

# JUDGING 101

"Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit." -Aristotle

## MARKET SHEEP:

Powerful= WIDTH + MUSCLE + STOUT + PRODUCTIVE RIB

ATTRACTIVE= Upstanding + Clean chested + level + uniform + square build + hip and hind leg

Expressive= Trim + Firm + Rack shape + definition of muscle

Sound Structured= Correct in angles + comfort on move

Fresh= Good hide + Good handle + upstanding shape + clean plated

Youthful Rib= bold shape + shallow hearted + able to maintain heavier weight + fresh

Stature= large frame + extension

Stale= fades over loin + mature + sharp raked + bad hided + poorly managed

High Quality= good build + attractive + muscular

Last rib back= Longer + fuller + fresher loin + stouter + squarer hip + muscular leg + 60% of total length

Cutability= Lean

Pounds of Product= weight + muscle

Composition= optimal finish + muscle

Touch and Tone= firm + good hide + shapely/muscular + fresh

Handling quality= fresh + muscular + rack + loin (good to edges) + good hide

## BREEDING SHEEP:

Functional= sound + maintain growth/performance + bold rib

Maternal= Sound + bold rib + feminine

Broody= Wide + Volume + sound + stout + stature

## Selection Priorities:

Muscle

Correct of finish

Growth/weight

Skeletal correctness  
Balance

### **MUSCLE (OUTSIDE):**

- . Stouter made
- . Wider chested
- . Wider chested
- . Stouter Hipped
- . More powerful from behind
- . More powerful forearm
- . He spans more width and dimension down his top
- . Comes thicker and squarer to his dock
- . More depth and bulge to his lower leg
- . The squarer standing wider based sheep
- . Deeper Twisted
- . From the three-quarter view, he/she has the most outward turn to his/her leg
- . Heavier Muscled
- . Stouter featured
- . Powerfully constructed
- . Expressively Muscled
- . More Expressive
- . He possesses more width thru his chest floor
- . He comes stouter out of his hip and stifle
- . He runs more shape down his top
- . Simply unequaled in his muscle shape
- . He has more shape and expression of muscle thru his outer leg and inner thigh
- . He offers more shape thru his leg from the side
- . He's deeper and fuller in his twist
- . He comes wider out of his pins and accordingly stands wider off his back two
- . He comes fuller out of his dock
- . More Powerful in his chest and forearm
- . Powerful in his skeletal width and muscle
- . Stouter hipped and Deeper twisted
- . Dominates from the outside in terms of power and stoutness and combines this with handling quality and organized skeleton easily allows him to win

### **MUSCLE (HANDLE):**

- . Bolder/Boldest rack
- . More genuine in his/her rack shape
- . Fills my hand with the boldest and squarest rack
- . Handles with the thickest/longest and most dimensional rack
- . Wraps with the most volume of leg
- . Wraps with the most inner and outer leg
- . More dimensional Rack

- . Squarer and Fresher Rack
- . More expressive rack/topside
- . Squarer loin edge
- . Deeper loin
- . More upstanding rack
- . Wraps more dimensional/Circumference of leg
- . Measures longer from his last rib back
- . Measures more length of hindsaddle
- . Longer Loined and hindsaddled
- . Handles fresher and firmer, handles with more touch and tone
- . Sets the wider loin in front of the stouter hip
- . Handles with more fresh shape
- . Bolder over his rack
- . Stretches the longer hindsaddle
- . More upstanding in his rack and progressively thickens to a stouter hip
- . He's the fresh handling sheep, that meets my hand the most genuine in his rack shape and from there back he spans the most dimensional through all portions of his hind saddle and due to this he should end with the most product

### **CORRECTNESS OF FINISH:**

- . To the touch, he is certainly freer of fat through his fore rib and down his top
- . Cleaner breasted
- . Trimmer patterned/designed
- . Higher cutability wether
- . Touches trimmer
- . Cleaner Patterned
- . More consistent in his finish
- . Firmer to the touch
- . Leaner profiling
- . Harder handling
- . Fresher to the touch
- . Fresher handling
- . Fresher appearing
- . More appropriate in terms of freshness
- . He handles more impressive down his top, as he is uniquely firmer and fresher to the touch
- . He's the cleaner patterned lamb that is trimmer thru is chest and middle
- . He's firmer and fresher to the touch

