

Livestock Ledger

By
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Cattle Evaluation Results
A beef cattle workshop held recently in Lancaster County attracted nearly 100 producers to the New Holland Sales Stables to participate in live animal evaluation. Two days later, 75 attended a carcass session at Stoltzfus Meats, Intercourse.

The program, conducted by Penn State extension, provided an opportunity for cattle feeders to estimate nine head of beef cattle for live weight, dressing percent, quality grade, yield grade, fat thickness, and rib eye area.

Participants compared their guesses with live estimates by four industry experts; ultrasound scans by Mike Cherchuck, Carlisle; and official carcass data col-

lected by Dr. Bill Henning, Penn State extension meats specialist.

During both sessions, information was provided to producers regarding beef quality assurance, particularly injection site damage and how to prevent it.

Sponsors for the event included the Pennsylvania Beef Council, Hoechst-Roussel, Merck, Upjohn, and Franklin Labs.

Following is a table with official results, including the average estimates of four expert evaluators, ultrasound scans, and actual carcass data.

Numbers 420, 935, no tag, 19E and 381 were crossbred steers. Numbers 20E and 919 were heifers. Numbers 1 and 57 were Holstein steers.

Name _____ Official Data _____

Cattle Evaluation Scoresheet

TAG NO.	420		935		No Tag		919		19E		1		381		57		20E	
	Avg. Est.	Actual	Avg. Est.	Actual	Avg. Est.	Actual	Avg. Est.	Actual	Avg. Est.	Actual	Avg. Est.	Actual	Avg. Est.	Actual	Avg. Est.	Actual	Avg. Est.	Actual
Live Weight	1219	1155	1240	1355	1320	1290	1175	1205	1246	1220	1278	1285	1201	1195	1176	1255	1150	1190
Dr %	62.9	63.0	62.8	60.4	62.1	61.3	61.1	62.3	62.0	64.0	60.2	59.2	62.6	63.2	60.0	60.1	62.3	63.0
Quality Grade	Ch ⁺	Ch ⁻	Ch ⁰	Ch ⁻	Se ⁺	Se ⁺	Ch ⁻	Se ⁻	Se ⁺	Se ⁺	Ch ⁻	Se ⁺	Ch ⁻	Se ⁻	Se ⁻	Se ⁻	Ch ⁻	Se ⁺
Yield Grade	3.1	3.5	2.6	3.2	2.1	1.4	2.0	2.5	1.5	1.5	2.3	3.1	2.7	3.8	1.8	2.2	2.3	2.1
Fat Thickness	(.57) .49	(.4)	(.38) .34	(.3)	(.26) .2	(.15)	(.35) .24	(.45)	(.3)	(.35)	(.22) .32	(.2)	(.57) .42	(.7)	(.08) .15	(.1)	(.42) .36	(.5)
Rib Eye Area	(11.3) 13.7	11.0	(11.0) 13.7	12.3	(13.4) 13.8	15.1	(13.1) 12.4	14.0	(13.9) 13.6	16.2	(10.0) 12.8	11.1	(12.6) 13.3	11.5	(12.0) 12.5	11.7	(15.0) 13.0	16.0

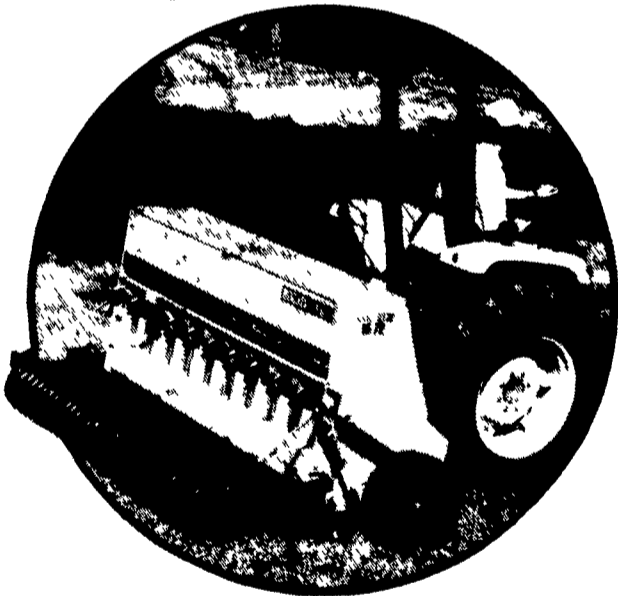
* Avg. Est. — Average Live Estimates by Four Evaluators
 Actual — Carcass Data Collected by Dr. Bill Henning, Penn State Extension Meats Specialist
 () — Ultrasound Scans by Mike Cherchuck, Carlisle, Pa.

Guidelines For Cattle Evaluation:
 Dressing % — Steer average - 62%, heifer average - 63% (higher if fat, clean, shrunk) (lower if thin, muddy, full)
 Quality Grades — Prime, Choice, Select, Standard (highest to lowest or "A" Maturity)
 Yield Grades — 1 2 3 4 5 (1-leaner, 2 & 3-desirable finish, 4-fat, 5-very fat, wastey)
 % Retail Cuts 54.6 52.3 50.0 47.7 45.4
 Fat thickness — Range - .1" - 1.2" (desired - .3" - .5")
 Rib Eye Area — Range - 9-16 sq. inches (a 700 lb. carcass should have 12.2 sq. inches of Rib Eye Area)

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