



# National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (England & Wales)

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## Stockjudging Guidelines: Butchers' Lambs

### PROCEDURE IN JUDGING

Judging a group of animals consists of comparing them with the IDEAL for the type and breed to which they belong, and then placing the one that most nearly approaches this ideal at the top of the class.

When you come up close to inspect and handle, work over the animal with method and in a certain order, e.g. from head to tail. It is essential that you take advice and fully understand what is the acceptable degree of fat cover on a live lamb and a lamb carcase at the time of the competition. Think carefully and consider first impressions.

Do not be in a hurry to place the animals, for it is difficult to make one go back on one's first judgment. When ready, pick out the top and bottom animals, placing the second and third later.

If you are taking part in a competition, make quite certain of the time allowed for parade, judging from a distance, and close inspection and handling.

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR

#### Good Points

- High killing out %
- Flesh covering throughout
- Fullness in the leg & chump
- Well filled to the shank
- Width & flesh covering over loins
- Broad throughout
- Spring of rib – light covering, individual ribs easily detected
- Potential eye muscle development
- Well proportioned shoulders
- Short neck carrying little waste

#### Bad Points

- Excess fat covering
- Poor flesh covering (too lean)
- Narrow legs
- Heavy shoulders
- Narrow & lacking flesh

### REASON PLAN

Usually, two minutes are allowed for giving Reasons, and the marks are commonly awarded on the basis of *Accuracy, 25; Comparisons, 15; Style, 10*. Competitors may, of course, make notes during the inspection of the animals, and these may be referred to while Reasons are given. They must be made, however, on the card provided.

- 1 Reasons should be memorised as well as possible, and one should try to have in one's mind a clear picture of the animals to be compared.
- 2 Make comparisons as much as possible .compare live animals from head to tail (carcase - tail to head) to maintain uniformity to your Reasons.
- 3 Stand up straight, look at the judge, and keep your hands out of your pockets.
- 4 Be careful to use the terms that apply to the different kinds of livestock, e.g. a leg-of-lamb is found only on a lamb, and bullocks do not have hams.
- 5 Always try to use the full two minutes available when giving Reasons.
- 6 A white coat should be worn at all times and should have all buttons fastened.
- 7 Always thank the Judge at the end of your Reasons.

### HOW TO BEGIN GIVING REASONS AND THEIR STRUCTURE

Mr Judge, these are my reasons for placing the ring of four butchers lambs in the order **A, B, X, Y**.

I placed **A** first: describe and compare to rest of class as to why it was the outstanding lamb in the ring of four.

Then compare

2<sup>nd</sup> (B)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> (X) to 2<sup>nd</sup> (B)  
 4<sup>th</sup> (Y) to 3<sup>rd</sup> (X)

NB. Remember, there is sometimes a good point on your last lamb, which should be mentioned.

## EXAMPLE REASONS

Mr Judge, I place this ring of four prime butchers' lambs in the following order, **A, B, X, Y**.

- 1 I placed **A** first, the most outstanding Texel cross lamb in the class. This lamb has a short neck, set in a broad well-fleshed shoulder, which was carried through and over a firm, well-covered spring of rib.  
  
Possessing the outstanding loin in the class, the tremendous width and depth of fleshing in its loin was carried through to the rear and, together with the fullness and shape in its leg, made no doubt in my mind that this lamb will produce the most saleable carcass.
- 2 I placed **B** second. Again, a neat compact Texel lamb, firm and ideally finished for the trade. Although well fleshed through its shoulders and over its ribs, its lack of width compared to **A** was shown fully in its loin. Again, well rounded legs, but lacked the depth, shape and width of fleshing in **A**'s legs. Overall, a well-balanced lamb, carrying very little waste throughout and will, again, provide a very saleable carcass,
- 3 I placed **X** third, a longer, leaner lamb lacking the conformation of my first two, **A** and **B**. Particularly lacking fleshing through the shoulder, across its ribs and over its loin, **X**'s legs were adequately fleshed, but lacked **B**'s shape and fullness in the gigot. A larger framed lamb, handling leaner at the dock and not yet reached its full potential.
- 4 I placed **Y** last. The shortest, lightest lamb in the class. Although adequately fleshed for today's trade, when compared to the rest of the class, it lacked width through the shoulder, spring of rib lacked cover, narrowest loin and fullness of fleshing in its legs.

And those, Mr Judge, are my brief reasons for placing these four butchers' lambs in the order of **A, B, X, Y**.

### Competitions Department

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