



AGRICULTURAL SHOWS
AUSTRALIA

**AGRICULTURAL SHOWS
AUSTRALIA HANDBOOK**

**NATIONAL ASA MERINO FLEECE
JUDGING CHAMPIONSHIP**

(Update Final 23 March 2018)

JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS

**THE JUDGING CARDS FOR THIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOULD
BE ON BUFF COLOURED PAPER.**

National ASA Merino Fleece Judging Championship

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NATIONAL ASA MERINO FLEECE JUDGING CHAMPIONSHIP

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National ASA Merino Fleece Judging Championship

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The National Agricultural Shows Australia (ASA) Merino Fleece Judging Championship (National Championship) is designed to determine the Competitors whose placings after careful inspection and consideration would likely agree to those of the Championship judge.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. To be eligible to compete in the National Championship each Competitor must have lived, worked or attended school within a State/ Territory they represent in the previous three (3) months and can only represent one State/ Territory at a National Championship in any given year.
2. Competitors must be 15 and under 25 years of age on 1st May in the year of the Competitor's State/ Territory Final. Competitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a chaperone.
3. Each year one Competitor is to represent each State/ Territory and one Competitor is to represent New Zealand.
4. The Computer Scoring Program and the Hormel Slide are to be used at the National Championship Final.
5. The Championship judge **must** not have access to any Master Score Sheet prior to the announcement of the winners of the National Championship.
6. At no time during the National Championship should a Competitor talk with the Championship judge unless directed to do so by the Ring Steward.
7. State/ Territory/ Region Secretaries **must** inform the ASA Secretariat of the name, address and telephone number of **any** Competitor in a Judging Championship going on to a National Championship Final. The ASA Secretariat will advise these Competitors of the venue and times of the National Championship Final.
8. The winner and runner-up of the National Championship should be requested to do a report on any travel tour they undertake to validate sponsorship money.
9. Winners are ineligible to compete again after winning in the National ASA Merino Fleece Judging Championship.
10. Competitors will be eliminated from the National Championship if the Chief Steward considers they are receiving outside assistance.

Notes for Host State/ Territory/ Region

1. The ASA will provide one (1) Data Reader Steward, one (1) Ring Steward and one Timekeeper.
2. Host State/ Territory/ Region is to provide one (1) Data Entry Steward, one (1) Ring Steward and one (1) Announcer Steward.
3. The role and activities of Officials are listed in the 'Young Judges Championships Handbook for Description of Officials' Duties'.
4. One (1) Championship judge is required for the National Championship.
5. The Host RAS Show is to provide place ribbons to Exhibitors/ Competitors.
6. Rules and Regulations for the National Championship to be sent out to Competitors through the ASA Secretariat.

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| | | |
|--------------|-----|---|
| Please Note: | i | This is a master set of Merino Fleece Judging Instruction Sheets to photocopy for National Championship. |
| | ii | Championship judge receives Pages 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 & 11. |
| | iii | Competitors receive Pages 4, 5, 7, 10. |
| | iv | Pages should be given to the Championship judge and Competitors with time for them to read through before the National Championship begins. |
| | v | Pages 3, 9, 12 & 13 are for the use of the Championship Judge's Steward. |
| | vi | Additional requisites – Competitor Numbers and 2 sets of Fleece No)1 – 4(. |

The arrangements for the conduct of the National Championship are as follows:

A. PROCEDURE FOR RUNNING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

1. a). Two Classes each of four Merino fleeces (Classes A and B) are to be judged by Competitors. Fleeces used may have been exhibited at the Show in which the Judging Championship is held.
b). Each Competitor may select his/ her Class for the Oral presentation.
c). Each fleece will be judged using the 2007 Scale of Points (Top & Noil) as used by the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia
2. Fleeces in each Class must be identified by cards numbered 1 – 4, and **not** A B C D. This is essential when the Computer Scoring Program or Hormel Slide are used.
3. All Competitors will take part in the Oral judging and use the card/ sheet marked 'Oral Class'. Before the commencement of the Oral presentation, each Competitor is required to give instruction to the Ring Steward to place the ribbons on the fleece in their placement order. The ribbon colour order being Blue – First (1st), Red – Second (2nd), White – Third (3rd), Yellow – Fourth (4th).
4. Visual judging will take place first. Competitors will be allowed 20 minutes to assess the four Merino fleeces (5 minutes per fleece). Competitors will be allowed a further 5 minutes to complete their Judging Card.
5. Fleece Judging Cards will not be returned to Competitors.
6. Each Competitor in the Oral Judging is allowed 2 minutes to explain his/ her placing from their nominated group of fleeces from Classes A or B.
7. Assessor marks for Competitors cards will be awarded as follows:-
 - a) Order of merit placing – a maximum 50 points to each of the Classes A & B will be awarded. The Computer Scoring Program and Hormel Slide to be used to assess placing.
Each group of fleeces to be identified with Class A, Class B.
Each fleece must be identified with a card numbered 1-4, **not** A B C D with the fleece weight noted on it.

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Handling – maximum of 50 points for one Class.

The judging of fleeces should be done with sufficient handling to adequately assess all characteristics. Sufficient care must be used to avoid causing any deterioration in the appearance of the fleeces.

- c) Oral – maximum of 50 points. Competitors in the Oral Section are scored on their accuracy of observation, their comparative statements, speaking ability, and general presentation and dress.
8. In the case of a dead heat the Competitor with the highest total points for Visual/ Physical judging will be declared the winner, or if there is still a dead heat the Championship judge will have the final say. All tie-break details are to be confirmed by the the Judge's Steward.

B. JUDGING CARDS

1. Judging Cards are simple in design. All that is required by Competitors is to place fleeces 1 to 4.
2. It is essential that one (1) Championship judge officiate for the Classes.
3. The Championship judge, when filling out his/ her Master Card, is to note a numerical difference between fleeces, as directed in the instructions for use of the Hormel Slide.

The Hormel Slide shows the degree of penalty as related to the degree of difference between fleece placings and the Competitor is scored accordingly.

4. The Oral Section Guideline may be retained by the Competitor. It is designed to ensure Competitors use comparative details in their Oral description of the Class.

The Work Sheet is to note the features of each fleece and the reason it was placed in its position.

C. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TIMING

To maintain the interest of Competitors, and the spectators, it is important the entire National Championship is completed in approximately 2 hours. The timing should be as follows:-

Visual Judging

| | |
|---|---------|
| Judging 3 Classes - 8 minutes each | 24 mins |
| Changeover times | 3 mins |
| Data Reader Steward (Competitors) finalise Visual score | 3 mins |

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Oral Judging

Note: All Competitors, except one should be taken out of hearing range of Judging Ring

| | |
|--|---------|
| 6 Competitors placings – 1 minute each | 6 mins |
| 6 Competitors Oral tests – 2 minutes speaking | 12 mins |
| Changeover times | 8 mins |
| Comments from Championship judge on Oral Class | 9 mins |
| Announcement and Presentation of Awards | 10 mins |
| | _____ |
| Total Time | 75 mins |
| | _____ |

In order to maintain the impetus of the National Championship, immediately the Championship judge has completed his/ her final comments, the National Championship results should be ready to be announced and the Awards and Presentations made.

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NATIONAL ASA MERINO FLEECE JUDGING CHAMPIONSHIP

(Visual/ Physical Class)

COMPETITORS NUMBER:.....

Note: Competitors will be

- Allowed 20 minutes to assess the four Merino fleeces (5 minutes per fleece).
- Competitors will be allowed a further 5 minutes to tabulate their Judging Card.