### **Growth/ Weight:**

- . More upstanding
- . Larger framed

- . Larger outlined
- . Taller Fronted
- . More elevated thru his chest floor
- . Later maturing
- . More extended from the side
- . Heavier Weight, larger patterned
- . Pounds heavy
- . Taller shouldered
- . Longer Patterned

## Skeletal Correctness/ Balance/ Eye Appeal

- . Stands stronger on his/her pasterns
- . More attractive profiling
- . Leveler topline
- . Is more correctly assembled about his shoulder & knee and toes truer upfront
- . Blends a longer, slimmer neck into a flatter and neater shoulder
- . Has more look upfront
- . Straighter lined sheep that has more look from the side
- . Holds him/herself together more correctly in the stand/ from the side
- . Longer, leveler hip
- . Squarer hock placement
- . Squarer from behind
- . Smoother/ Flatter shouldered
- . Shorter and stronger pastern
- . Stoutier boned
- . Shallower chested
- . Projects his neck higher out of a smoother shoulder
- . Cleaner plated, more elevated in his plate/chest floor
- . He keeps a balanced look from the side
- . Holds himself together the best from the side
- . More extended from the side
- . Commands my attention from the side
- . Nicer balanced
- . More youthful in his rib
- . He's sharper thru his front end and more correct in his lines from there back
- . Constructed leveler out of his hip
- . Sets the more attractive hind leg to the surface
- . Wedges tighter at the top of his shoulder
- . Smoother and more extended upfront

“Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence.” -Vince Lombardi

## Market Hogs:

Powerful= Weight + width + rib shape + bone + muscle

Productive= Width + bold rib and deep body + soundness + muscle + growth

Efficiency= Weight and scale + body + muscle + skeleton + compositionally correct

Freshness= Deep chine + hair and skin quality + depth of flank

Attractive= Clean jaw line + tall fronted + level + extension + bone + fill + freshness + soundness

Design= tall shoulder + youthful + bone + skull + fill + square build + rib shape + balance + skeleton

Basic Build= genuine width + rib shape + muscle + skeleton + youthful + square build

10<sup>th</sup> rib muscle= lean muscular top (specifically loin eye)

Lean value= Weight + composition + top shape

Pounds of product= Scale + volume of muscle + weight + composition

Skeletal Quality= big even toes + correct angle (blade, hip, hock, knee, pastern) + level + long hip + square coming and going

Youthful= Skull + composition + deep chine + freshness

Composition= Fat in relation to muscle

## Breeding gilts:

Functional= growth + volume + structure + teats and vulvas

Broody= growth + width + high volume + stout + sound

Maternal= growth + soundness + body + feminine + volume + underlines + long muscle

Late maturing look= growth + length of cannon + long fronted + extension + composition + youthful

Early maturing look= short face and cannon + jammed up + compositionally incorrect

Female makers= feminine + sound + body volume + teats and vulvas + growth

Boar makers= Stout + growth + width + structure + muscle + rib shape

Foundation Female= Productive + attractive + good build + sound + good EPD's + growth + skeletal quality + longevity + versatility

Maternally strong= performance + volume + sound + teats and vulvas + feminine + long muscle

Terminally strong= growth + muscle + rib shape + EPD's

Source for Back Fat reduction= composition + BF

Seed stock= Growth + balance + great build + sound + good EPD's

Source for days reduction= Days to 250 EPD + growth + scale + muscle

Source for show pig production= growth + muscle + design + skeletal quality + composition + rib shape

