Introduction to Livestock Judging

KIPP BROWN

AREA AGENT-4-H LIVESTOCK

MEAT GOATS

Importance of Judging Contests

◆ Improve decision-making skills

◆ Increase public speaking ability

◆ Improve evaluation skills

◆ Enhance confidence

◆ Meet people and make lifelong friends

◆ Have fun

Types of Judging Contests

- Livestock
- Dairy
- Horse
- Meats

- Crops
- Soils
- Wool
- Poultry

How to get involved

- County contests
- 4-H clubs
- FFA chapters
- Breed associations

- State contests
- Regional events
- National contests
- University teams

Livestock Contest Dynamics

◆ Classes of beef, sheep, swine, and goats

◆ Four animals per class

◆ Classes numbered left to right

◆ All classes are "placing classes"

◆ Designated classes are "reasons classes"

◆ Usually 10-15 minutes per class

Scoring a Contest

◆ An official placing is put on each class

◆ Official "cuts" are assigned

• "Cuts" represent how close a decision is between two animals

– A small "cut" of 2 represents a close decision

– A large "cut" of 6 represents an easy decision

◆ Both placing classes and reasons have a 50 point maximum score

Example of Official Placing and Cuts

◆ Official Placing:

   1 - 2 - 3 - 4

◆ Official Cuts:

   4 - 2 - 5

Scoring Example

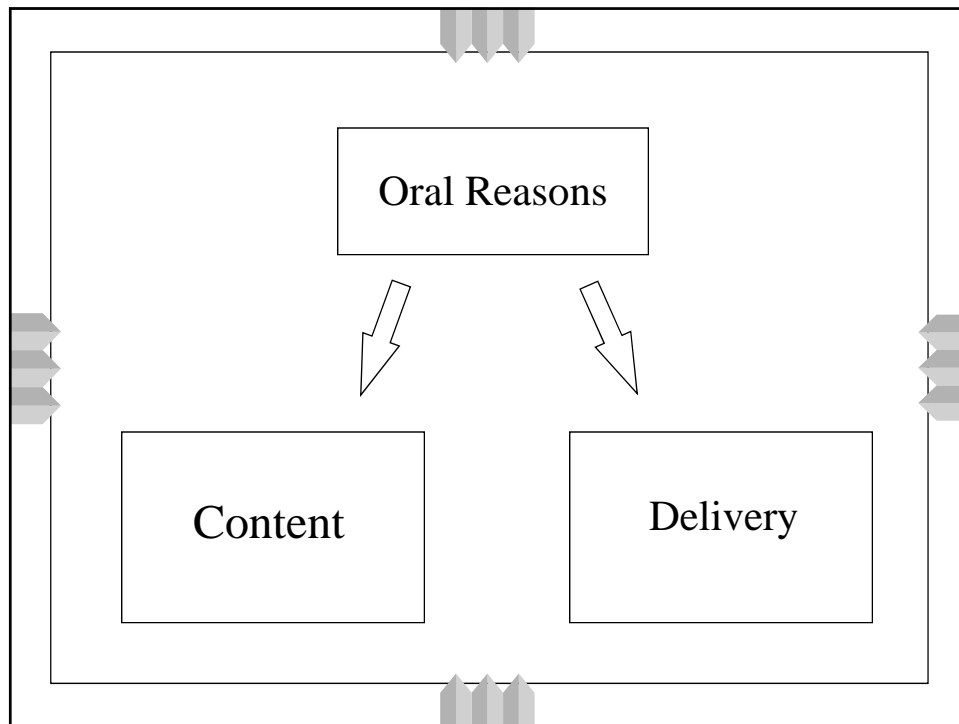Your placing: 3 - 2 - 1 - 4
Official placing: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4
Official cuts: 4 - 2 - 5

