bite, then the poll (or horns) and ears.
3. Next, feel the strength of the neck and its setting in the shoulders which should be tapered not square and without prominent withers.
4. Now check the spine is straight, smooth and level right to the tail.
5. Check the spring of the ribs and that the body is adequately fleshed.
6. Without unnecessarily disturbing the animal, check the testes or udder.
7. Examine the wool, at least on the neck, at the shoulder, mid-side and hip, making sure it is of bright, even type, has no black fibres and is growing on soft, loose, pink skin.
8. Check whether the sheep stands square, has healthy looking hooves, and pasterns that are neither too erect nor too angled back.
9. When the sheep are walked, note whether each is moving smoothly and bringing each foot through straight.
10. Stand back and check that the parts (forequarters, barrel and hindquarters) are in balanced proportions.

*****

MERINO FLEECE JUDGING COMPETITION

Some notes for students preparing to compete in or teachers helping students prepare for a Merino Fleece Judging Competition.

<u>The Competition:</u>

- Normally competitors are asked to judge two classes of fleeces but local shows may only have one class to judge.
- The fleeces in a class should be of similar wool type.
- Where there are two classes, one normally comprises fleeces of one wool type, while the other class may consist of fleeces of another wool type.
- Where there are two classes, the Oral Class will require competitors to speak on only <u>one</u> class which will be nominated by the Senior Judge or the Steward-in-Charge before the competition begins.
- Competitors receive a score out of 50 for their placing in each class, a score out of 50 for their handling of the fleeces in one class, and, if their scores earn them a place in the final phase of the competition, a score out of 50 for the Oral Class where competitors explain their placings.

<u>Wool Characteristics and Point Score</u>

Fleeces are judged by awarding points for a set of wool characteristics and adding up these points to arrive at placings.

1.   <u>Trueness to Type</u> (Max. 10 points)
      This characteristic is based on the wool style as determined by the Australian Wool Industry Description system.
> Choicest Style – 10 points
> Superior Style -   9 points
> Spinners Style -   8 points
> Best Topmaking – 7 points
> Good Topmaking – 5 points.

2.   <u>Uniformity of Length</u> (Max. 10 points)
      To achieve the maximum points a fleece would need to be of uniform length throughout and that length would need to be the required length for the fleece's wool type.
> Excellent – 10 points
> Good – 8 points
> Average – 6 points
> Irregular – 4 points

3.   <u>Soundness</u> (Max. 10 points)
      For a fleece to obtain the maximum points, there should be no indication of wool weakness anywhere in the fleece.
> Sound – 10 points
> Part Tender – 7 points
> Tender – 4 points.

4. Handle (Max. 8 points)
    The maximum points are awarded for very soft and elastic fleece as required for spinning.
    Very Soft – 8 points
    Soft – 7 points
    Average – 5 points
    Harsh – 3 points.

5. Colour or Bloom (Max. 6 points)
    The ideal is bright, white wool.
    Very Bright – 6 points
    Bright – 5 points
    Creamy – 4 points
    Dull – 3 points.

6. Wool Character (Max. 10 points)
    This is based on the definition or clarity of the crimp and its consistency from tip to base of each staple and throughout the fleece.
    Excellent – 10 points
    Good – 9 points
    Fair – 8 points
    Irregular – 6 points
    Plain – 5 points
    Poor – 3 points.

7. Wool Density (Max. 6 points)
    Density is concerned with the compactness of the fibres in a fleece.
    Excellent – 6 points
    Good – 5 points
    Average – 3 points
    Poor – 2 points.

8. Evenness (Max. 10 points)
    This characteristic is concerned with the uniformity of the level of quality throughout the fleece.
    Excellent - 10 points
    Good – 8 points
   Average – 6 points
    Irregular – 4 points
    Very Irregular – 2 points.

9. Top and Noil Product (30 points)
    This involves the calculation, using the estimated yield, of the weight of clean wool that would be obtained from an unwashed fleece and the allocation of a points value to that clean fleece.