## **Selection Priorities:**

Muscle  
Leanness  
Growth/Weight  
Structural correctness  
Balance

## **MUSCLE:**

- . Powerfully constructed
- . Stouter made
- . Powerfully built
- . Heavier muscled
- . Carcass/ Product oriented
- . Works more shape down his top
- . Works more product from blade to hip
- . Squares up with more shape behind a bolder blade
- . Bolder bladed, thicker topped barrow that is more expressive in his ham loin junction and stifle
- . Thicker/More dimensional through center and lower portions of his ham
- . Wider based, bolder ribbed barrow that works more natural muscle dimension on top
- . Stouter hipped
- . Wider chested
- . More pulled apart through his chest and center blade
- . Skeletal Power
- . Opened up the widest beneath the boldest blade
- . More opened up underneath
- . Bold Frame
- . Skeletal width
- . More genuine in his base width
- . Wider skeletoned

## **Leanness:**

- . Trimmer
- . Leaner
- . More compositionally correct
- . Freer of fat

- . Trimmer/ Cleaner through (jowl, blade, lower body)
- . Reads trimmer through lower 1/3 of his body and Jowl
- . Cleaner from his blades forward
- . A more compositionally correct, leaner designed barrow that reads freer of fat

## **Growth/Weight/Volume:**

- . More skeletally extended
- . Bigger scaled
- . Larger designed
- . Center body dimension
- . Pulled apart wider through her center skeleton
- . Boldest and Deepest in her rib shape
- . Productive look
- . Opens out of her sternum into more center body dimension
- . More expanded through her sternum and center body
- . Approaches and leaves with more natural width underneath
- . Offers more natural lower skeletal dimension
- . Pulled apart in her lower skeleton
- . Bolder through her fore rib
- . Bold frame
- . More internal dimension
- . Comes back out of his/her sternum with a more productive rib design
- . The wider skeletoned boar opens up with more natural rib shape behind a bolder blade
- . The wider skeletoned barrow approaches me more opened up underneath
- . More extended ahead of her blades
- . Heavier Weight
- . Pounds heavy
- . Later maturing

## **Skeletal correctness/ Balance:**

- . Tall fronted/ Shouldered
- . Nicer profiling
- . Impressive from the side
- . Nicer balanced
- . Leveler designed
- . Pleasing from the side
- . The more attractive profiling, leveler designed barrow who's cranked high at the base of his tail
- . Taller shouldered barrow who's stronger behind his blades
- . Hooks his spine in stronger behind his blades
- . Nicer balanced barrow that's stronger in his Ham loin junction and leveler out of his hip

- . More skeletally extended barrow is taller fronted, stronger behind his blades and leveler out of his hip
- . More mobile on the move
- . Easier striding
- . More skeletally correct
- . Looser in his hip and hock
- . More slope to shoulder
- . Looser spine
- . Longer striding
- . Sets her tail higher on a looser hip
- . More elevated upfront
- . More durably designed
- . Heavier skeletoned
- . Moves with more strength and stability out of a looser hip
- . Built wider and sounder from the ground up
- . More set and cushion to her knee
- . More reach up front
- . Most athletic on the drive
- . Most cushion up front
- . Most correctly assembled about her knee and blade
- . Most flex off of both ends
- . Plants to surface with the most ease and comfort/ cushion

## **MARKET STEERS:**

- Practical (Body Type)= Heavy weight + Sound + Big bodied + Wide/Muscular  
 Powerful= Width + Heavy Muscled + Bold + Heavy Structured + Weight  
 Massive= Wide + Bold/Big Bodied + Heavy Muscled + Heavy Weight + Bone  
 Attractive= Clean fronted + level lines + square + Sound Structure +  
 Condition/Freshness + Good Hip/Leg  
 Balance= Fits together from the side, Proportional in lines + sound structure  
 Structure/ Soundness= correct use/angle of joints + big footed + deep heeled +  
 readily fills track while remaining collected in topline/skeleton  
 High Quality= Combination of the above  
 Moderate= Average in growth indicators-→ typically easier feeding/ doing  
 Cutability= Heavy muscled + trim down low/ pattern + expressive/shapely +  
 look/handle  
 Fat Steer/Easy feeding= Full in there external indicators + smooth + practical body  
 Compliment of Q/YG= Muscular and practical body type + consist in body depth  
 QG/Safer Grading= Full through external indicators + uniform/consistent over 12<sup>th</sup>  
 & 13<sup>th</sup>  
 Market Readiness= Muscular + Properly/ Correctly finished  
 T.P.P= Heavy weight + skeletal width + Large framed/extended  
 P. W= Carcass weight/ how they return profit + Frame, Maturity and length  
 Heavy Muscled= Wide + dimension of muscle



