Suggestions and Goals for Coaching Judging Teams

C. Chad Carr
University of Florida
Benefits of Competitive Education

• Think critically
• Compare logically
• Decide independently
• Solve problems rationally
• Communicate effectively
• Lead decisively

G. C. Smith, 2001
How and Why?

• For Those Who Intend to Pursue Employment in Animal Agriculture:
  Better Understanding of End-products

• For Those Who *Never* Intend to Pursue Employment in Animal Agriculture:
  Personal Benefits

G. C. Smith (2001)
Benefits of Competitive Education

STUDENT BENEFITS
- Confidence
- Competitiveness
- Self motivation
- Organizational skills
- Memory skills
- Travel opportunities
- College scholarships

McCann & McCann
Benefits of Competitive Education

BENEFITS FOR 4-H & FFA

• Recognition for Club/Chapter/County
• Champions for Animal Agriculture
• Give back to 4-H/FFA

McCann & McCann
Kansas State Extension Bulletin
“Psychological Abilities of Livestock Judges” concluded that:

“Compared with experts in medicine and law, livestock judges appear to have unusual abilities to make complex judgments...And, the training program used to develop livestock judges has a clear impact on skill and judgmental strategies.”

G. C. Smith (2001)
Testimonial

“I give credit for whatever success I have achieved in the medical profession to my experiences as a member of the livestock judging team at Texas Tech University.”

“The decision making skills I learned in judging are the same as those I use every day as a surgeon.”

Jack McAninch, MD
Chief of Surgery
San Francisco General Hospital
University of California- San Francisco
Chronicle the Scenario

- No students
- No resources
- No money
Program Logistics

• Local Industry & Parent “Buy-In”
• Make sure they know the story
  – Livestock publications
  – Local & hometown newspapers
  – Post-contest reports
Program Logistics

• Volunteer & Parent “Buy-In”
• Don’t wear out your welcome
  – Be gracious
  – Recognized at banquet
  – Spread the wealth
Fundraising

• Develop a budget
  – Motels
  – Vans
  – Food
  – Entry fees

• If exceeding what’s provided
  – Local industry support
  – Show how donations are spent
Finding Interested Students

- Identify Prospective Students
  - Interested youth exhibitors
  - Sibling/parent interest
  - Family business
  - Excelled in another competitive event/CDE
Goals for Fielding Youth Judging Teams

- Time needed?
- All students are different
- Work hard
- Have fun
- Be Realistic
Timeline/Goals

• Organizational Meeting
  – Horse- 1st Week Nov
  – Livestock or Meat- 1st Week Dec

• Prior to UF Clinics- At least two Meetings
  – How to Use Cards
  – Contest Components

• Between UF Clinics & Qualifying Contest
  – Should meet at least 2-3 h per week
  – Classroom preparation fundamental for later
  – Contests at spring shows
Prior to State Contest

• Utilizing time wisely
• If you can’t travel
  – Video
  – Terminology
  – Reasons
• Oral Reasons
  – Paramount Importance
Prior to State Contest

• Simulate contest
• Take it Serious- but Have a Big Time
• Establish “Culture of Excellence”
Facilitating Workouts

- Try to do your homework
- If not- multimedia resources are very good
- Junior shows
- DON’T ABUSE THESE RELATIONSHIPS
- More classes aren’t always better
- Better is better
Multimedia Opportunities

- CEV Multimedia
  http://www.cevmultimedia.com/agpathwaylist.php
- University of Florida
- Judging 101
  www.judging101.com
- Colorado State University
  http://ansci.colostate.edu/content/view/242/76/
• University of Kentucky
  http://www.ca.uky.edu/agripedia/agmania/livestock/index.asp
• The Judging Connection
  http://www.thejudgingconnection.com/education.php
Ideas for Reasons

• Students can be terrified- so make it fun
• Teaching the format
  – Have them work in pairs and share with the group
• Piece by Piece
• Teaching to **visualize** the animals
• Ask **QUESTIONS!!!**
  – Have students place a class, turn their back to the class and answer several questions about the class.
• Videos
Human Tendencies to “Goof Up” in Judging

Jerry Hawkins
Claredon Community College
Human Tendencies…

1. Think about and work on judging only “as needed”

2. Judge to suit parents, older brothers or sisters, etc., to please them when your heart is not in it

3. Try to beat someone or another team instead of just doing the best you can
4. Don’t give any forethought to the class you are going to judge

5. Eliminate an animal without analyzing the complete class

6. Place a class based only on one trait
Human Tendencies...

7. Panic in a difficult class

8. Rely on your memory of a class, rather than taking good notes

9. Worry about whether you filled in the judging card correctly or even marked your placing
Human Tendencies...

10. Worry about the placing on the class just judged instead of getting ready for the next class

11. Try to place the next class before you move to the class

12. Try to reinforce your confidence by looking at someone else’s card or notes to see their placing
Human Tendencies...

13. Visit between classes instead of mentally preparing for the next class

14. Place a class too quickly

15. Place a class too slowly

16. Let people irritate you
Human Tendencies…

17. Become frustrated when the contest is changed or is conducted differently from what you expected

18. Worry about reason takers

19. Memorize your notes

20. Use pet terms over and over
Human Tendencies...

21. Worry about terms instead of truthfulness, meaning, and sincerity of term

22. Talk in great depth about the easy pairs but not in very much detail about the close pairs

23. Avoid eye contact with the reason taker when you become unsure of yourself or your delivery is rough
Human Tendencies…

24. Use a lot of body movement and other mannerisms that detract from your reasons

25. Feel tense when giving reasons

26. If you mess up in the middle/bottom pair of reasons, don’t finish, and start over from the beginning
Human Tendencies…

27. Speak too softly or too loudly

28. Speak too quickly or too slowly

29. Speak in a monotone with little or no expression, or overdo the expression when the reasons do not come across with sincerity
Human Tendencies…

30. Let down your momentum and enthusiasm for the last few sets of reasons in a contest

31. Make classes in contests harder than they really are

32. Forget classes in workout after the workout is over
Human Tendencies…

33. Say we placed the last class (es) at ____________ because of ______________

34. Make an excuse for your placing instead of trying to see why a class was placed a certain way

35. Let yourself become tired and unenthusiastic about a judging practice
Human Tendencies…

36. Worry about a contest and let yourself approach it with a negative attitude

37. Be satisfied with your knowledge as a coach and stop seeking to improve your skills; this will give you nothing more to pass on to your students