Glossary

- Brightness – a wool characteristic where the ideal is bright, white wool.
- Crimp – the tiny waves in wool along the length of a staple. (Finer wool usually has smaller waves.)
- Doggy Wool – wool in which the crimp is uneven and less defined along the length of the staple.
- Fine Wool – wool with the individual fibres measuring 18.6 to19.5 microns.
- Fine Medium Wool – wool measuring 19.6 to 20.5 micron.
- Handle – the way wool feels to the touch. It may be soft, harsh or even prickly.
- Kemp – short hairs usually found low on the hindquarters of sheep and undesirable in a fleece.
- Micron – an abbreviation of "micrometre"(one millionth of a metre), the measure of the diameter of the individual fibres in a fleece (e.g. medium Merino wool is made up of 20.6 to 22.5 micron fibres.)
- Staple – the term for a cluster or group of wool fibres. Staples are joined by oblique fibres called "binders" to form a fleece.
- Strong Wool – wool made up of slightly thicker fibres.   Strong Merino wool measure 22.6 to 24.5 micron.(Extra Strong wool measures 24.6 micron and up.)
- Superfine Wool – wool where the diameter of individual fibres is 17.6 to 18.5micron. (Ultrafine Wool is of fibres 16.1 to 17.5 and Extra Ultrafine 16.0 and under.)
- Tender – the term used to describe a weak area somewhere along the length of each staple in a fleece, usually caused by illness or a nutritional problem.
- Top Making – spinning wool into a thread; a term used in describing the quality of wool.
- Top and Noil – the clean fleece after scouring consisting of "tops" (the long fibres used in spinning) and "noils" (the short fibres used in making felts).
- Vegetable Matter – the pasture products such as grass, burrs and other seeds which must be removed from the fleece before it can be used.
- Yolk – the natural oils which help to waterproof wool and which are removed from greasy wool in scouring.
- Yield – the percentage of clean wool derived from a greasy fleece.

I THINK HES CALCULATING THE TOP & NOIL :
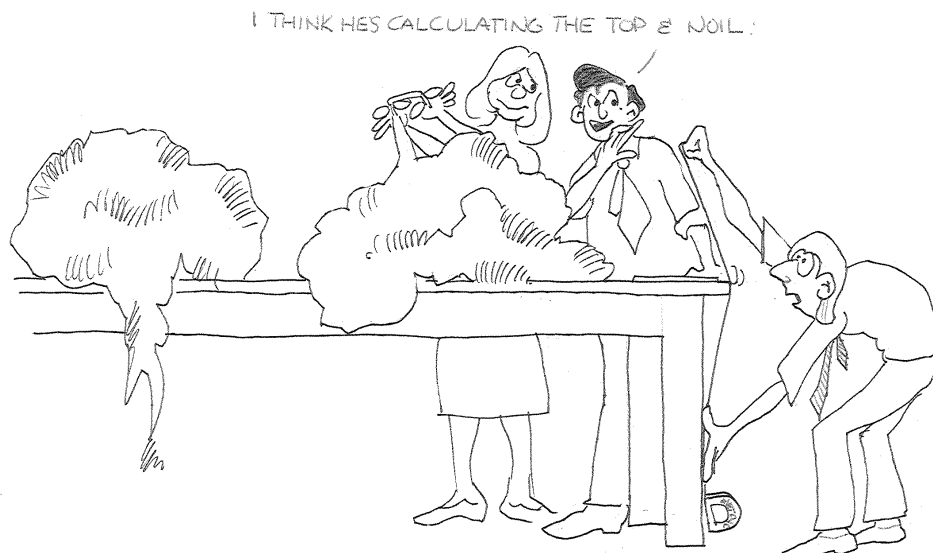
<u>Judging A Class Of Merino Fleeces</u>

When judging Merino fleeces there are two cardinal rules:

1. No fleece should be damaged by the judging process, which means it should not be plucked or pulled apart or twisted and tangled;
2. Efficient judging requires a systematic assessment of each fleece working through the list of wool characteristics for each fleece in turn.

The following is suggested as one approach, remembering that, with experience, wool judges will invariably develop their own patterns of judging.

a. Uniformity of Length – look at 5 or 6 staples in various parts of the fleece, remembering that it is not necessary to pluck the staples from the fleece for this assessment or the next two (Soundness and Wool Character) but in all cases the process can be completed by drawing the staple to a point where it can be seen and stretched but leaving it as part of the fleece still attached by the binder fibres.
b. Soundness – test (by tugging or finger flicking stretched staples) in at least four areas of the fleece.
c. Wool Character – study the crimp and check its uniformity in a number of staples from different parts of the fleece.
d. Handle – feel the softness of the wool in 5 or 6 places.
e. Colour or Bloom – look at the whiteness of the fleece in a number of spots.
f. Density – compress a handful of wool and estimate its level of compactness in several parts of the fleece.
g. Evenness – look at the uniformity of quality in various parts of the fleece.
h. Trueness To Type – consider how the fleece performs in all the areas examined and its trueness of quality.
i. Top and Noil (This is left until last because it involves using tables and some calculation.)

