Ag Science 1 · Unit 7 · Level 2 (modified)

Livestock Judging



TODAY'S PLAN

- 🏆 How judging works
- 🐑 Ideal sheep + goat
- 🐄 Ideal heifer + steer
- 🐖 Ideal gilt + barrow
- 🧈 What is wrong with a fat barrow

Words to Know

Words to Know



Breeding animal

An animal kept to have young (a ewe, heifer, or gilt). Judges look for a feminine, sound animal.



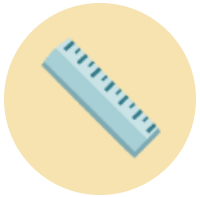
Market animal

An animal raised for meat (a lamb, steer, or barrow). Judges look for muscle and a trim body.



Muscle

Thickness in the leg, loin, and ham. More muscle = more meat.



Level top

A strong, level back from shoulders to rump (also called the top line).

Words to Know

More Words to Know



🦵 **Feet and legs**: Legs that are strong, straight, and set wide apart and square under the animal (structure).

🧈 **Condition**: The amount of fat cover. Too much fat is “over-conditioned.”

🐮 **Heifer**: A young female cow that has not had a calf yet.

🐂 **Steer**: A castrated male beef animal raised for meat.

Learn

How Livestock Judging Works



👀 A **class** is 4 animals of the same kind.

🥇 You **place** them 1st to 4th and explain why (reasons).

🎡 It is an FFA **CDE** (Career Development Event).

Learn

The Big 4 Traits



Muscle

leg, loin, ham



Structure

feet, legs, bone



Balance

level, long, smooth



Condition

fat cover

Compare

Breeding vs. Market



Breeding



Kept to have young
Feminine head and neck
Sound feet and legs

Market



Raised for meat
Most muscle
Trim middle, right fat

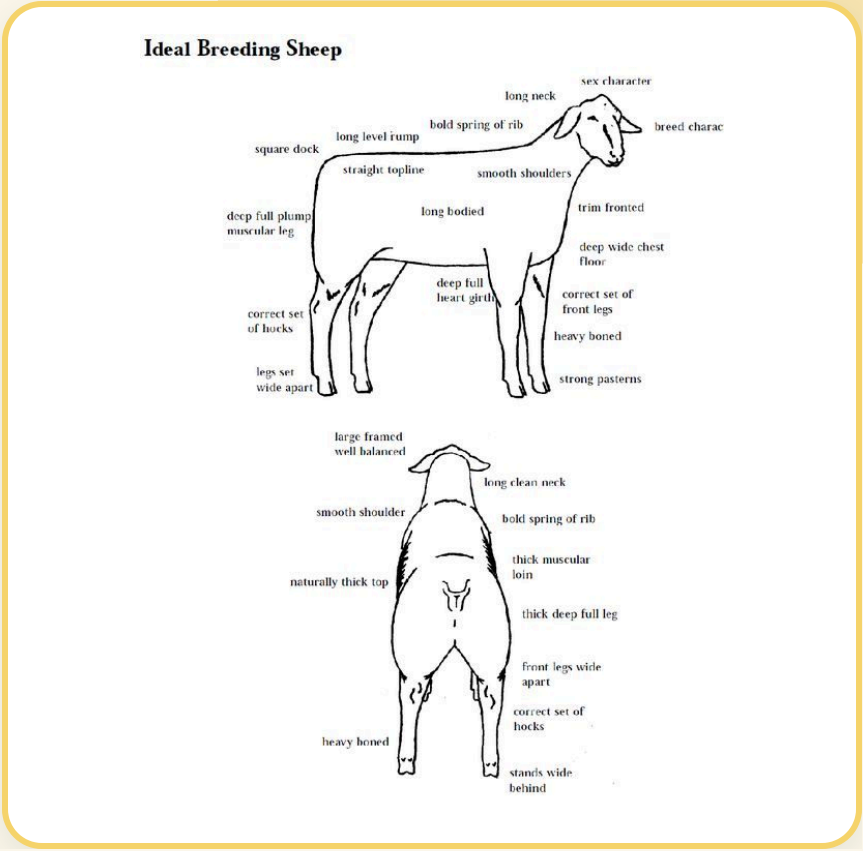
Learn

Ideal Breeding Sheep

📏 Long neck, **level** top and rump

🫁 Deep, wide body (spring of rib)

