



**AGRICULTURAL SHOWS
AUSTRALIA**

**AGRICULTURAL SHOWS
AUSTRALIA HANDBOOK**

**NATIONAL ASA MERINO SHEEP
JUDGING CHAMPIONSHIP**

(Update Final 1 June 2017)

JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS

**THE JUDGING CARDS FOR THIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
SHOULD BE ON YELLOW COLOURED PAPER.**

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NATIONAL ASA MERINO SHEEP JUDGING CHAMPIONSHIP

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National ASA Merino Sheep Judging Championship

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The National Agricultural Shows Australia (ASA) Merino Sheep Judging Championship (National Championship) is designed to determine the Competitors whose placings after careful inspection and consideration would likely agree to those of the Championship judge.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. To be eligible to compete in the National Championship each Competitor must have lived, worked or attended school within a State/ Territory for at least three (3) months and can only represent one State/ Territory at a National Championship in any given year.
2. Competitors must be fifteen (15) and under twenty five (25) years of age on 1st May in the year of the Competitor's State Final. Competitors under the age of eighteen (18) must be accompanied by a chaperone.
3. Each year one (1) competitor is to represent each State/ Territory and one (1) competitor is to represent New Zealand.
4. The Computer Scoring Program and the Hormel Slide are to be used at the National Championship Final.
5. The Championship judge must not have access to any Master Score Sheet prior to the announcement of the winners of the National Championship.
6. At no time during the National Championship should a Competitor talk with the Championship judge unless directed to do so by the Ring Steward.
7. State/ Territory/ Region Secretaries must inform the ASA Secretariat of the name, address and telephone number of any Competitor in a Judging Championship going on to a National Championship Final. The ASA Secretariat will advise these Competitors of the venue and times of the National Championship Final.
8. The winner and runner-up of the National Championship should be requested to do a report on any travel tour they undertake to validate sponsorship money.
9. Winners are ineligible to compete again after winning the final of the National ASA Merino Sheep Judging Championship.
10. Competitors will be eliminated from the National Championship if the Judge's Steward considers they are receiving outside assistance.

Notes for Host State/ Territory/ Region

1. The ASA will provide one (1) Data Reader Steward, one (1) Ring Steward and one (1) Timekeeper.
2. Host State/ Territory/ Region is to provide one (1) Data Entry Steward, one (1) Ring Steward and one (1) Announcer Steward.
3. The role and activities of Officials are listed in the 'Young Judges Championships Handbook for Description of Officials' Duties'.
4. One (1) Championship judge is required for the National Championship.
5. The Host RAS Show is to provide place ribbons to Exhibitors/ Competitors.
6. Rules and Regulations for the National Championship to be sent out to Competitors through the ASA Secretariat.

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Please Note:	i	This is a master set of Merino Sheep Judging Instruction Sheets to photocopy for the National Championship.
	ii	Championship judge receives Pages 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12 and 13.
	iii	Competitors receive Pages 6, 8, 9, and 12.
	iv	Pages should be given to the Championship judge and Competitors with time for them to read through before the National Championship begins.
	v	Pages 3, 4, 5, 11, 14 and 15 are for the use of the Championship Judge's Steward.
	vi	Additional requisites – Competitor Numbers and 2 sets of Breastplates (1 to 4).

The arrangements for the conduct of the Championship are as follows:-

A. PROCEDURE FOR RUNNING THE CHAMPIONSHIP

1. a). Two (2) Classes of four (4) animals (e.g. four (4) ewes, and four (4) rams) are to be judged by Competitors. One (1) Class judged at a time.
b) They may choose which group of four (4) animals they wish to speak on.
2. Animals in each Class must be identified by 'breastplates' numbers one to four (1 to 4), and **not** A B C D. This is essential when using the Computer Scoring Program or Hormel Slide are used.
3. All Competitors will take part in the Oral judging and use the card/ sheet marked 'Oral Class'. Before the commencement of the Oral presentation, each Competitor is required to give instruction to the Ring Steward to place the ribbons on the merino sheep in their placement order. The ribbon colour order being Blue – First (1st), Red – Second (2nd), White – Third (3rd), Yellow – Forth (4th).
4. Visual judging will take place first. Competitors will be allowed twelve (12) minutes to judge the four (4) animals and to complete each Visual Judging Card.
5. Each Competitor in the Oral Class is allowed two (2) minutes for speaking. **Penalty points apply** – one (1) point should be deducted for every ten (10) seconds over the allotted two (2) minutes.
6. The winner of the National Championship is marked out of a maximum two hundred (200) points: fifty (50) points for the placings in each Class; fifty (50) points for handling of animals in the Handle Class; and fifty (50) points for the Oral Class.
7. Competitors in the Oral Class are scored on their accuracy of observation, their comparative statements, speaking ability and general presentation and dress.
8. In the case of a dead heat the Competitor with the highest total points for Visual judging will be declared the winner, or if there is still a dead heat the Championship judge will have the final say. All tie-break details are to be confirmed by the Judge's Steward.

