

JUDGING

Market Steer Terminology

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Quick Facts...

Market steer judging involves making decisions based on both visual observation and handling quality.

The priorities for judging market steers are: degree of muscling, degree of finish, growth (performance), structural correctness and balance.

If you are uncertain about the exact meaning of a term or phrase, ask your coach, parent, 4-H leader, volunteer or Colorado State University Cooperative Extension agent.

Market steer judging involves making decisions based on both visual observation and handling quality. These decisions are essentially an estimate of the traits that reflect carcass value. The following terminology will help youth develop their livestock vocabulary. As you look over the terms, try to picture an animal with the characteristics described by the terminology. When you have an understanding of these terms, you will be able to completely describe all of the important points of a class of market steers. If you are uncertain about the exact meaning of a term or phrase, ask your coach, parent, 4-H leader, volunteer or Colorado State University Cooperative Extension agent.

Priorities for Judging Market Steers

- Degree of Muscling
- Degree of Finish
- Growth (Performance)
- Structural Correctness
- Balance

Muscling Terminology

Advantages

Heavier muscled
 More muscular (forearm, top, stifle, lower quarter)
 Naturally thicker (more muscle volume)
 Expressively muscled
 Wider based (tracking)
 Meatier topped (more spread of top)
 Handled with a deeper, more muscular loin
 Thick ended (stoutest, powerful)
 More dimension to his stifle (quarter)
 Wider from stifle to stifle
 Deeper quartered (muscled closer to his hock)
 Deeper twist

Criticisms

Light muscled
 Narrow tracking
 Narrow topped (flat loin)
 Flat quarter (stifle)
 Shallow quarter
 Flat stifle
 Expressionless quarter

Finish Terminology

Advantages

More market ready
 More correctly (properly) finished
 More desirable degree of condition
 More nearly correct in the degree of condition
 Firmer (fresher) handling
 More uniformly (evenly) covered
 More complete and consistent in his cover
 Less condition over his upper and lower rib

Criticisms

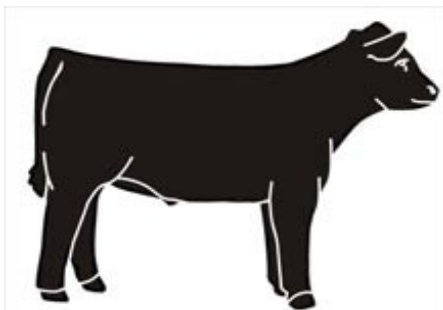
Bare (under) finished
 Least market ready
 Soft (wasty, over finished)
 Patchy (uneven) finish
 Irregular in his cover
 Wasty brisket (flank)
 Deep and soft at the twist
 Open ribbed

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Carcass Terminology

Advantages	Criticisms
Should hang a carcass more apt to grade Choice	Less apt to grade Choice Most retail fat trim
Likely attain a more desirable quality grade	Poor (low) cutability
Have advantages in quality grading situations	Light muscled Cut with the smallest eye
Yield a carcass with lower, more desirable yield grade	
Rail with a lower numerical yield grade	
Potentially open the higher cutability carcass	
Open with a larger ribeye area	
Yield a meatier carcass	



Growth (Performance) Terminology

Advantages	Criticisms
More moderately framed	Small framed
Will reach Choice at a more desired weight	Conventional
Larger framed (ONLY when appropriate)	Quick patterned
Appeared to be faster growing	Lower W.D.A. in class
Appears to have a higher W.D.A. in class	Short bodied (fronted)
Longer patterned (bodied, fronted)	Big for current market conditions
Wider chested	Narrow chested
Deeper bodied (ribbed)	Shallow bodied
Bolder sprung	Tight (flat) ribbed
More spring (arch) of rib	Pinched in his heart and flank
Opens up more correctly behind his shoulders	Constricted in his fore rib

Structural Correctness Terminology

Advantages	Criticisms
Structurally more correct	Short (tight) stride
Longer (freer) striding	Straight shouldered
More desirable set to his hock	Toes out up front
More desirable slope of shoulder	Buckled over in front
Moved with more flex to his hock	Straight in the hock
Stood down and tracked off structurally more correct legs	Post legged, swollen hocked
Truer tracking	Straight pasterned
Stands wider and squarer behind	Narrow tracking
Heavy boned	Light (fine) boned

Balance Terminology

Advantages	Criticisms
More stylish (eye appealing)	Plain (unattractive)
More balance (symmetry)	Ill made
Nicer profiling	Poor balanced
Straight lined	Breaks behind the shoulder
Cleaner patterned	Easy (weak) topped
Longer necked	Short fronted
Cleaner fronted	Heavy fronted
Smoother shouldered	Low headed
Neck blends smoother into shoulder	Heavy brisket
Lays neater and tighter in the shoulder	Coarse shouldered
Stronger topped	Steep rumped
Leveler and squarer from hooks to pins	High tailhead

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