

Facing East...

Livestock judges combine dedication, memory

By Lana Welsh
Staff Reporter

Eighteen students, shuffled through the sandy arena in the East Campus Judging Pavilion. They carefully scrutinized the four steers tied in the arena and scribbled quickly in their notebooks.

The students, classmates in Animal Science 302, "Livestock Judging," meet two days each week to practice judging skills and prepare for contests.

Class Notes

Keith Gilster, professor of animal science, keeps track of students' scores each week. Those with the highest scores represent UNL at judging contests. Toni Day, an assistant instructor for the class, said the university sends teams to about three contests each semester.

The next contest is the meat animal evaluation contest at Omaha on March 22 and 23. Of the class's 18 students, 10 will compete at the Omaha contest, Day said.

The Omaha contest is unique, because it "combines all facets of the

livestock industry," Day said. Students will judge classes of market and breeding livestock, as in other contests. But the team will also judge meats. Meat judging is not a part of most livestock judging contests, she said.

Many of the students have not done this before, Day said. Contestants will judge several retail cuts of meat for quality and cutability, she said.

Gilster said that although UNL has never won the contest, which began in Waterloo, Iowa, in 1964, UNL teams have won divisions of it, he said.

The contest awards individuals and teams. Day said that to be a successful judge and team member, it takes practice, repetition, dedication and a good memory.

Students who judge at contests also meet professionals in the livestock industry, Day said. Professors, specialists and professionals from the livestock industry form the committees that officially judge contests, she said.

And last week students continued to prepare for the upcoming contest. Gilster adjusted his cowboy hat, checked his notes and began to tell students how he placed the class of market beef.

"This steer could be interesting..." he began.



Professor Keith Gilster, instructor of "Livestock Judging 302," reads off his estimates for the market value of the two cattle before him.

Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan

Who's News

Earl Dickinson, professor of veterinary medicine at UNL, has been presented an award from the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association.

The award recognizes Dickinson for outstanding and dedicated service to his profession and to the Nebraska livestock industry.

Dickinson was leader of the UNL department of veterinary science from 1977 through 1983. He presently is coordinator of the Veterinary Diagnostic Center, in addition to his diagnostic pathology service and his research and teaching activities.

John A. Schmitz, leader of the department of veterinary science at UNL has been appointed to represent the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges on the National Board Examination Committee of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

The UNL Meat Judging Team placed eighth overall during the Southwestern Meat Judging Contest recently at Fort Worth, according to Toni Day, UNL judging coach.

The UNL team earned eighth place honors by placing third in lamb judging, fourth in specifications, eighth in beef judging and

ninth in both beef grading and pork judging.

Julie Palmer of Scottsbluff led the teams in individual placings with 941 points while **Meri Lynn Ahrens** of Ravenna contributed 922 points. Other team members, **Vonda Pelster** of Ericson and **Scott Karz** of West Point earned 820 and 901 points respectively.

The UNL Range Plant Identification Team participated in the identification contest at the International Society for Range Management meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, last week. Competing with 21 teams consisting of 95 individuals from the United States, Canada and Mexico, the UNL Range Plant Identification Team finished ninth. The achievement was accomplished by the combined scores of the team members consisting of **Tim Griffin**, **Mary Raymer** and **Kathy Hulse**. The team members placed 19th, 30th and 38th, respectively.

Three UNL teams placed second, ninth and 10th in a field of 18 teams in the Sioux Falls, S.D., Collegiate Livestock Contest.

The teams were coached by **Keith Gilster**, a UNL extension livestock evaluation specialist.

Tod Ibach of Sumner earned second place overall and **Allen Forster** of Smithfield placed fifth. **Gayle Schlake** of Cortland placed second in hog judging.

Other team members are **Chuck Baum** and **Chris Baum**, both of Elgin; **Kurt Borgelt**, Wisner; **Brad Wichmann**, St. Libory; **Scott Merritt**, Gering; **Corey Leaver**, Valley; **Larry Miller**, Fremont; **Jeff Langemeier**, Mead; **Mitch Williams**, Morse Bluff; **Mark Robinson**, Bertrand; **Kendra Kitt**, Lincoln; **Jim Slavik**, Omaha; **Bill Cornelius**, Madrid; **Pam Day**, Papillion; and **Mark Kliever**, Henderson.

A \$150 Cornish Food Science and Technology scholarship for the second semester of the 1984-85 school year has been awarded to **Rhonda Pomajzl**, a freshman in the UNL College of Agriculture.

The food science major from Wilber plans an agriculture-related business career after graduation.

A \$150 Izaak Walton League-West Point chapter scholarship for the second semester of the 1984-85 school year has been awarded to **Colleen Hotovy**, a senior in the UNL College of Agriculture.

East Shorts

Today is "University Day" at the annual Nebraska State Weed Conference in Grand Island. The delegates will discuss control of soybean weeds in conservation tillage when using newer herbicides and the effects of herbicides in the soil.

The conference began Tuesday and will end today. "University Day" will give the public a chance to hear presentations and discuss information on weed control with experts.

The program opens at 9 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. at the Ramada Inn.

Application forms for the UNL Block and Bridle Club Honoree are due Monday.

The club will recognize many people for scholarship and other achievements

at its annual honors banquet April 27. They will award one honoree. This year's honoree will be the 50th recipient of the award.

The honoree is chosen for contributions to Nebraska agriculture, particularly the livestock industry.

Nomination forms are available at the Block and Bridle office in Marvel Baker Hall on East Campus.

For more information, call Susan Borgelt at 464-8528 or Melissa Hynes at 467-5917.

Sessions in the 1985 Managing for Tomorrow programs in Ogallala, McCook, Callaway and O'Neill will begin in the next week and still have openings for farm or ranch families.

Managing for Tomorrow is a financial management program developed by UNL agricultural economists to help farm and ranch families gather, organize and analyze information so they can make more informed decisions about their future.

For more information, call toll free: (800) 535-3456.

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