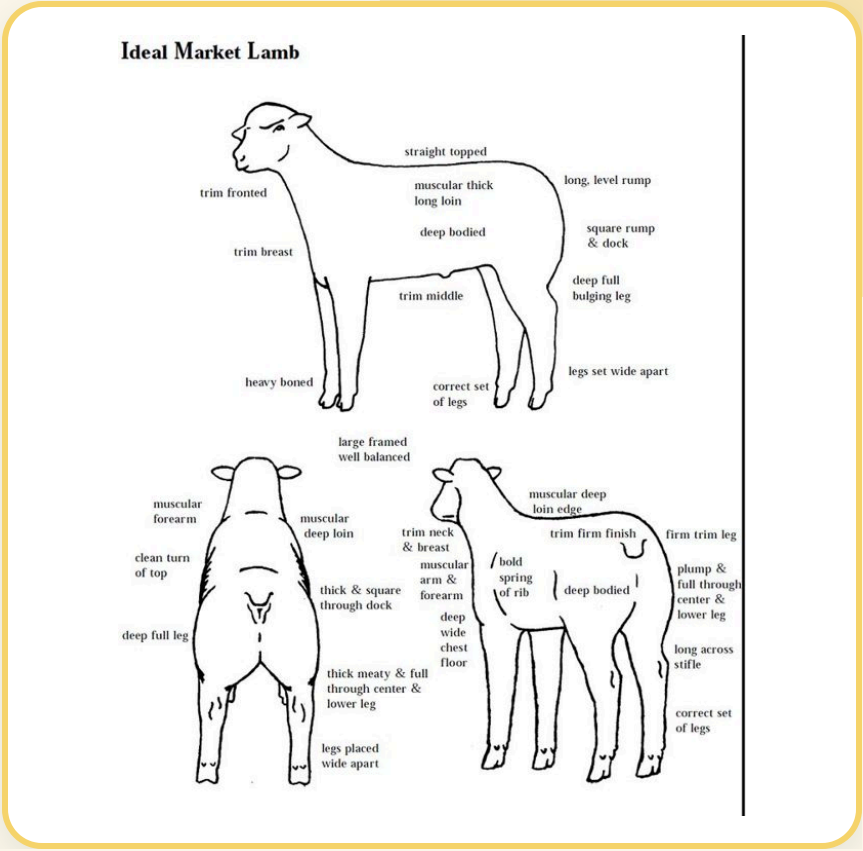
🦵 Heavy bone, **correct feet and legs**



Learn

Ideal Market Lamb

- 💪 Deep, full, **muscular leg**
- 📏 Long, level rump; square dock
- ✂️ **Trim** middle and front



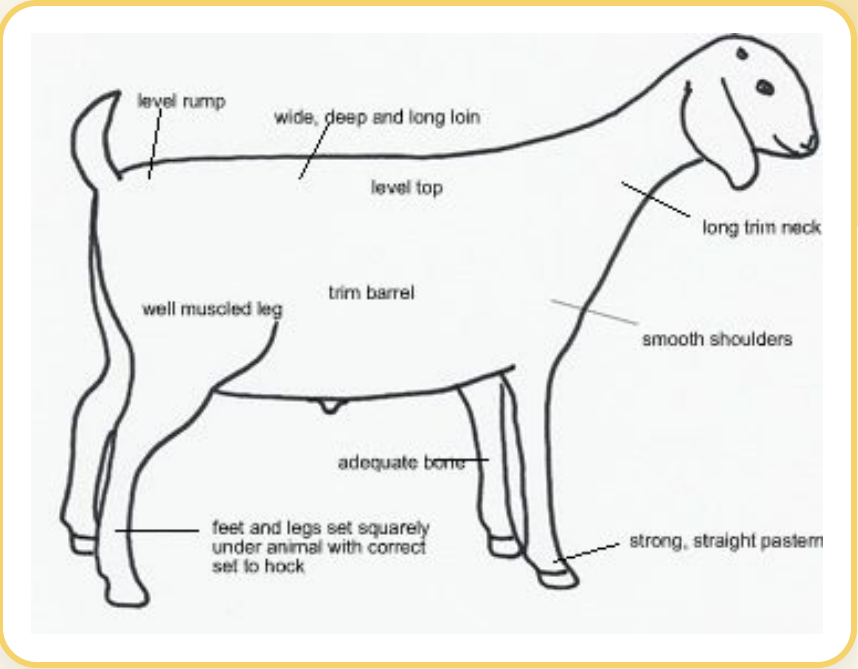
Learn

Ideal Market Goat

📏 **Level** top; wide, deep, long **loin**

💪 Well-muscled leg; trim barrel

🦵 Legs set square; strong, straight pasterns



🃏 Check 1 of 2



A market lamb should have…

Hold up 1, 2, or 3:

1️⃣ A big, round middle

2️⃣ A deep, muscular leg

3️⃣ Weak pasterns

✅ Answer · Card 1 of 2



A deep, muscular leg

Market animals are judged most on muscle.