Heavy Weight= Wide + frame + extended/length

Carcass Terms= Rib, Larger eye= Rib loin top shape

Freshness/ Compositionally correct in finish= Proper age + Good hair/skin + smooth handle

## **Selection Priorities:**

Muscle

Correctness of Finish

Weight/ Growth

Structural Soundness

Balance

## **MUSCLE:**

- . Works more width and dimension down his top/over his rib and loin
- . More turn to lower quarter and stifle
- . Handles with a more aggressive turn to a wider loin
- . Handles and views with more shape and expression
- . Heavier Muscled
- . Powerfully constructed
- . Stouter featured
- . Powerfully Muscled
- . Stouter Made
- . Expressively Muscled
- . Stouter in his Make-Up
- . Carcass oriented
- . Product oriented
- . Packer Preferred
- . Expresses more shape through his lower quarter and stifle
- . Shows more bulge through his rump, round and stifle
- . Comes stouter out of his hip and stifle
- . Handles with a leaner, more honest turn to his top
- . More honest shape to his top
- . Spreads more shape and dimension over his top
- . He has more width and dimension through his round and as a result, tracks wider from the ground up
- . He's the wider pinned steer, who's much squarer and stouter out of his hip and has more expression through his quarter
- . Dimensional through his lower quarter and stifle

## **Correctness of Finish:**

- . More Practical fat steer look
- . Plainest/ most mature in his handle
- . Freshest in his look and handle
- . Needs more body and finish to maximize his genetic potential for quality grade
- . Mellow over his 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>
- . More consistent/inconsistent in his handle
- . He's just shy of the finish/cover needed to be a top pair candidate
- . Industry demanded finish
- . I see potential value in his added finish, however he needs to accommodate this with more terminal shape and product
- . Added depth and spring of rib has benefited his efficiency and in turn finish advantage
- . Past ideal/ profitable endpoint
- . More market ready
- . Mellow handling/appearing
- . Correctly covered
- . Properly finished
- . He's the more market ready steer, who handles with a higher, more proper degree of finish
- . He's the more correctly covered steer, who handles mellow at his 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>
- . Here's the more ideally finished steer that is blanketed with a greater amount of industry demanded finish
- . He's the better bodied, more practical steer whose depth and spring of rib has apparently benefited his finish advantage
- . His fresh smooth finish should allow him to fall safer in the choice grade
- . His carcass value is a direct reflection of his easier feeding look
- . He needs extra days on fed that should prove to be detrimental to his profit margins
- . Extra finish and potential to grade comes without genuine muscle shape
- . Inhibited his ability to lay on muscle and finish (compromised) (hindered)
- . Jeopardizes his versatility and profit on a modern grid (to fat or to thin)

## **WEIGHT/GROWTH:**

- . Heavier Weight
- . Pounds heavier
- . Larger outlined
- . More extended
- . Larger Framed
- . Larger statured
- . He was the growthiest, pound heaviest steer in class who should\_\_\_\_\_

## **STRUCTURAL SOUNDNESS:**

- . More structurally correct
- . More skeletally correct
- . Easier Striding
- . More comfortable on the move
- . Longer striding/ Easier Moving
- . More correct slope to his shoulder
- . Length of stride
- . Depth of heel
- . Moves with more flex to his hock and knee
- . Offers more flex to his spine
- . Looser in his skeletal construction
- . More accurately/readily/comfortably fills his tracks
- . Sets truer (more accurate) up front
- . Sets the softest to the surface
- . More functional in the angle and use to his hock (shoulder)
- . More length and softness to his stride
- . Rigid in his pastern and overall movement
- . Sets the surface on a deeper heel
- . Uncoordinated rear skeleton
- . Travels with more flex to his lower joints (hock, knee, pastern)
- . Ducks his pins and pulls his rear leg under himself

