# Students Test Livestock Skills At Contest

**Ohio State University placed first overall at the recent livestock judging competition at Penn State. The team, front row, from left, Coach Dr. Tom Turner, Ric Beekman, Dixie Bowsher, Becky Quaintance, Becky Emnett, Steve Isler, and Trent Martin. Back, from left, Matt Boss, Craig Eibling, Bill Thompson, Scott Ellis, Sam Sutherly, Keith Hinds, and Doug Anderson.**

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Approximately 100 students from 13 institutions tested their skills at the annual North Central/Southeastern Livestock Evaluation, Selection, and Judging Contest, held recently at Penn State's Ag Arena.

Students from four-year colleges east of the Mississippi River spent three days competing in judging and evaluating beef cattle, sheep, and swine, and in oral communication.

On the first day of competition, students evaluated meat animals destined for slaughter, including estimating external fat thickness, ribeye area, quality grade, and yield grade for cattle and sheep, and backfat thickness, loineye area, USDA grade, carcass length, and percent muscle for swine. They evaluated eight animals of each species, calculating an average group live price on each class of four animals, and ranking the animals on carcass value per hundred weight.

First-day results are listed below:

**SHEEP EVALUATION - DAY 1**

**High Individuals-** 1. Henry Zerby, Penn State University; 2. Tyler Rhode, University of Illinois; 3. Matt Peterson, University of Florida.

**High Teams-** 1. Penn State University; 2. Ohio State University; 3. University of Florida.

**SWINE EVALUATION - DAY 1**

**High Individuals-** 1. Eric Sheiss, Purdue University; 2. Sam Sutherly, Ohio State University; 3. Heather Seigler, University of Florida.

**High Teams-** 1. University of Illinois; 2. University of Florida; 3. Ohio State University.

**BEEF EVALUATION - DAY 1**

**High Individuals-** 1. Heather Seigler, University of Florida; 2. Becky Emnett, Ohio State University; 3. Robert Gribble, Louisiana State University.

**High Teams-** 1. Ohio State University; 2. University of Florida; 3. Purdue University.

**OVERALL EVALUATION - DAY 1**

**High Individuals-** 1. Heather Seigler, University of Florida; 2. Becky Emnett, Ohio State University; 3. Matt Peterson, University of Florida.

**High Teams-** 1. University of Florida; 2. Ohio State University; 3. Penn State University.

The second day of the contest consisted of breeding animal selection. In each of three meat animal species, students were provided performance records or genetic evaluations of performance, along with a production scenario. They were asked to combine production information and visual appraisal to arrive at a placing or ranking for each class.

In each species, eight replacement females were used in a keep-cull class. Students were required to keep four and cull four animals.

In the two other classes within each species, contestants had to rank the four animals and then answer 10 questions about the animals in the class. Results are:

**SHEEP SELECTION - DAY 2**

**High Individuals-** 1. Shelley Connett, University of Illinois; 2. Henry Zerby, Penn State University; 3. Brian Beam, Penn State University.

**High Teams-** 1. University of Illinois; 2. Penn State University; 3. Purdue University.

**SWINE SELECTION - DAY 2**

**High Individuals-** 1. Matt Peterson, University of Florida; 2. Doug Musser, Penn State University; 3. Beth Stack, Delaware Valley College.

**High Teams-** 1. University of Florida; 2. Purdue University; 3. Penn State University.

**BEEF SELECTION - DAY 2**

**High Individuals-** 1. John Bickelhaupt, University of Illinois; 2. Robbie Tate, Louisiana State University; 3. Tyler Rhode, University of Illinois.

**High Teams-** 1. University of Illinois; 2. Penn State University; 3. Auburn University.

**OVERALL SELECTION - DAY 2**

**High Individuals-** 1. John Bickelhaupt, University of Illinois; 2. Matt Peterson, University of Florida; 3. Dustin Kendall, Purdue University.

**High Teams-** 1. University of Illinois; 2. Penn State University; 3. Purdue University.

Day three consisted of 12 placing classes (five beef, four swine, and three sheep) and eight sets of oral reasons. Two classes of beef cattle and two classes of swine included performance information and production scenarios. Day three results include:

**SHEEP JUDGING - DAY 3**

**High Individuals-** 1. Amy Cash, Auburn University; 2. Suzanne Heflin, University of Tennessee; 3. Justin Marsh, University of Kentucky.

**High Teams-** 1. Auburn University; 2. University of Kentucky; 3. University of Illinois.

**SWINE JUDGING - DAY 3**

**High Individuals-** 1. Sam Sutherly, Ohio State University; 2. Steve Isler, Ohio State University; 3. Fred Weaver, Penn State University.

**High Teams-** 1. Ohio State University; 2. University of Kentucky; 3. Penn State University.

**BEEF JUDGING - DAY 3**

**High Individuals-** 1. Jim Martin, University of Tennessee; 2. Luke Lemenager, University of Illinois; 3. Fred Weaver, Penn State University.