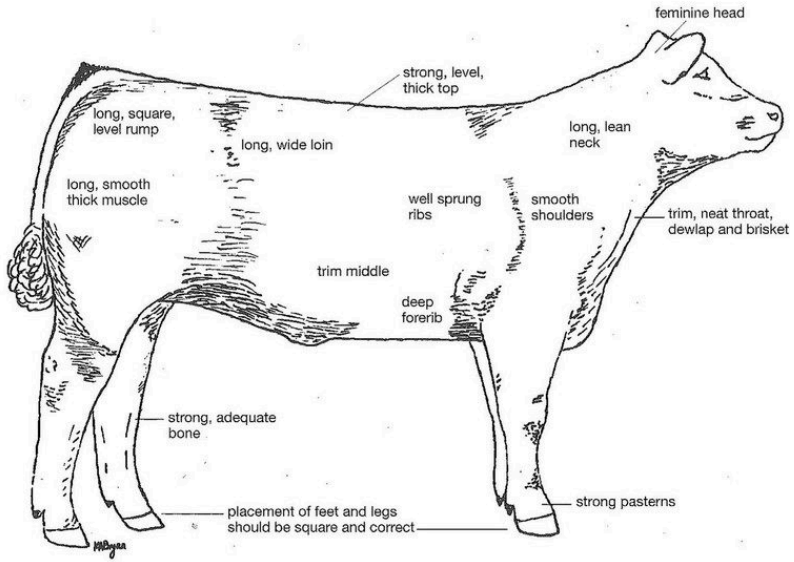
Learn

Ideal Breeding Heifer

🐮 **Feminine** head, long lean neck

📏 Strong, level top; long, wide loin

🦵 Square, correct feet and legs; strong pasterns



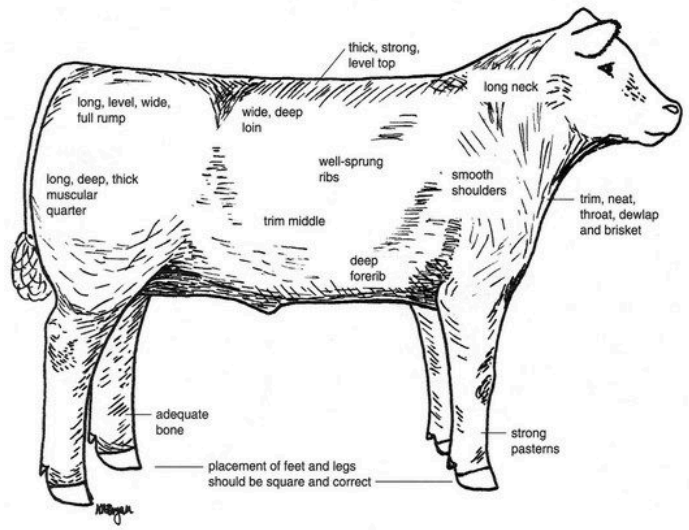
Learn

Ideal Steer

💪 Long, deep, thick **muscular quarter**

📏 Thick, deep, level top

✂️ Trim middle; neat throat and brisket



	NORMAL RANGE	AVERAGE	IDEAL
Live weight (lb.)	900 - 1,400	1,150.0	1,220.0
Dressing percentage	55 - 67	62.0	62.0
Fat thickness (in.)	.15 - 1.0	.50	.30
Ribeye area (sq. in.)	8 - 16	11.5	13.3
KPH fat percentage	1 - 6	3.5	2.0
Quality grade	Low Select - Avg. Prime	Low Choice	Avg. Choice

Adapted from *Live Animal Carcass Evaluation and Selection Manual*, 4th edition, 1993, Donald L. Boggs and Robert A. Merkel.