   (i) Begin by estimating the yield percentage of clean wool that you believe will be produced when the fleece is cleaned.(A fairly clean fleece might produce 75 to 80% of clean fleece while a fleece with lots of grease, dust and vegetable matter might produce 55 to 60% of clean wool.)
   (ii) Then multiply the given fleece weight by your estimated yield percentage to give a clean fleece weight.
   (iii) Look up the clean fleece weight on the points table chart to give the points earned by the fleece.

j. Total up the 9 lots of points for the fleece.
k. Do this for all four fleeces, then take a moment for a final check of the whole class of fleeces so that the points totals and the consequent placings accurately represent your judgement of the four fleeces.

*****

GRAIN JUDGING COMPETITION

These notes may help in preparing for a grain judging competition.

<u>The Competition:</u>

- Three classes, each of four exhibits are to be judged. Each class should be of a different grain type eg a wheat class, a barley class, a canola class, or any other class of grain.
- Prior to judging each competitor will nominate his/her choice for oral judging.

<u>Judging:</u> When judging any grain sample the following points should be considered:

- Weight - measured in kilograms/hectolitre
  - the heavier the grain the better
- Protein - the higher the protein the better except for malting barley [requires 9.5% to 10.5% protein]
- Oil content - in oilseeds eg canola the higher the oil content the better
- Uniformity and trueness to type - the grains in the sample should be uniform in size and colour - look for small and/or uneven grain sizes, mottled grain and weather damage; grain must be a good bright colour. Look for small red grain in canola; this indicates the grain was not fully mature at harvest

- Cleanness - grain samples should be free from cracked or broken grain and foreign matter - look for:
  - * cracked or broken grain
  - * weed seeds [identify them if possible]
  - * chaff or husks or straw
  - * dirt and/or stone
  - * other grains eg oilseeds or other cereals

- Disease - grain samples should be free from any signs of disease - look for:
  - * black tip on the grain
  - * blackening in the crease of the grain
  - * any pinkish colouring indicating the presence of fungi

- Freedom from pests - look for:
  - * insect damage
  - * mustiness
  - * live insects eg weevils [live weevils means no points]

Glossary:

Cleanness - ideally samples should be free from any foreign material

Disease - usually fungi eg bunt, smut, black tip, scab head, head blight - contamination is usually seen as an accumulation of spores, this usually gives the grain a blackish appearance.

Pests - usually insects eg weevils that chew and damage the grain. The presence of insects or insect damage is a serious fault. The presence of live insects results in no points being awarded.

Quality - refers to the suitability of the product for its particular end use. For example wheat intended for bread making should be plump, non-mottled and free from sprouting or other weather damage.

Uniformity - in a good sample individual units must be of equal size, shape and colour.

Judging a Class of Grain

1. Prior to the commencement of judging you will be required to nominate your choice for oral judging. When directed, assess the four exhibits in each of the classes and decide which class gives you the most opportunity in the oral class.

2. When the judging proper starts observe any information [weight, protein content, oil content, variety etc.] that may be provided for each exhibit.

3. Carefully examine each exhibit for uniformity [size and colour of the grain in the sample.]

4. The presence of cracked grain, foreign seeds [weeds or other grains], chaff/husks, dirt and any sign of pests or disease is undesirable. To detect the presence of any of these carefully sift through the exhibit with your hands - be careful not to contaminate the sample as you do this.

5. Repeat this procedure for each exhibit in the class, then decide your order of preference for each exhibit in the class.

6. Take a moment to check each exhibit in the class to confirm your placings.

7. Repeat the procedure for the other classes.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE JUDGING COMPETITION

This competition is not widely conducted by Country Shows but has real potential to introduce students to judging competitions.

The following notes may help in preparing for this competition.

The Competition:
- Three Classes, each of four exhibits of fruit and /or vegetables are to be judged.
- Prior to judging each competitor will nominate his/her choice for oral judging.
- Characteristics that make fruit and vegetables attractive to a judge are similar to what attracts you to buy them.

Judging: When judging the following points should be considered for all fruit and vegetables.

- Uniformity and trueness to type - in a good sample individual units should be equal in size, even in colour, similar in shape and of the same variety eg when judging a class of red apples make sure all four apples are of the same variety.
- Quality - all units in each Class should have a bright, fresh appearance with no insect damage, no insect eggs or insect stain, no frost damage and show no blemishes or harvest damage eg bruising, cuts or skin damage.