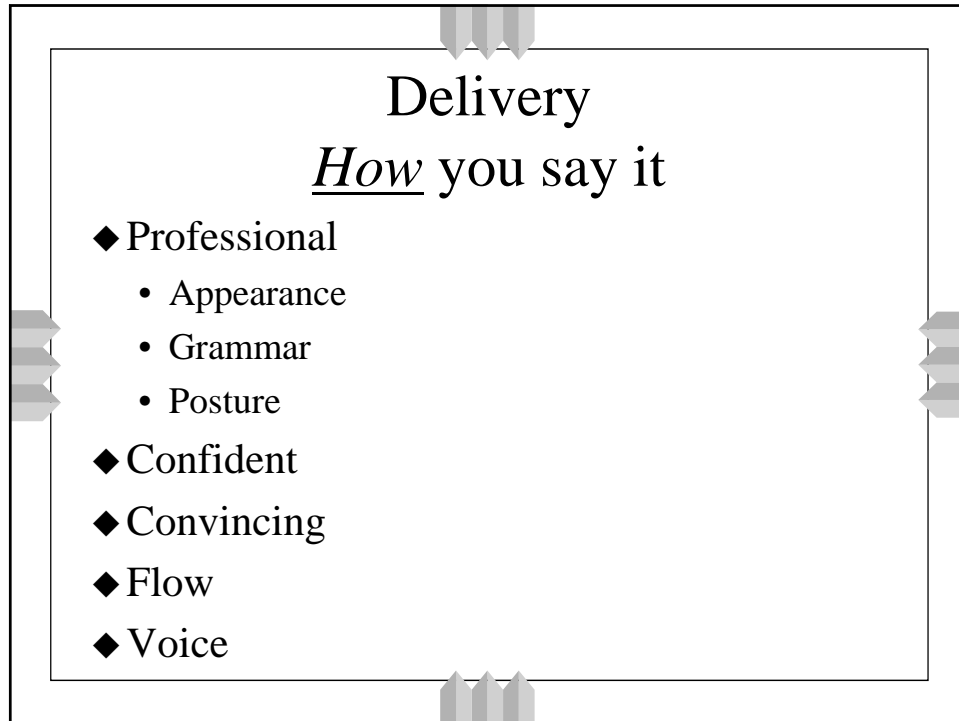| On the Official Placing does:	Final Score =
3 beat 2? No: -2	50
3 beat 1? No: -6	-2
3 beat 4? Yes	-6
2 beat 1? No: -4	-4
2 beat 4? Yes	38
1 beat 4? Yes	

Introduction to Oral Reasons

Pop Quiz:
What is the #1 fear among all American people?