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B. JUDGING CARDS

1. Judging Cards are simple in design. All that is required by Competitors is to place animals in order from one to four (1 to 4).
2. It is essential that one (1) Championship judge officiate for all Classes.
3. The Championship judge, when filling out his/ her Master Card, is to note a numerical difference between animals, as directed in the instructions for use of the Hormel Slide.

The Computer Scoring Program and Hormel Slide shows the degree of penalty as related to the degree of difference between animal placings and the Competitor is scored accordingly.

4. The Oral Section Guideline may be retained by the Competitor. It is designed to ensure Competitors use comparative details in their Oral description of the Class.

The Work Sheet is to note the features of each animal and the reason it was placed in its position.

C. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TIMING

To maintain the interest of Competitors, the animals and the spectators, it is important the entire National Championship is completed in approximately one and a half 1½ hours. The timing should be as follows:-

Visual Judging: (two or three (2 or 3) Competitors at a time)

Seven (7) minutes – sheep standing)

Three (3) minutes – sheep sitting)

Twelve 12 minutes

24 mins

Two (2) minutes – sheep standing)

Change over times

3 mins

Data Reader Steward (Competitors) finalise visual score

3 mins

Oral Judging:

All Competitors, except one (1) should be taken out of hearing range of the Judging Ring 3 mins

Six (6) Competitors' Oral Tests – Three (3) minutes each (One (1) minute placing, Two (2) minutes speaking) 18 mins

Change over time (One (1) minute each) 6 mins

Comments from Championship judge on Oral Class 10 mins

Announcement and Presentation of Awards 8 mins

Total Time 75 min

In order to maintain the impetus of the National Championship, immediately the Championship judge has completed his/ her final comments, the National Championship results should be ready to be announced and the Awards and Presentations made.

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NATIONAL ASA MERINO SHEEP JUDGING CHAMPIONSHIP

(Visual/ Physical Class)

Competitor's No:				
Breed:				
Placings:	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Max. Points (50)

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NATIONAL ASA MERINO SHEEP JUDGING CHAMPIONSHIP

(Visual/ Physical Class)

Competitor's No:				
Breed:				
Placings:	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Max. Points (50)

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NATIONAL ASA MERINO SHEEP JUDGING CHAMPIONSHIP

(Oral Class)

Competitor's No:

Selected Breed:

Class					Score	Max. Points
Competitor's Placing						50
Competitor's Handling						50
Oral Order:						
(a) Accuracy of observation						15
(b) Ability to compare animals						15
(c) Speaking ability						10
(d) Presentation and dress						10
SUB TOTAL						
PENALTIES						
TOTAL						50

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ORAL SECTION GUIDELINES

Competitors will give their placings to the Ring Steward upon entering the Judging Ring for their Oral presentation.

Competitors are allowed one (1) minute to place the animals in their order of merit.

Competitors will then be allowed two (2) minutes to clearly express their views to the Championship judge and spectators the reasons they placed the Exhibits in a particular order. **Penalty points apply** – One (1) point should be deducted for every ten (10) seconds or part thereof over the allotted two (2) minutes.

Competitors to have their reasons organised and emphasise the most important points they wish to make.

When giving their reasons, the main objective is to inform the Championship judge that the Competitor have seen and compared each animal in the Class.

It is important to make comparisons between animals rather than describe individual animals.

Commence the Oral reasoning as follows:-

‘I placed this class four, one, three, two (4, 1, 3, 2’).

Give the most important reasons first and remember to use comparative terms. Where necessary then follow with:

In my opinion No four (4) is better than No one (1) in

This demonstrates to the Championship judge the accuracy of the priorities. Mention major faults if present.