Fleece No. 1

Fleece No. 2

WEIGHT: YEILD:

WEIGHT: YEILD:

| Property | Max Points | Description (Place points awarded in column) | Points Awarded | Property | Max Points | Description (Place points awarded in column) | Points Awarded |
|---------------------------|------------|---|----------------|---------------------------|------------|---|----------------|
| Style (AWEX I.D.) | 12 | Choice (MF1) 12 Superior (MF 3) 10 Spinners (MF3) 8 Best T/M (MF4) 7 Good T/M (MF5) 6 | | Style (AWEX I.D.) | 12 | Choice (MF1) 12 Superior (MF 3) 10 Spinners (MF3) 8 Best T/M (MF4) 7 Good T/M (MF5) 6 | |
| Uniformity of length | 10 | Excellent 10, Average 6, Good 8, Irregular 5 | | Uniformity of length | 10 | Excellent 10, Average 6, Good 8, Irregular 5 | |
| Staple strength | 10 | Sound 10, Tender 4, Part-tender 7 | | Staple strength | 10 | Sound 10, Tender 4, Part-tender 7 | |
| Handle | 10 | Very Soft 10, Average 7, Soft 9, Harsh 5 | | Handle | 10 | Very Soft 10, Average 7, Soft 9, Harsh 5 | |
| Colour or bloom | 10 | Very Bright 10, Creamy 6, Bright 8, Dull 4 | | Colour or bloom | 10 | Very Bright 10, Creamy 6, Bright 8, Dull 4 | |
| Crimp formation | 10 | Excellent 10, Irregular 5, Good 8, Plain 3, Fair 7, Poor 2 | | Crimp formation | 10 | Excellent 10, Irregular 5, Good 8, Plain 3, Fair 7, Poor 2 | |
| Density | 8 | Excellent 8, Average 5, Good 7, Poor 4 | | Density | 8 | Excellent 8, Average 5, Good 7, Poor 4 | |
| Clean fleece weight score | 30 | | | Clean fleece weight score | 30 | | |
| TOTAL | 100 | | | TOTAL | 100 | | |

Fleece No. 3

Fleece No. 4

WEIGHT: YEILD:

WEIGHT: YEILD:

| Property | Max Points | Description (Place points awarded in column) | Points Awarded | Property | Max Points | Description (Place points awarded in column) | Points Awarded |
|---------------------------|------------|---|----------------|---------------------------|------------|---|----------------|
| Style (AWEX I.D.) | 12 | Choice (MF1) 12 Superior (MF 3) 10 Spinners (MF3) 8 Best T/M (MF4) 7 Good T/M (MF5) 6 | | Style (AWEX I.D.) | 12 | Choice (MF1) 12 Superior (MF 3) 10 Spinners (MF3) 8 Best T/M (MF4) 7 Good T/M (MF5) 6 | |
| Uniformity of length | 10 | Excellent 10, Average 6, Good 8, Irregular 5 | | Uniformity of length | 10 | Excellent 10, Average 6, Good 8, Irregular 5 | |
| Staple strength | 10 | Sound 10, Tender 4, Part-tender 7 | | Staple strength | 10 | Sound 10, Tender 4, Part-tender 7 | |
| Handle | 10 | Very Soft 10, Average 7, Soft 9, Harsh 5 | | Handle | 10 | Very Soft 10, Average 7, Soft 9, Harsh 5 | |
| Colour or bloom | 10 | Very Bright 10, Creamy 6, Bright 8, Dull 4 | | Colour or bloom | 10 | Very Bright 10, Creamy 6, Bright 8, Dull 4 | |
| Crimp formation | 10 | Excellent 10, Irregular 5, Good 8, Plain 3, Fair 7, Poor 2 | | Crimp formation | 10 | Excellent 10, Irregular 5, Good 8, Plain 3, Fair 7, Poor 2 | |
| Density | 8 | Excellent 8, Average 5, Good 7, Poor 4 | | Density | 8 | Excellent 8, Average 5, Good 7, Poor 4 | |
| Clean fleece weight score | 30 | | | Clean fleece weight score | 30 | | |
| TOTAL | 100 | | | TOTAL | 100 | | |

Placings (Enter fleece number): 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

Max. Points 50

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(Oral Class)

Competitor's No:

Selected Fleece Class:

| Breed | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Max. Points | Score |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-------|
| Competitor's Placing | | | | | 50 | |
| Competitor's Handling | | | | | 50 | |
| Oral: | | | | | | |
| (a) Presentation and dress | | | | | 10 | |
| (b) Accuracy of observation | | | | | 15 | |
| (c) Speaking ability | | | | | 10 | |
| (d) Ability to compare animals | | | | | 15 | |
| SUB TOTAL | | | | | 50 | |
| PENALTIES | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | | | |

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ORAL SECTION GUIDELINES

All Competitors will take part in the Oral Judging and use the card/ sheet marked 'Oral Class'. Before the commencement of the Oral Presentation, each Competitor is required to give instruction to the Ring Steward to place the ribbons on the fleeces in their placement order. Ribbon colour order being Blue – 1st, Red – 2nd, White – 3rd, Yellow - 4th.

Competitors are allowed two minutes to clearly express their view to the Championship judge and spectators the reasons they placed the Exhibits in a particular order. **Penalty points apply** – one point to be deducted for every 10 seconds over the allotted 2 minutes.

Competitors to have their reasons organised and emphasise the most important points they wish to make.

When giving their reasons, the main objective is to inform the Championship judge that the Competitor has seen and compared each fleece in the Class.

It is important to make comparisons between fleeces rather than describe individual fleeces.

Commence the oral reasoning as follows:-

'I placed this class 4, 1, 3, 2'.

Give the most important reasons first and remember to use comparative terms. Where necessary the Competitor can then follow with:

In my opinion No 4 is better than No 1 in

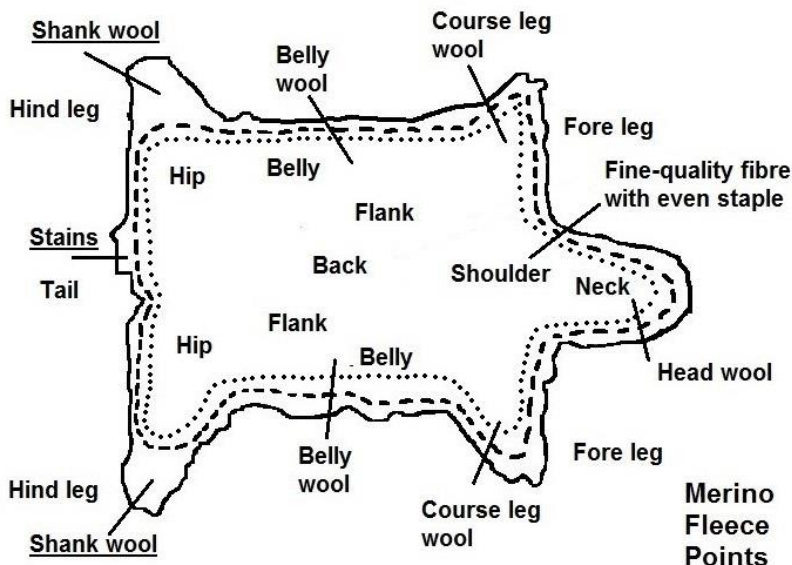
This demonstrates to the Championship judge the accuracy of the Competitor's priorities. Mention major faults if present.

Continue in similar manner by comparing the middle pair and finally the bottom pair.

Remember: Be concise;
 Show conviction in the placings;
 Give important reasons first;
 Use comparative terms.

DRESS - Competitors must be neatly and suitably attired, and male Competitors must wear a tie. Points will be deducted for poor presentation. Shorts and thongs are not permitted.

