

ASWeb-040 6-00

# Why Judging Beef Cattle Is So Important

by Larry L. Boleman, Ph.D., Professor and Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Texas A&M University

# Focus on Sound Reasoning

Judging is important for several reasons. First of all it teaches you to make decisions based on sound reasons. Your success in the future as a cattleman, or in any other field, most likely will depend on your ability to make the right decision at the right time.

#### **Commit to Learn**

Judging beef cattle forces you to make choices and by continued practice you will find that judging trains your mind to use sound reasoning. An able judge of beef cattle is unbiased. When you compare two individual animals, or place an entire class, your mind should be free of any prejudice. The facts are the only important things to be considered.

## **Train Your Mind**

A conscientious appraisal of the fundamental differences between animals, and a decision based on sound reasons, is the heart of beef cattle judging. To do an accurate job of judging consistently takes practice, deep study, and mental alertness. Above all, however, you must have a keen desire to learn more about good beef cattle at every opportunity.

Judging also teaches you to study beef cattle so you are familiar with the basic structure of each animal you place in a class. By looking for both the strong points and weak points of individual animals you form a habit of seeing these same certain characteristics in other problems. There are no substitutes for a mind trained to see all sides of a problem.

## Master the Art

Judging beef cattle visually is an art and no mathematical formula can be used accurately to appraise the fundamental differences between animals. Never lose sight of the factors that make a bull or cow more profitable as a producer of better beef. To be a good cattleman you must be a good judge.

Produced by the TAMU Department of Animal Science, The Texas A&M University System Additional information on animal science topics and junior beef cattle information can be found on the Web at http://animalscience.tamu.edu. Extension publications can be found on the Web at: http://tcebookstore.org Visit Texas Cooperative Extension at: http://texasextension.tamu.edu

Educational programs of Texas Cooperative Extension are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, Acts of Congress of May 8, 1914, as amended, and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. Chester P. Fehlis, Director, Texas Cooperative Extension, The Texas A&M University System.