Continue in similar manner by comparing the middle pair and finally the bottom pair.

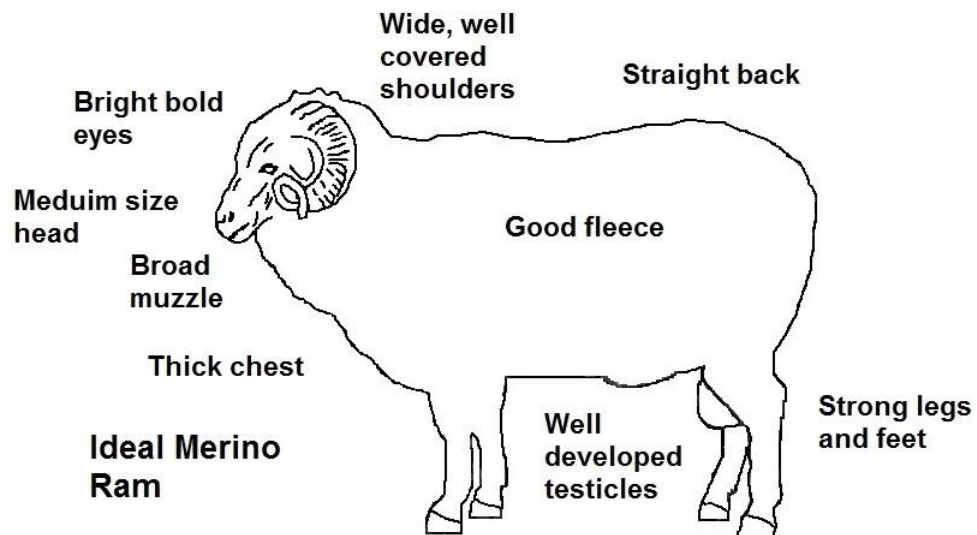
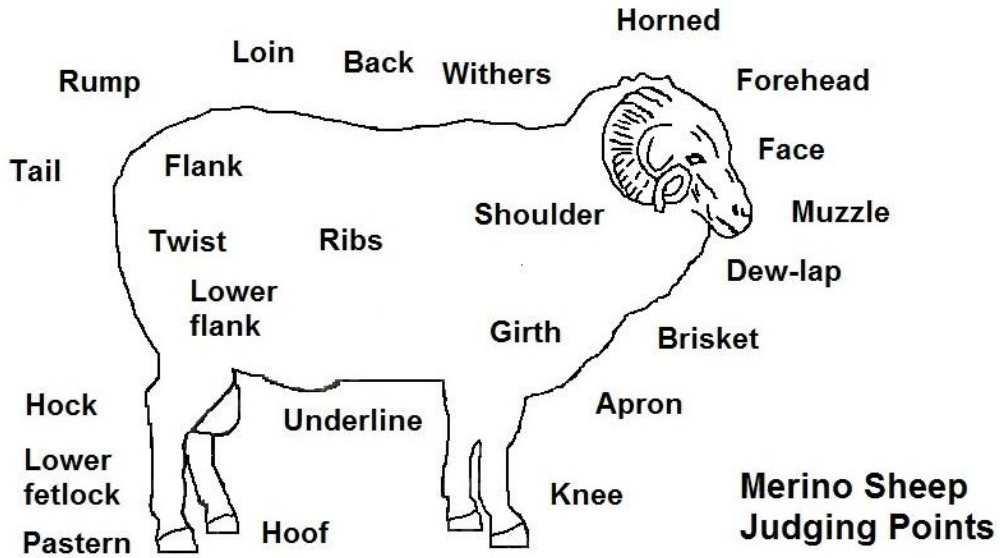
Remember: Be concise;
 Show conviction in your placings;
 Give important reasons first;
 Use comparative terms.

DRESS - Competitors must be neatly and suitably attired, and male Competitors must wear a tie. Points will be deducted for poor presentation. Shorts and thongs are not permitted.

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NOTES FOR CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE

In the selection of a Class of animals for the Merino Sheep Judging Championship, the aim should be to get a group of four (4) upon whose placing experienced Judges, after careful inspection and consideration, would be likely to agree.

The groups used should be four (4) ewes and four (4) rams (fine or medium strength) with a quality variation.