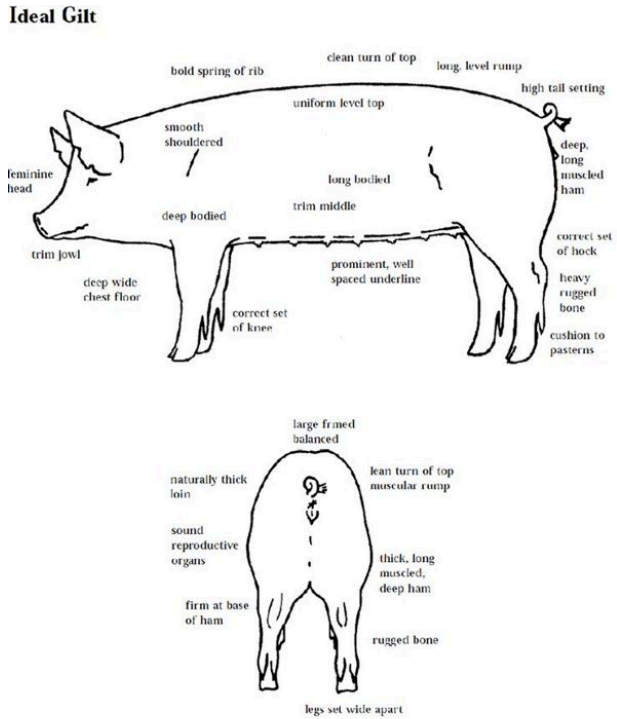
Learn

Ideal Gilt

📏 Long, uniform, level top; bold spring of rib

🍼 Even, well-spaced **underline** (teats)

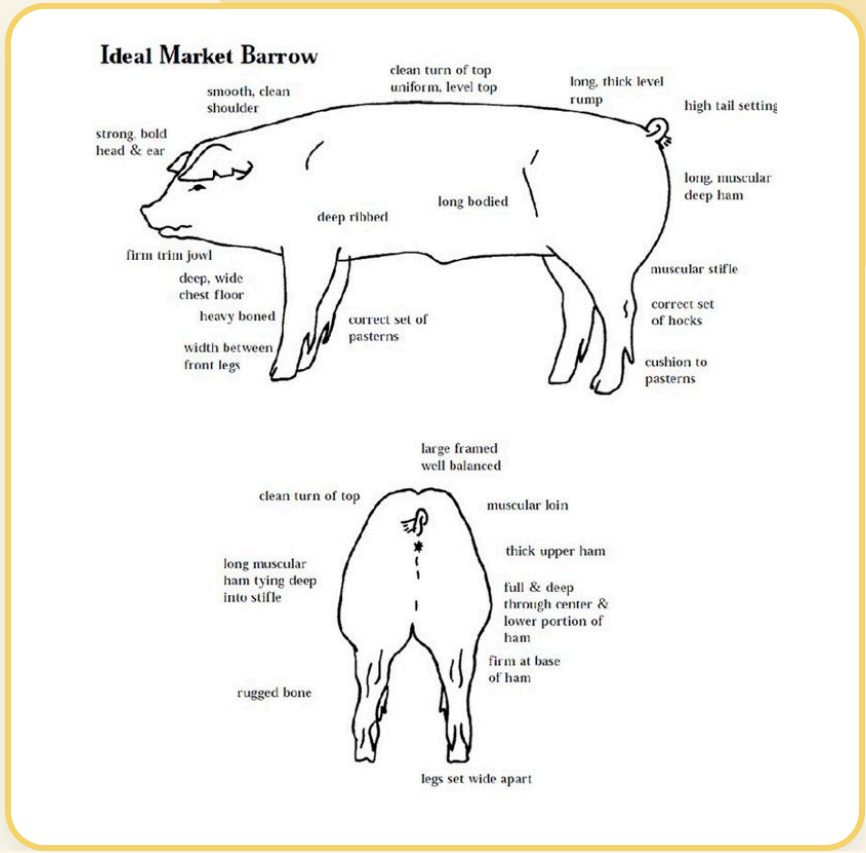
🦵 Correct legs with cushion to pastern



Learn

Ideal Market Barrow

- 💪 Long, thick, **muscular ham**
- 📏 Long, thick, level top; smooth shoulder
- 🦵 Legs set **wide apart**



