Name: _____

CASE

⚒ Project 9.2.2 Storybook Selection

Purpose

As discussed in *Activity 9.2.1 Selecting the Best*, selecting quality animals is an important skill for livestock producers. Using criteria to select animals consistently requires an understanding of the economically and aesthetically desirable traits. Animals are evaluated based on their visual appearance, or conformation. Conformation is the appearance or type, form, and shape of an animal in a combination of priorities, such as muscularity, structural soundness, condition, capacity, and balance.

The earlier an individual learns to select the highest quality animals for his or her operation, the more quickly he or she is able to realize business success. Many 4-H members and other junior animal producers need materials and education on animal selection. Yet, most materials are written for older students and adults. To help younger students begin to learn about conformation of animals, try writing a storybook.

Materials

Per class:

- Scanner
- Color printer
- Agriscience Library

Per student:

- Pencil
- *Agriscience Notebook*

Per pair of students:

- Computer with Internet access and word processing software
- *Modern Livestock and Poultry Production* or *Small Animal Care and Management* textbook

Procedure

A local producers' association has hired you and your partner to write a children's storybook guide for beginning 4-H members on animal conformation and criteria-based selection. You and your partner must choose one of the animals from your *Producer's Management Guides*.

Part One – Research and Writing

You and your partner will research the selection criteria and ideal conformation of your animal. Review textbooks, websites, and management guides to assist you and your partner. Determine how you will relate the information to fourth and fifth grade students in a fun and interesting manner. Include pictures and illustrations that will further their understanding and engage their interest. Your book may have workbook components where the reader is ask to complete activities.

1. Using word processing software, write your book.

2. When you have completed the rough draft of your story, print it and have both you and your partner carefully review the content, grammar, and spelling. Make any necessary revisions and submit to your teacher for further review.

3. Review all pictures and illustrations. Save the images as a jpeg, gif, or png. If you have pictures that are not in this format, resave them and reinsert the pictures in the document.

4. Select a size of your book before writing and set the page margins on your word processor to match the print size to avoid distortion when converting. Common sizes are listed below.

- U.S. Letter – 8.5″ x 11″
- U.S. Trade – 6″ x 9″
- Landscape – 9″ x 7″

Part Two – Reviewing and Revising

1. Submit drafts of your story to your teacher for review and revisions during the process.

2. When instructed by your teacher, exchange stories with another pair of students and review their story.

3. Correct errors and make suggested revisions on your story the other group provides.

4. Use *Project 9.2.2 Evaluation Rubric* for your reference as you review your book.

Part Three – Publishing

1. Choose an online publishing site. Your teacher may provide you with a preferred publishing site, or you may use the Lulu Book Publishing Website at **www.lulu.com**.

2. Follow the steps below to complete your book on *www.lulu.com*:

- Select Publish a Paperback book
- Self-publish a paperback book
- Give your book a title and insert the authors
- Keep it private
- Choose your project options
- Choose and arrange files for the inside of your book
- Make your file print-ready
- Design your cover
- Review your project
- Congratulations, you and your partner are published authors!

Resources

Use your classroom textbook and the classroom Agriscience Library as well as the following websites.

Websites

Univeristy of Kentucky Agripedia
http://www.ca.uky.edu/agripedia/Agmania/Livestock/index.asp
Beef Cattle
http://msucares.com/pubs/publications/p2289beef.pdf
Dairy Cattle Judging
http://msucares.com/pubs/publications/p0194.pdf
University of Kentucky Horse Judging Manual
http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/asc/asc118/asc118.pdf
Kansas State University Livestock Judging Guide
http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/pubs/S92.pdf

Conclusion

1. How does telling a story help you understand the process of evaluating animals?

2. What challenges did you face writing the story to be age appropriate?