A suitable group might be made up of a fairly clear leader, a fairly obvious 'tail', and two (2) others that present a more difficult choice. They will be judged against the standard of what is considered a good Merino type, rather than one that pays strict attention to specific breed points. Animals of similar age should be selected for the National Championship.

Prior to the National Championship the Championship judge will select the animals to be judged – if required this can be done a day or two before the National Championship. On the day of the National Championship the Championship judge will decide on the correct placing of the animals in each ring and note on the Master Card.

In filling out the Master Cards, the Championship judge is required to note a numerical difference between animals as directed in instructions for use of the Computer Scoring Program and Hormel Slide. Both the Computer Scoring Program and Hormel Slide show the degree of penalty as related to the degree of difference between animal placings and the Competitor is scored accordingly.

A Competitor is in as good a position as is the Championship judge to observe both the good and bad points of the animals. But even if he/ she does so, he/ she may draw different conclusions because he/ she does not give those good and bad points the same importance as does the Championship judge. This difference of opinion will be reflected in the Competitor's low score for placing, and he/ she should not be further penalised in the Oral Test if his/ her observation has been accurate and the Championship judge considers the reasoning to be logical.

Each Competitor in the Oral Class is allowed one (1) minute to line up the animals in his/ her order of merit and two (2) minutes to state his/ her reasoning for the placings. If he/ she finishes in less than this time, but has said all that was needed to support his/ her case, he/ she should not be penalised. If he/ she exceeds the two (2) minutes, marks should be deducted from the maximum fifteen (15) points allowed for 'speaking ability'. One (1) point should be deducted for every ten (10) seconds over the allotted two (2) minutes.

At the conclusion of the the the National Championship the Championship judge is asked to give his/ her own reasons for the placing of the animals. If possible with the animals present. Comment on the various oral and ringcraft styles of the Competitors may also be made.

As far as possible to maintain Competitor and spectator interest in the National Championship, it is important that it is confined to a time limit. Championship judges are asked to confine their comments to the times suggested in the 'Competition Procedure' for all Merino sheep judging Competitions.

DRESS – Competitors must be neatly and suitably attired, and male Competitors must wear a tie. Points will be deducted for poor presentation. Shorts and thongs are not permitted.

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MASTER SCORE SHEET

Date: Animals Used: (I)

Place: (II)

			Visual						
			Placing	Handle					
Competitor's Name	No	(I) (50)	(II) (50)	(50)	Sub Total (150)	Oral (50)	Penalties	TOTAL (200)	Placing

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REASON CARD FOR COMPETITOR'S NOTES (NOT TO BE HANDED IN)

Breed/ Sex:

Placings: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

* Please remember when speaking to say why you put 1st place over 2nd, 2nd place over 3rd, etc.

1st PLACE NO: Why you placed 1st:	
2nd PLACE NO:	Faults:
3rd PLACE NO:	Faults:
4th PLACE NO:	Faults:

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MASTER CARD – CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE’S PLACINGS

Breed:

.....

Placings:

1	2	3	4
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Gaps:

1 – 2	2 – 3	3 – 4
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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NATIONAL ASA MERINO SHEEP JUDGING CHAMPIONSHIP

MASTER CARD – CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE’S PLACINGS

Breed:

.....

Placings:

1	2	3	4
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Gaps:

1 – 2	2 – 3	3 – 4
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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HOW TO USE THE COMPUTER SCORING PROGRAM

The Computer Scoring Program similar to the Hormel Slide and is relatively easy to use. Like the Hormel Slide, the Program adds up the scores of the Competitors and provides the Data Reader Steward with the order of placings for the National Championship. A Results Page can be printed and distributed to Competitors.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF THE PROGRAM:

1. Data can only be **entered** into selected spread sheets and cells. All other cells are locked.
2. A number of cells are automatically filled in through their connections with other TABS and therefore cannot be changed.
3. When the Program is first opened there will be a Security Warning. Select *Enable Content*. The File will need to be **named** and **saved** to a selected destination. The FILE TYPE is an '*Excel Macro-Enabled Workbook*'. Save the File on a regular basis.
4. TABS located across the bottom of the Program allows data to be entered.

5. ***Title TAB:***

Under the **headings coloured green** enter the name of the Championship/ Competition, location (Agricultural Show) and date of Competition.