A. Heights

B. Flying in an airplane

C. Spiders

D. Snakes

E. Math tests

F. Speaking in front of people
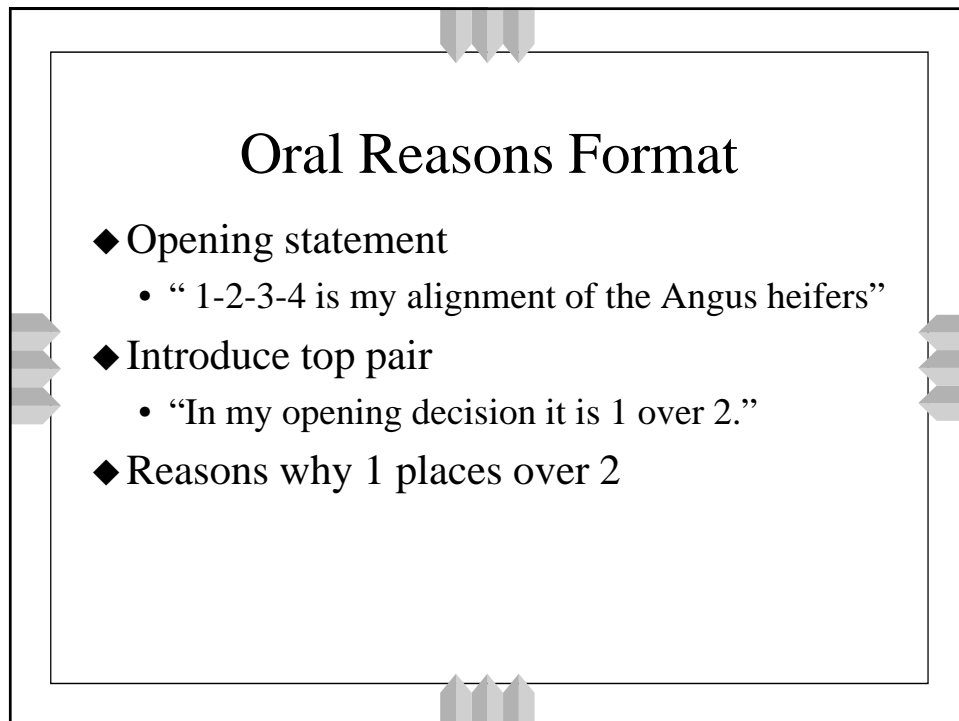
Oral Reasons

Content

Delivery

Content
What you say

- ◆ Accurate
- ◆ Descriptive
- ◆ Proper terminology used
- ◆ Prioritized
- ◆ Complete
- ◆ Concise

Delivery
How you say it

- Professional
  - Appearance
  - Grammar
  - Posture
- Confident
- Convincing
- Flow
- Voice

Oral Reasons Format

- Opening statement
  - " 1-2-3-4 is my alignment of the Angus heifers"
- Introduce top pair
  - "In my opening decision it is 1 over 2."
- Reasons why 1 places over 2

Oral Reasons Format

◆ Grants to second place animal
  • Reasons why 2 could place over 1
◆ Criticisms of 2nd place animal
◆ Introduce middle pair
  • "Yet in my intermediate decision it is 2 over 3"
◆ Reasons why 2 places over 3

Oral Reasons Format

◆ Grants to 3rd place animal
◆ Criticisms of 3rd place animal
◆ Introduce final pair
  • "Despite these criticisms, it is 3 over 4 in my final decision"
◆ Reasons why 3 places over 4

Oral Reasons Format

◆ Grants to 4th place animal

◆ Criticisms of 4th place animal

- "Yet I left her fourth as she is the lowest volume, lightest muscled, most structurally incorrect heifer of the four."

◆ "Thank you"

Common Mistakes

◆ Inaccuracy

◆ Trying to memorize

◆ Talking too fast

◆ "Um"s and "Uh"s

◆ Numbers mixed-up

◆ Gender mixed-up

◆ Using species specific terms incorrectly

◆ Taking too long

◆ Moving feet excessively

Taking Proper Notes for Livestock Judging

Taking Notes

◆ Excellent notes will allow you to recreate the class in your mind

◆ Be accurate, but keep it simple

◆ Start taking notes as soon as the class starts

Class Name	Placing 1-2-3-4	
1/2 Reasons	2/1 Grants	
	2 Criticisms	
2/3 Reasons	3/2 Grants	
	3 Criticisms	
3/4 Reasons	4/3 Grants	
	4 Criticisms	
1 Notes and IDs	2 Notes and IDs	
3 Notes and IDs	4 Notes and IDs	

Basic Livestock Evaluation

Beef Judging:
Breeding Stock

◆ Structural correctness

◆ Volume and Capacity

◆ Muscle

◆ Style and Balance

◆ Performance or Growth

◆ Femininity/Masculinity

Beef Judging:
Market

◆ Muscle

◆ Finish

◆ Style and Balance

◆ Structural Correctness

Swine Judging:
Breeding Stock

- ◆ Structural correctness
- ◆ Frame/Growth
- ◆ Volume
- ◆ Leanness
- ◆ Muscle
- ◆ Femininity/Masculinity

Swine Judging:
Market

- ◆ Muscle
- ◆ Leanness
- ◆ Frame
- ◆ Structural correctness

Sheep Judging:
Breeding Stock

◆ Structural correctness

◆ Style and Balance

◆ Frame/Growth

◆ Volume and Capacity

◆ Front End Quality

Sheep Judging:
Market

◆ Muscle

◆ Finish

◆ Style and Balance

◆ Structural Correctness

Meat Goat Judging
Breeding Stock

- ◆ Structural correctness
- ◆ Style and Balance
- ◆ Frame/Growth
- ◆ Volume and Capacity
- ◆ Front End Quality

Meat Goat Judging
Market

- ◆ Muscle
- ◆ Finish
- ◆ Style and Balance
- ◆ Structural Correctness

Livestock Judging
Success

◆ Know How to Complete Judging Cards

◆ Read and Study on All Species

◆ Workout on All Species

◆ Always Mark Your Card

◆ Organize Oral Reasons

◆ PRACTICE!