## **BALANCE:**

- . Fits together better from the profile/side
- . But as this more attractive look all-to-often correlates to an unpractical body type
- . Goes beyond terminal incentives and excels the class in show ring appeal/presence
- . Cleaner and more extended thru his front end
- . Longer and leveler hip
- . More attractive, yet still functional set to his hip and hind leg
- . Transitions smoother from shoulder to fore rib
- . Transitions out of smoother shoulder, into a bolder fore rib
- . Steep hip finalizes his low quality look
- . Mature fronted
- . He's the more attractive steer who's stronger in his top, and much leveler from hooks to pins
- . He offers more extension through his front end, and is straighter in his lines from his shoulder back
- . He simply exhibits more skeletal strength, being stronger topped and leveler hiped
- . From the profile, he displays a more attractive hip and hind leg structure
- . He's more striking from the side, especially being longer and cleaner fronted and much trimmer though his chest
- . He's simply more pleasing from the profile, in that he is the longer spine steer who is much leveler from hooks to pins and neater and sharper fronted

**“the only place success comes before work is in the dictionary” – VINCE LOMBARDI**

## **BREEDING CATTLE:**

### **HEIFERS:**

Donor= elite breeding piece + good data+ attractive + sound  
Powerful= Muscle + width + bone + WPDA  
High Quality= Attractive + rib + sound + good udder + correct condition  
Practical/Functional= Sound + body + width  
Broody= bold rib + width + stout + sound + performance  
Maternal= Feminine + sound + volume + rib + teats  
Low Maintenance/Input= Moderate + sound + volume + easy fleshing + depth, rib and flesh  
Balanced= Sound + proportional + fits together well  
Feminine/Attractive= level + nice fronted + refined udder + hip and hind leg  
Performance= Frame + growth + data + weight  
Skeletal Quality= Level top + correct angles + fills track + clean joints  
Longevity= Sound + body + moderate + Milk #  
Maternally strong= Milk # + functional  
Bull Maker= Growth + data + power + functional  
Seedstock/Show ring Production= Attractive + body + structure + balanced EPD's  
Female Maker= Sound + body + Performance + Udder

## **SELECTION PRIORITIES (HEIFERS):**

Performance  
Functionality (VOLUME & SOUNDNESS)  
Balance/Femininity

## **PERFORMANCE:**

- . Performance edge on and off paper
- . Added growth may be the breeding piece for some foreign clientele (Brahman)
- . Added performance and power more valued by the cattleman (^YW)
- . Edge in inherited growth and performance
- . Her direct growth is most beneficial to the genetic base of the herd
- . Performance advantage on and off paper, which is always valuable to the commercial cattleman
- . Commitment to commercial Angus alliance (CAB), where growth and carcass merit is always a must
- . Post weaning Performance
- . Her claim to be higher performing is reinforced by more progressive growth figures

- . Higher performing
- . Later maturing
- . Offers more weight per day of age
- . Larger framed/ outlined

### **FUNCTIONALITY (Volume):**

- . More maternal appearing
- . Bolder bodied, better ribbed
- . More internal dimension
- . Offers more capacity
- . She's the broodiest appearing female who presents the most shape and internal dimension to her rib
- . She's the bigger volume heifer who has the most expansion and depth to her rib
- . She has the most dimension thru her center skeleton
- . She offers more depth to her mid-rib and is especially softer flanked
- . She simply offers more depth, rib and flesh
- . Here's the easier fleshing female who should prove easier to maintain thru maturity
- . She's softer in her fore-rib and heart and has more drop to her flank
- . She's carrying more flesh to date, suggesting she should be more feasible in her mature maintenance
- . She's the more functionally efficient heifer who should require less maintenance at maturity, as she was bolder sprung, deeper bodied and easier fleshing
- . Thicker made
- . Stouter hipped
- . She's the wider chested heifer that opens out of a bolder fore-rib into a more dimensional center body
- . Highest volume
- . Boldest sprung