6. ***Results TAB:***

At the top right of the spreadsheet enter the number of '**Groups**' being judged, e.g. if there are three (3) Classes of cattle being judged then write in three (3). If there are two (2) Classes of merino fleece being judged then write in two (2).

In the '**Name**' column enter each Competitor's name. The '**Entrant No**' is the Competitor's identification number for the particular Championship being judged.

Where a Competitor does not turn up for the Championship then either delete the Competitor's name that may have been entered or leave the '**Name**' column blank.

7. ***Group One (1) TAB:***

At the top of the spread sheet under **Group One (1)** enter the name of the Group being judged, e.g., Angus, Merino, etc.

Judge's Placings is where the Championship judge's placings are entered, e.g. three, one, two and four (3 1 2 4) or two, four, one and three (2 4 1 3) or one, three, two and four (1 3 2 4), etc.

Judge's Cuts is where the Championship judge's cuts are entered. The total of the three (3) numbers of the cuts/ gaps should not be more than fifteen (15) or less than three (3). If the total cut equals fifteen (15), the middle cut must not be more than eight (8) or if the total cut equals fourteen (14) the middle cut must not be more than eight (8). A **Warning** will appear if these conditions are not met. The Championship judge must adjust the cuts to meet these conditions.

Note that the '**Entrant No**' will appear automatically once a Competitor's name has been entered next to a number on the '**Results**' TAB spread sheet, e.g. if Fred Smith's name has been entered in the '**Results**' TAB spread sheet as the third Competitor, then a three (3) will appear under the '**Entrant No**'.

Once each Competitor has completed their placings and have handed in their placings, enter their information in order under '**Placings**' e.g. three, one, two and four (3 1 2 4) or two, four, one and three (2 4 1 3) or one, three, two and four (1 3 2 4), etc.

Note that the score will automatically be calculated and can be seen under '**Score**'.

8. ***Group Two (2) TAB:***

The process for Group Two (2) spread sheet is the same as for '**Group One (1) TAB**'.

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9. *Group Three (3) TAB:*

The process for Group three (3) spread sheet is the same as for '**Group One (1) TAB.**

10. *Group Four (4) TAB:*

If a Group Four (4) is required then the process for Group Four (4) spread sheet is the same as for '**Group One (1) TAB.**

11. *Oral TAB:*

This spread sheet lists all of the Competitors and their scores to date. For the Oral part and depending on what order the Championship judge chooses, the Competitors can be asked to speak in order of their score.

The blue arrow on the left puts the Competitors in order of their '**Entrant No.**

The green arrow on the right puts the Competitors in order of their '**Score**', in Rank Order from highest to lowest score.

When the Championship judge has listed each Competitor's Handling Score then the scores can be entered on the '**Results**' TAB spread sheet.

Note:

In the Championships where there are no Handling scores, e.g. Beef Cattle Judging and Dairy Cattle Judging, a Zero (0) should be entered against each Competitor. Handling scores only apply to Merino Fleece Judging, Merino Sheep Judging and Meat Breeds Sheep Judging.

12. *Scoring Oral And Handling Scores:*

Once the Championship judge has given the Competitor their Oral and Handling scores (where appropriate), then enter these scores in the '**Results**' TAB spread sheet.

Note that these scores then carry through to the remaining TABS.

13. *Final TAB:*

This spreadsheet contains all of the scores that allow the Competitors to be sorted into '**Entrant No**' order or '**Placing**' order.

If there are any ties then go to the '**Final**' TAB spread sheet and click the green arrow. This will list the Competitors in Rank Order. Use this information and the Championship Rules to determine the '**Placings**' if ties are not permitted. There will be a need to go to the '**Final**' TAB spread sheet and enter the placings in the '**Placings**' column.

14. *Print TAB:*

This spread sheet has all of the information that has been provided in the previous TABS.

To get the '**Place**' column completed, there is a need to go back to the '**Results**' TAB spread sheet and enter the top three placings under '**Place**'. This is easily known via the '**Rank**' column which is located to the left.

The entered information will then automatically transfer through to the '**Print**' TAB spread sheet.

Where print facilities are available, print off the '**Print**' TAB spread sheet and distribute the Championship results to Competitors.

A copy of the Championship final results should be retained for the Federal Council Secretariat.

15. *Save file:*

DON'T FORGET TO SAVE THE FILE.

