

2026 NACTA JUDGING CONFERENCE ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY



NACTA

NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGES
AND TEACHERS OF AGRICULTURE

ILLINOIS STATE

Agriculture

Livestock Management
Contest Official Rules

Contest Chair:

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Livestock Management Contest Official Rules

GENERAL RULES

1. Teams will consist of two to four members, each member of the team will compete individually, with all members' scores counting toward the total team score.
 - Individuals and all members of each team will automatically be included in the individual competition.
 - Individual participants will not be considered in the team contest
2. This event will be limited to a total of 75 participants, with a maximum of one team per institution.
3. The event committee reserves the flexibility to add or remove elements, scoring mechanisms, tools lists, etc., allowing events to adapt and evolve.
4. Any participant possessing an electronic device in the event area is subject to disqualification.

ITEMS ALLOWED – each team member

- Pencils
- Calculators
- Clipboards

EVENT FORMAT

- INDIVIDUAL TOTAL POINTS – 175 points
 - Participant scores will be ranked based on their total score.
- TEAM TOTAL POINTS – 175 points
 - Team scores will be averaged to account for teams between 2-4 participants and ranked based on the teams' average scores.
- POINT DISTRIBUTION
 - General Livestock Knowledge - 50 points
 - Identification – 50 points
 - Case Study – 75 points

CONTEST SECTIONS

GENERAL MANAGEMENT KNOWLEDGE

Questions will cover the foundational aspects of livestock management in a multiple choice or true/false exam. Each question will be worth 1 pt, for a total of 50 pt. Participants will have 30 minutes to complete this exam. Topics in this exam may include:

- Anatomy
- Physiology
- Nutrition
- Reproduction
- Genetics
- Animal Husbandry
- Animal Welfare
- Animal Behavior
- Animal Health
- Meat Science

IDENTIFICATION

Participants will identify livestock management images or items which may include anatomical structures, equipment and tools, breed identification, feedstuff, etc. This exam will be in the form of a matching exam, where participants will match the images with the correct identification label. Each correct identification will be worth 1 pt for a total of up to 50 pt. Participants will have 30 minutes to complete this exam.

PROBLEM SOLVING EXAM

Participants will evaluate and respond to questions related to scenarios and/or live animals. These questions may include an explanation or determination of ration formulation, rate of gain calculations, dressing percentage, marketing problems, health challenges and management, reproductive management, etc. This exam will include three scenarios of varied species and situations, with each worth a 25 pt for a total of 75 pt.

TIEBREAKERS

Teams

- Team tiebreakers will be settled in the combined individual problem-solving total
 - If still tied random questions selected from examination by ISU contest supervisor and the combined score total will determine team placement

Individuals

- Individual tiebreakers will be settled in the problem-solving score
 - If still tied random questions selected by ISU contest supervisor and the final score on those questions will determine the placement