**High Teams-** 1. Penn State University; 2. University of Illinois; 3. University of Kentucky.

**SPECIAL AWARD-HIGH TEAM JUDGING ANGUS-** Penn State University.

**ORAL REASONS - DAY 3**

**High Individuals-** 1. Justin Marsh, University of Kentucky; 2. Fred Weaver, Penn State University; 3. Aaron Dufelmeier, University of Illinois.

**High Teams-** 1. Penn State University; 2. University of Kentucky; 3. University of Illinois.

**OVERALL JUDGING - DAY 3**

**High Individuals-** 1. Fred Weaver, Penn State University; 2. Luke Lemenager, University of Illinois; 3. Justin Marsh, University of Kentucky.

**High Teams-** 1. Ohio State University; 2. Penn State University; 3. University of Kentucky.

Points accumulated by contestants during the three-day event were totaled for the overall combined awards given below:

**OVERALL COMBINED AWARDS**

**High Individuals-** 1. Henry Zerby, Penn State University; 2. Matt Peterson, University of Florida; 3. Becky Emnett, Ohio State University.

**High Teams-** 1. Ohio State University; 2. Penn State University; 3. University of Illinois.

**The second place overall team for Penn State University. Front row, left to right, Doug Musser, Carol Ann Griffith, Jackie Reed, Amy Smith, Julie Mikesell, and William Stewart. Back row, left to right, Henry Zerby, Eric Smith, Brian Beam, Brian Miller, Fred Weaver, and Keith A. Bryan, coach.**

# Herd Health Challenges Need Attention To Detail

**AMY RUSSELL**
**Maryland Extension Livestock Agent**

ELKTON, Md. — All farmers, including dairy producers, should be aware of the numerous possible health risks to their animals.

Extension personnel with the University of Maryland system have provided an outline of some seasonal and year-around advice.

Rabies is a deadly, viral disease that can spread from wild animals to your animals.

Foxes, skunks, raccoons, dogs and cats can all be sources. Vaccinating your animals is the best prevention and should be done on an annual basis.

Have a licensed veterinarian do the actual injection. Mishandling the killed virus could cause you to become exposed and require treatment. Veterinarians have had a pre-exposure immunization themselves so they are prepared for the danger.

### Injured Animals

### Inflammation

Inflammation is a common word used to describe the result of an injury, but what exactly does it mean?

By definition, inflammation means that four conditions are present, redness, heat, swelling and pain. The injured site is reacting and trying to repair the damage.

To do this, more blood comes to the area and washes in the necessary materials to start healing. A lot of chemical reactions take place and result in creating heat.

Congestion often results and causes swelling which adds to the original pain of the injury.

The suffix "itis" means inflammation of that area. For example: tendinitis means inflammation of the tendon.

A recent injury does NOT need liniment. Liniments cause a local irritation which starts the healing process; they promote inflammation.

As long as the injury is warm to the touch, do not put a liniment on. After a period of time and the area is cool then a liniment could be used and may speed up the total healing time.

Acute injuries are sudden, have sharp pain and are short course. Chronic injuries are frequent, have dull pain and are long term.

Inflammation is often associated with acute injuries. A good thumb rule for these two situations is: COLD ACUTE, WARM CHRONIC.

Cool temperatures will slow down inflammation and warm temperatures will encourage it. Knowing this, you can help your animals recover quickly by taking advantage of their natural healing process.

### Pasture Problems

Springtime offers unique situations with pasture growth and grazing animals and may require special management to prevent problems at this time.

In general, there are two reasons why animals get sick on pastures; poisonous plants were eaten, or unique conditions existed which resulted in sick animals.

With all livestock you want to gradually get them adjusted to eating pasture. A sudden change can make any animals sick, so plan on letting animals graze for a short period of time and slowly increase the time spent grazing.

Plan on a two week transition — 14 days from when you first start them on a short time on pasture until they are spending the maximum time on pasture.

### Bloat in Ruminants

Frothy Bloat is when cattle, sheep, goats and other ruminants eat too much of a very rich, digestible, high protein, legume pasture.

The bacteria that live in the rumen quickly ferment the lush forage and produce a great deal of gas which gets trapped in the protein liquid and results in large amounts of foam.

The trapped gas/foam increases and causes the rumen and reticulum to stretch and put pressure on the heart. Eventually the pressure becomes so great that the animal dies from a heart attack.

Springtime pasture is very digestible to begin with and the sudden change from winter feeding of hay may be abrupt enough to encourage rapid fermentation.

Prevention: Fill animals with grass hay prior to turning out onto pasture. This will limit the amount of lush pasture they can eat. Also, you can feed an "anti-bloat" ingredient (detergent) to animals to break up the foam.

This "anti-bloat" material can be fed to animals in a special mineral block, on a treated magnet that would stay in the reticulum or could be drenched into the animals directly.

Grass Tetany, also known as Grass Staggers, is a disease that is nothing more than a magnesium deficiency in animals.

Spring growth in pasture is rapid and often is deficient in magnesium. If animals get all their feed from pasture then they run a real risk of having a magnesium deficiency.

The problem is exaggerated if the animals are lactating because a great deal of magnesium goes out in the milk.

Animals suffering from grass tetany will act unpredictably, seem moody, and sometimes will exhibit dangerous behavior by charging and attacking people.

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