National 4-H Skillathon Contest Example Class: Hay Evaluation

Hay Judging Class: 35 points possible (based on standard 50 point scale)

Questions on class: 5 points each; 25 points possible

The example judging class and questions are designed to help students acquire a base level of skills in hay evaluation and placing. A scenario, including some nutrient content data, is typically used with the class. Participants are not allowed do handle the hay samples.

Scenario: You are a commercial sheep producer looking to buy hay. Rank these hays as you would feed to medium-framed (avg: 170 pounds) commercial breeding ewes during mid and late gestation. During late gestation they will be also receive 1 pound of corn grain and a protein supplement, if needed. Ewes are bred to begin lambing in mid-January, with a 180% lamb crop expected. The ewes should be maintained in adequate condition, without adding excess condition that could cause lambing issues. Samples are provided from large round bales. These will be fed as full bales in feeders sitting on the ground.

1st_____   2nd_____ 3rd_____   4th_____

Sample	Dry Matter	Crude Protein	ADF	NDF	TDN	Price/Ton
1	90	17	34	39	64	$190
2	90	13	30	36	65	$130
3	90	7	38	41	52	$90
4	90	11	34	39	57	$110

Questions

1) Which hay sample would most economically meet the nutritional needs of the ewes during mid-gestation?

2) Under the described feeding situation, which hay has the potential to lose much of its nutritional value?

3) Between 2 and 3, which has the more desirable stem to leaf ratio?

4) Between hay samples 3 and 4, which has fewer grass seed heads?

5) Approximately how many pounds of hay sample 2 would you feed to deliver 0.33 pound of protein (the ewes' needs during mid-gestation)?

    A) 1.5 pounds   B) 2.0 pounds   C) 2.5 pounds   D.) 3.0 pounds

6) Which hay has the brightest green color?

7) Which hay sample has the highest cost per unit of protein?

(Only 5 questions would be asked in the contest.)

KEY

1st_____**2**___   **2nd**___**4**____   **3rd**_____**1**__   **4th**____**3**____

Cuts: 4-2-5

Questions

1)   Which hay sample would most economically meet the nutritional needs of the ewes during mid-gestation? **2**

2)   Under the described feeding situation, which hay has the potential to lose much of its nutritional value? **1 (***This is hard to see in pictures, look at the amount of leaves already fallen off and near the bottom of the bag in sample 1.)*

3)   Between 2 and 3, which has the more desirable stem to leaf ratio? **2**

4)   Between hay samples 3 and 4, which has fewer grass seed heads? **4**

5)   Approximately how many pounds of hay sample 2 would you feed to deliver 0.33 pound of protein (the ewes' needs during mid-gestation)?

   A) 1.5 pounds   B) 2.0 pounds

   C) 2.5 pounds   D.) 3.0 pounds

   (.33/.13 = 2.54 lbs)

6)   Which hay has the brightest green color? **2**

7)   Which hay sample has the highest cost per unit of protein? **3**   (90/.07 = 1285)