

FORAGE EVALUATION

3 or 4 Member Teams

I. PURPOSE

Students apply their knowledge of various forage species to evaluate hay based on physical properties, identify species common to pastures and complete a quiz that tests team members' knowledge of different aspects of forage production and evaluation. The forage event embodies the very basis of real world application. The students take the information learned and apply it directly to forage production, which is foundational to the state's highly significant livestock industry.

II. EVENT FORMAT

A. Team Make-up

Three or four individuals per school form a team. All members will be scored and the top three scores will count towards the team total.

B. Equipment

Team members must provide their own compliant clipboard and/or clean folder with the following items: scan sheet, and/or copy of the scan sheet, optional Texas FFA CDE drop sheet, and/or two sheets of lined or unlined blank paper.

C. Event Schedule

1. This contest will consist of four components: four hay placement classes, two hay scoring classes, plant identification, an exam over designated chapters from Southern Forages 5th edition, and a problem solving exercise. Designated chapters will be posted to the Texas FFA website by October 1st of each year.
2. 25 minutes will be allowed to complete each component.

D. General Event Information

1. Team members may use their own battery-operated non-programmable calculators.

E. Hay Judging (300 points)

2. Contestants place four classes based on physical ranking (maturity, texture, leafiness, freedom from foreign material, and color) (200 points).
3. Each class will contain only one type of forage. For example, all samples in one class will be improved bermudagrass or all will be common bermudagrass, not mixed, if at all possible.
4. Students may touch the hay samples with the back of their hand, but may not pick up and otherwise handle the samples.
5. Possible classes shall include improved or hybrid bermudagrasses, common bermudagrass, bahiagrass, sorghum/sudangrass, alfalfa and cool season annual grasses, such as ryegrass, wheat, oat, etc. All samples in a class should be of the same species.
6. Ten samples will be graded according to the Cherokee County Hay Judging guidelines (link can be found in the reference section) (100 points).

F. Plant ID (300 points)

1. The participant will identify 30 pasture grasses, legumes, and weeds from the Forage Evaluation CDE Plant List. This list is now located on JudgingCard at the link notated in the reference section.

2. Specimens used in this event will be mounted or live or a combination of both mounted and live specimens.
3. Samples will have an inflorescence, flower or fruiting structures present, if possible.

G. Exam (300 points)

1. Subject areas for the exam will come from Southern Forages, 5th edition.
2. Two units from this text shall be selected for exam purposes and posted each year. Some chapters in the text are quite short. In such cases, two short chapters may be combined to comprise the unit from which questions are to be derived.
3. A unit may be used no more than once every three years.
4. Fifteen multiple choice questions will be taken from each unit. (Units will be selected and posted on the Texas FFA website on the page related to this event.)

H. Problem Solving (100 points)

1. 10 questions will be answered using provided resources. Each question will be worth 10 points.
2. Contestant will answer questions, determine fertilizers to be applied, calculate application rates and cost projections, or make determinations of feed requirements based on forage analysis results.
3. Contestants will be provided a production scenario and soil or forage sample data from laboratory analysis.
4. Information will include, but is not limited to, forage crop managed, acreage managed, input costs, soil analyses, forage analyses, livestock species, etc.

III. SCORING

Hay Classes	300 points
Plant ID	300 points
Exam	300 points
Problem Solving	100 points
TOTAL INDIVIDUAL POINTS	1,000 points
TOTAL TEAM POINTS	3,000 points

IV. TIEBREAKERS

If ties occur for team awards, ties are broken as follows:

1. The team with the high point individual wins.
2. If still tied, the team with the highest score on the Quiz wins.
3. If still tied, the team will be accompanied by their advisor and will meet with contest officials who will conduct a coin toss to determine the higher placing team.

If ties occur for individual awards, ties will be broken as follows:

1. High point individual on Quiz wins.
2. If still tied, the high point individual on plant identification wins.
3. If still tied, the high point individual on hay placement wins.
4. If still tied, the individual will be accompanied by their advisor and will meet with contest officials who will conduct a coin toss to determine the higher placing individual.

V. REFERENCES

The plant list for the forage evaluation CDE can be found on JudgingCard at this link: www.judgingcard.com/resources/List.aspx

Hay Judging Guidelines can be found here:

http://cherokee.agrilife.org/files/2011/06/JrHayJudgingMadeEasy_91.pdf

The book *Southern Forages*, 5th Ed. may be ordered on-line at either of the following links:

<https://store.ipni.net/collections/frontpage/products/southern-forages-modern-concepts-for-forage-crop-management>

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/0996019928>

Dr. Robert Lane has developed a CD containing photos and helpful identification tips for all of the plants covered in this CDE. The CD can be ordered by sending Dr. Lane the order form (listed under "documents" on the Forage CDE main page) accompanied by a school or personal check.