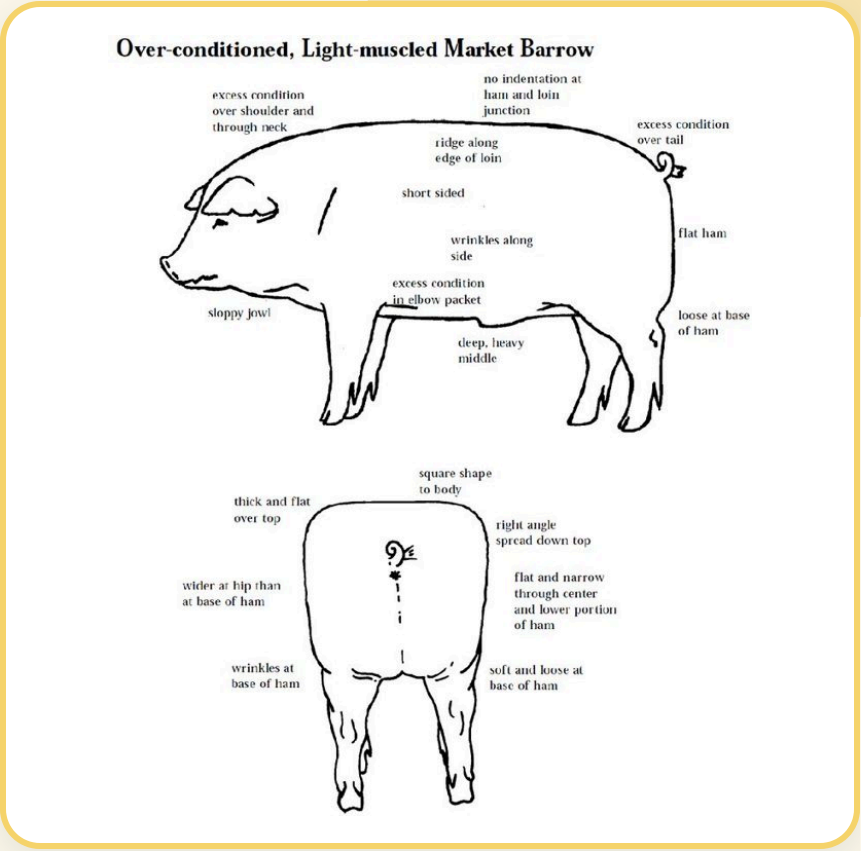
Learn

Over-conditioned, Light-muscled Barrow

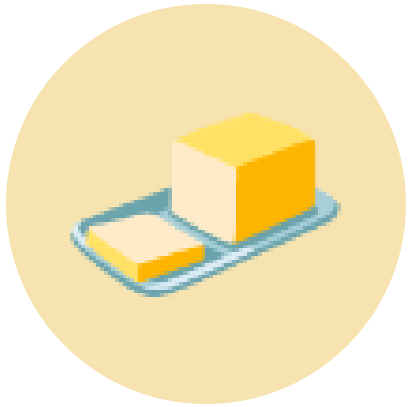
🧈 **Too much fat** over the shoulder and neck

😕 **Flat**, narrow ham; wrinkles at base of ham

🍔 Deep, heavy middle



🃏 Check 2 of 2



Why does the fat barrow place last?

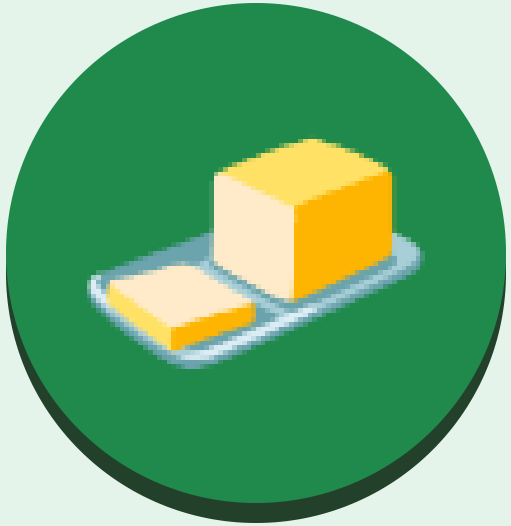
Hold up 1, 2, or 3:

1️⃣ It is the wrong color

2️⃣ It is too long

3️⃣ Too much fat and too little muscle

✅ Answer · Card 2 of 2



Too much fat and too little muscle

Over-conditioned + light-muscled = less meat.

Wrap-Up

Recap



Class of 4
place 1–4 + reasons



Market
most muscle, trim



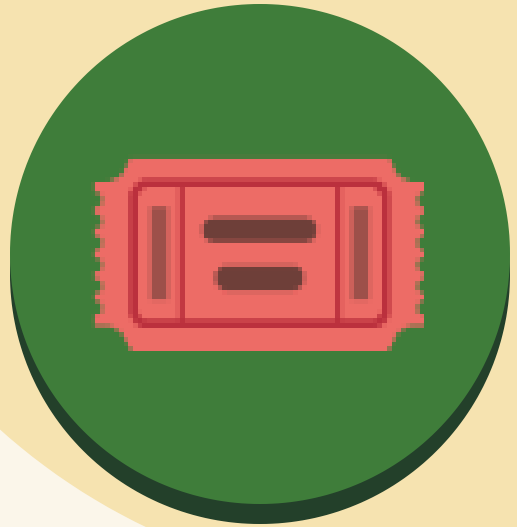
Breeding
feminine, sound



Structure
square feet and legs

Wrap-Up

Exit Ticket



1️⃣ Name the big 4 traits.

2️⃣ How is a breeding animal judged differently from a market animal?

3️⃣ Why does an over-conditioned barrow place low?