Qualities to look for in specific fruit and/or vegetables include -

Leaf Vegetables eg lettuce, cabbage and silver beet

- No leaf damage eg holes or burnt appearance on the leaf margin.
- No live insects present or evidence of insects having been present.

Root Vegetables eg parsnips, beetroot and carrots
- Strong straight root system.
- No harvest damage.
- No disease - look for black or brown spots as evidence of disease.

Potatoes
- No soil attached to the tubers [potato].
- Eyes should be shallow and well spaced and show no sign of shooting.
- Skin should show no signs of greening or scab.

Citrus eg oranges, lemons and grapefruit
- Cut fruit should show all segments [quarters] to be even in size.

- Open centre is not acceptable [particularly in grapefruit and lemons]
- Fruit should have a sweet crisp taste.
- No dark or diseased spots.
- The peduncle extremity [star shaped structure at the base of the stem] should be attached to the fruit.

Apples and Pears
- Must have the stalk attached.

Tomatoes
- Should be uniform in shape, colour [no green shoulders], and size.
- Should be evenly ripened and feel firm.
- Flesh should be thick in both the outer walls and sections with a minimum core.
- Fruit should be free from cracks, sun scald, disease and insect damage.
- May be displayed with or without stems.

Glossary: Condition - refers to freshness, cleanliness and freedom from injury, either mechanical or from pests.

Quality - refers to the suitability of the product to meet the market requirements eg appearance, freedom from disease and /or insect damage and/or harvest damage.

Uniformity - in a good sample individual units must be of equal size, shape and a bright colour.

Judging a Class of Fruit or Vegetables
1. Prior to the commencement of judging, under the competition judge's instructions, observe the three classes and decide on your choice for oral judging.

2. When the judging proper starts stand back and develop an overall impression of the class you are judging.

3. Starting with one of the exhibits examine each sample within the exhibit for condition, quality and uniformity. Each sample eg. there may be 4 tomato samples in each exhibit, should be of the same variety, size, shape, colour etc.

4. Pick up each sample and examine it to make sure there are no blemishes on the underside. Replace each sample in the original position when you have finished your examination.

5. When finished move to the next exhibit in the class and repeat the procedure until you finish judging the four exhibits in the class.

OTHER COMPETITIONS

Other competitions are :-

- Beef Cattle Paraders
- Dairy Cattle Paraders (run by the RAS)
- Rural Achiever
- Showgirl
- Wool Article/Garment

For further information on the above competitions please contact the ASC Office at:-

P O Box 1047, Hunters Hill   2110
phone   (02) 98796777
email   admin@agshowsnsw.org.au

web   http://www.agshowsnsw.org.au

Thank you to David Moor, ASC Past President, for the sketches which appear throughout this publication.

BEEF CATTLE PARADERS

The RAS/ASC F002 Paraders Competition is open to competitors 13 years and under 19 years. (D.O.B. taken as 1st May in the year of the State Final).
Competitors qualify via ASC Group Finals to be conducted during the previous 12 months.
Competitors may lead a Steer or Heifer under 20 months.
ALL Competitors in all Parader Competitions must wear a white dust coat at State & National level.

NOTES ON CLASS F002:
Competitors can compete in only one Group Final but it is not necessary to reside within the boundaries of the Group conducting the Final.

Finalists to progress to Class F002 at the Royal Easter Show would be chosen on the number of competitors in the Group Final

The scale will be:

1 to 10 entries	3 to compete in State Final at Sydney Royal
11 to 20 entries	6 to compete in State Final at Sydney Royal
21 to 30 entries	9 to compete in State Final at Sydney Royal
over 30 entries	10 to compete in State Final at Sydney Royal

PROCEDURE

One class of paraders is to be judged.
Each parader must be identified with an armband or card numbered.
Paraders must be neatly attired and males expected to wear a tie. Points will be deducted for poor presentation.   Shorts and thongs are not permitted.
Paraders must wear a white coat with no names or Logo on them.
Paraders will supply their own white coat and cane.
Paraders must be willing to swap animals if required.

PARADING OF ANIMALS

Paraders will parade their animals in a clockwise manner as is normal in a Beef Cattle Ring at the discretion of the Judge.

JUDGING

This competition is designed to determine the parader who has prepared, presents and parades an animal before a judge most effectively.

*** Pages 3-5 of the Beef Cattle Paraders instruction sheets titled **NOTES FOR GUIDANCE (**Prepared by Bruce W Urquhart, Livestock Consultant) can be found on the ASC website:-

www.agshowsnsw.org.au → judging competitions → rules and regulations → beef cattle paraders