

CONSIGNORS TO THE 2023 PEN OF 3 COMMERCIAL CARCASS COMPETITION

Pen #1 Crystal Retzlaff, Clintonville, WI - Texel wethers

Pen #2 Laura Feider, Fredonia, WI - Hampshire cross market lambs

Pen #3 Paskey Suffolks, Shelby, Scott & Lisa Paskey, Cottage Grove, WI
Suffolk market & ewe lambs

Pen #4 University of Wisconsin-Madison Arlington Sheep Unit, Todd Taylor, Shepherd
Hampshire/Polypay wethers

Pen #5 Ralph Giorno, Whitewater, WI - wethers

LIVE PLACINGS

The live evaluations of the Pen of 3 entries were made by Samantha Piper whose comments on her placings follow:

1st place (Pen 1) was the most uniform in type and most adequate in finish for their frame size. Very high quality pen.

2nd (Pen 3) was the pen of nice Suffolk type lambs that were very similar in type, three lambs that had exceptional length of loin and adequate finish.

3rd (Pen 4) Pen with the highest average weights and I appreciate the growth they had to offer for their age. High quality group, I just felt they were a bit different in type

4th (pen 5) Pen with the lightest average weights, lambs that had smaller frames, I appreciated the width and muscle these lambs had.

5th (pen 2) This was the problem child pen for me because they were the most uniform in weight, size and kind but I felt they needed to be more appropriately finished for the frame size they had.

My priorities when judging this class were: 1) Are they appropriately finished or more for their frame size? 2) The uniformity in traits of the three lambs."

CARCASS RANKINGS

1st Place - Crystal Retzlaff

2nd Place – Ralph Giorno

3rd Place – Laura Fieder

4th Place – UW Madison

5th Place – Paskey Suffolks

The following are comments by Bernie O'Rourke Extension, Livestock Specialist Animal Science Recruitment, Department of Animal Sciences, UW Madison, of the rationale for the Pen of 3 Carcass Competition on-the-rail, carcass rankings.

“Our approach to ranking lamb carcasses in a pen competition closely mirrors the same criteria where each carcass is evaluated separately on its own merits. In a pen competition - uniformity, consistency, and marketability of the entire pen play a substantial role.

1st Place -Pen 1 had the highest resulting % retail yield of 48.22% and a high average carcass index of 85.23. These carcasses were uniform and excelled in their leg scores. All three carcasses were quite acceptable in terms of fat cover from a pure carcass evaluation perspective. Ribeye areas were the highest of all the pens and uniform.

Pen 5 and Pen 2 were close.

2nd & 3rd Place – Pen 5 is 2nd as that group delivered larger ribeye areas coupled with slightly higher BCTRC% and Carcass Index. Pen 2 is 3rd. While pen 2 had trimmer backfat thickness, the pen was insufficient of muscle and had more body wall thickness between the two pens.

4th Place – Pen 4 logically stood in 4th due to the lack of uniformity amongst the pen. In addition, the pen averaged the 4th lowest BCTRC% and Carcass index.

5th Place – Pen 3 logically stood in 5th due to the lack of uniformity amongst the pen. In addition, the pen averaged the 5th lowest BCTRC% and Carcass index.

In pure carcass shows, those of us engaged in carcass evaluation often let the numbers speak primarily for themselves. Projected % retail yield and carcass index are our primary tools as they utilize fat cover, body wall, ribeye area, carcass weight, and leg score in their determination. We still tend to look at market conditions relative to desired weight ranges and the acceptability of fat cover (too little is more often a problem than too much).”

Submitted by Lisa Paskey, Coordinator
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