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HANDY HINTS ON THE HORMEL SLIDE AND JUDGING CHAMPIONSHIP

By Geoff Mayo

This is an American invention that is held copyright by George A Hormel & Co., invented in 1975.

Four (4) animals, are to be used at all times. It is usual to have Competitors place two (2) or three (3) Classes of four (4).

Always use the Numbers one, two, three and four (1, 2, 3, 4) not A, B, C, D. By using Numbers, they can be put into twenty four (24) possible placings.

Competitors can obtain a maximum of fifty (50) points per Class and are scored down according to variations in their placings compared to the Championship judge's placings.

The Championship judge will have previously inspected the animals and have a good idea how he/ she will place them before they enter the Judging Ring. It is recommended that the Championship judge has another look at the animals as they are being paraded, so that he/ she views them under the same conditions as the Competitor sees them.

After completing placing decisions, the Championship judge will then proceed to put what is called a cut or spilt between the First (1st) and Second (2nd) placing, Second (2nd) and Third (3rd) placing, and Third (3rd) and Fourth (4th) placing.

The Championship judge arrives at the decision of the cuts as follows:

- By adding the cuts together they must not be under three (3) and not more than fifteen (15). If the cuts fifteen (15), then the middle number cannot be larger than five (5). If the cuts total fourteen (14), the middle number cannot be larger than eight (8).
- Where the first two (2) animals are very close, the judge will put a cut of one (1) or two (2) between the animals. If the judge feels that there is a lot of difference, then a much larger cut will apply. The same applies between second (2nd) and third (3rd) placing and between third (3rd) and fourth (4th) placing.

From the Competitor's point of view it simply means that if they have two animals that have been placed opposite to the Championship judge and there is a small cut between them, very few points will be lost. Where the Competitor has made a greater cut then they will lose more points. The fewer the faults between the animals the smaller the cut and vice versa.

An Oral is then conducted, which means that the selected Competitor must tell the Championship judge and spectators why they have placed the animal in a particular order.

In Championships where Competitor numbers are larger than say ten (10), it is usual to select those Competitors with the higher total points after judging the Non-Oral Classes to speak at the Oral Class. This applies particularly for cattle Classes as the animals get very tired being moved constantly, especially after the Class Judging. The spectators need to be considered - if Championships are too long, they become bored and leave the Judging Ring.

The Oral is judged on one (1) Class only. This Class may be selected by the Championship judge or the Competitors – it varies with the type of Competition.

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HOW TO USE THE HORMEL SLIDE

By Geoff Mayo

Points to Look For:

- Four (4) animals (or whatever is being judged) are to be used at all times.
- Make sure the animals are numbered one, two three and four (1, 2, 3, 4) and not A, B, C, D. Using A, B, C, D can be converted but with a large numbers of Competitors, it takes a lot of time and leaves room for error.
- After completing placing decisions, the Championship judge will then proceed to put what is call a cut or split between each placing, Firdt (1st) and Second (2nd) placing, Second (2nd) and Third (3rd) placing, Third (3rd) and Forth (4th) placing.

Using the following as an example:

Placings:	3	1	2	4
Cut between animals:	4	1	5	
Total cut adds up to:				10

Now to Set the Hormel Slide

1. Take all Cards from the Hormel Slide.
2. Find the White Card that has the Number ten (10) at the top of the Card. Place this Card on top of the remaining Cards.
3. Find the Clear Plastic Card with the red numbers, and then find the numbers three, one, two and four (3, 1, 2, 4) at the top of the Card.
4. Place the Clear Plastic Card on top of the White Card being used and place all other Clear Plastic Cards at the back.
5. Gently put all Cards back into the Hormel Slide as this keeps them tight.
6. Now push the Clear Plastic Card along until the Numbers three, one, two and four (3, 1, 2, 4) appear at the top on the left side of the viewing space in the centre of the Hormel Slide.
7. Move White Card along until the Numbers four, one and five (4, 1, 5) appear at the bottom of the viweing area on the Hormel Slide.
8. After making sure that the placings and cut are lined up correctly it is suggested to place a clip in the Hormel Slide to ensure that the cards do not move.
9. Let the Championship judge or personnel at the table check to make sure that the placings and cut are lined up correctly.
10. Correct scores will now appear directly opposite all twenty four possible (24) placings at the Competitors have placed them.
11. Note that a copy of the Championship final results should be retained for the Federal Council Secretariat.