

These are the ADSA approved guidelines for the National Intercollegiate Dairy Cattle Judging Contest and are the suggested guidelines for regional contests.

Score Card for Grading Oral Reasons

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| A. Content (accuracy and completeness)..... | 35 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Accurately compares each pair of animals.- Presents important differences first (those that clearly influenced the decision) in an organized manner.- Uses a "positive" approach with comparative terminology. Grants the lower placed animal whenever there is such an advantage.- Briefly evaluates the bottom animal for strengths and weaknesses. | |
| B. Delivery | 15 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Uses proper terminology, grammar, and pronunciation.- Speaks convincingly with moderate speed.- Is sincere and courteous. Completes reasons in allotted 2 minutes. | |
| Total points | 50 |

Guidelines for Oral Reasons Evaluation

1. Avoid fraternizing with coaches and contestants prior to and during the contest.
2. Maintain a friendly attitude that will be encouraging to the contestant.
3. Ask questions only to clarify a point of misunderstanding or to determine if the contestant really saw the class. Avoid trivial questions.
4. Avoid gestures, which indicate disagreement with what the contestant has stated.
5. Avoid mannerisms, which may disturb the contestant.
6. Allow a contestant to develop his own individual style in presenting an effective set of reasons.
7. There is no required closing for reasons. A statement about the bottom cow is as acceptable as, "Therefore, I placed this class of Holstein cows, etc."
8. There is no credit or penalty for saying..."Thank you. Are there any questions?" This may be part of the contestant's own individual style.
9. Avoid discussing classes where contestants and others can overhear.
10. If a contestant receives a low placing score but says all the right things with proper emphasis, then he or she should be graded accordingly versus not getting a score above the placing score.