### **FUNCTIONALITY (SOUNDNESS):**

- . Region suitable
- . Range adaptable
- . Complements a more moderate frame with structural correctness
- . More secure in structural design
- . Holds herself better on the move
- . Longer striding
- . Straightest and most limited in her skeleton, which leaves me questioning her longevity/practical long, term use
- . Structure limits her use as a practical brood cow
- . Her limited skeleton labels her the least practical and progressive for this cattleman's goals
- . Durability
- . More functional stride
- . Sets functionally further back in her shoulder and knee

- . The truest in her foot placement
- . More nearly level from hooks to pins
- . Took a longer/freer/more correct stride off both ends
- . More correct in the set and angle to her hock
- . More correct slope and angle to her shoulder allowing her to move out with a longer, freer stride

### **BALANCE/FEMININITY:**

- . Nicer profiling
- . Better balanced
- . Flatter shouldered, Laid in smoother about her shoulder
- . Longer fronted/necked; cleaner about her head and neck
- . More refined/extended thru her front 1/3
- . Blends a thinner neck smoother into a flatter shoulder
- . More developed in her udder/vulva
- . Demands attention from the profile/side
- . Feminine fronted
- . Feminine featured, but with this added refinement she's also the frail structured female
- . Presence from the side
- . Portrays more femininity and refinement through her front 1/3
- . Contributes an attractive look for club calf production (Show ring) without sacrificing the functional body type needed to target the commercial producer.

### **BULLS:**

- Functional/Practical= sound + volume + width + testicles
- Powerful= Width + muscle + stout + growth
- Performance Driven= Growth (WPDA) + frame + balanced data
- Masculine= cresty neck + testicles + muscular
- Durable= bone + big foot + structure + rugged + rib shape
- Female Maker= functional + moderate + testicles
- Bull Makers= powerful + performance + masculine + functional
- Calving Ease= low birth weight (High CED) + smooth shoulder + clean joints
- Natural service/Clean up Bull= Functional + rugged + scenario request
- Profitable fed out program= Cutability + pay weight + quality grade + performance
- Cutability/ Yield Grade= Expressive + REA
- Pay weight= Growth + Growth EPD's
- Quality Grade= Practical Body + IMF
- Show ring Progeny= Quality look + functional + good data
- Versatile= Able to cover many different production goals

## **VOLUME:**

- . More functional center body
- . More massive rib design
- . Bigger/ Bolder ribbed
- . Bigger Bodied
- . Higher volume
- . More massive in his center cavity
- . He's the biggest bodied bull who presents the most shape and dimension to his rib
- . He's the bigger volume bull who has the most expansion and depth to his rib
- . He has the most dimension thru his center skeleton
- . He's softer in his fore-rib and heart, and has more drop to his flank
- . He's the wider chested bull who opens up into the more productive rib design
- . He's the wider chested, bigger ribbed bull who's more functional in his structure, and should prove more durable in pasture situations.

## **STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS:**

- . Cattleman's choice for practical range service
- . Rugged build
- . Durable Skeleton
- . Masculine/ Massive
- . Range Ready
- . Structure limits his use as a practical herd sire
- . Promotes the practical, low maintenance look for replacement heifers and profitable sale cattle alike
- . Range soundness
- . Leaves me skeptical of his present breeding soundness
- . Should offer the least/ most seasons of service and genetic improvement
- . Struggles on the lead
- . Functional flaws
- . Fights the lead
- . True herd sire value lies in his extra functional skeleton
- . Built on the more rugged foundation
- . Further build upon his extra functional base/foundation
- . Travels with more authority
- . Herd sire fundamentals
- . Takes a longer reaching, more comfortable/functional stride off of both ends of his skeleton
- . Here's the most ruggedly designed, massive structured sire who's built the widest from the ground up
- . #S not only the biggest footed and massive structured here's the big footed, stout boned bull who tracks with the most depth and cushion to his heel on the widest base