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Merino Fleece Points

Colour or Bloom

Bright, white coloured wool

Condition

Even nourished fibre

Crimp

Excellent crimp formation

Density

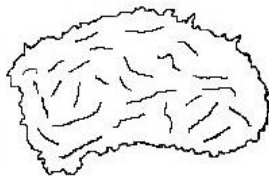
High fibre density across the fleece

Fibre Diameter

Good crimp frequency and handle

Fleece Length

Fibre length constant over the fleece



Handle

Feel of the wool for smoothness and compression

Staple Strength

Constant strength over the fleece

Tip

Even nourished tips across the fleece

Trueness to Type

Trueness to the type or evenness of the wool

Wool Coverage

Covering of wool of good length and density

Wool Style

Good combination of evenness of crimp formation, handle and colour

Preferred Fleece Characteristics

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NOTES FOR CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE

In the selection of a Class of fleeces for the National Championship, the aim should be to use four ram, ewe or wether fleeces, (fine or medium strength) with a quality variation.

A suitable group might be made up of a fairly clear leader, a fairly obvious 'tail', and two others that present a more difficult choice. They will be judged against the standard of what is considered a good Merino fleece type.

Prior to the National Championship the Championship judge will select the fleeces to be judged – if required this can be done a day or two before the National Championship. On the day of the National Championship the Championship judge will decide on the correct placing of the fleeces and note on the Master Card.

In filling out the Master Cards, the Championship judge is required to note a numerical difference between fleeces as directed in instructions for use of Computer Scoring Program or Hormel Slide. Both the Computer Scoring Program and Hormel Slide shows the degree of penalty as related to the degree of difference between fleece placings and the Competitor is scored accordingly.

A Competitor is in as good a position as is the Championship judge to observe both the good and bad points of the fleeces. But even if he/ she does so, he/ she may draw different conclusions because he/ she does not give those good and bad points the same importance as does the Championship judge. This difference of opinion will be reflected in the Competitor's low score for placing, and he/ she should not be further penalised in the Oral Test if his/ her observation has been accurate and the Championship judge considers the reasoning to be logical.

Each Competitor in the Oral Class is allowed 2 minutes to state his/ her reasoning for the placings. If he/ she finishes in less than this time, but has said all that was needed to support his/ her case, he/ she should not be penalised. If he/ she exceeds the 2 minutes, marks should be deducted from the maximum 15 points allowed for 'speaking ability'. One point should be deducted for every 10 seconds over the allotted 2 minutes.

At the conclusion of the the National Championship the Championship judge is asked to give his/ her own reasons for the placing of the fleeces. Comment on the various oral and ringcraft styles of the Competitors may also be made.

As far as possible to maintain Competitor and spectator interest in the National Championship, it is important that it is confined to a time limit. Championship judges asked to confine their comments to the times suggested in the 'Competition Procedure' for all fleece judging Competitions.

DRESS – Competitors must be neatly and suitably attired, and male Competitors must wear a tie. Points will be deducted for poor presentation. Shorts and thongs are not permitted.

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MASTER SCORE SHEET

Date:

Place:

| Competitor's Name | No | Non-oral Class | | | Oral Class (50) | Penalties | TOTAL (200) | Placings |
|-------------------|----|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|
| | | A Placings (50) | B Placings (50) | Handling (50) | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
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REASON CARD FOR COMPETITOR'S NOTES (NOT TO BE HANDED IN)

Breed:

Placings: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

* Please remember when speaking to say why you put 1st place over 2nd, 2nd place over 3rd, etc.

| | |
|--|---------|
| 1st PLACE NO: Why you placed 1st: | |
| 2nd PLACE NO: | Faults: |
| 3rd PLACE NO: | Faults: |
| 4th PLACE NO: | Faults: |

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MASTER CARD – CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE’S PLACINGS

Breed:

.....

Placings:

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Gaps:

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 – 2 | 2 – 3 | 3 - 4 |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |



cut here

NATIONAL ASA MERINO FLEECE JUDGING CHAMPIONSHIP

MASTER CARD – CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE’S PLACINGS

Breed:

.....

Placings:

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Gaps:

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 – 2 | 2 – 3 | 3 - 4 |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

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HOW TO USE THE COMPUTER SCORING PROGRAM

The Computer Scoring Program similar to the Hormel Slide and is relatively easy to use. Like the Hormel Slide, the Program adds up the scores of the Competitors and provides the Data Reader Steward with the order of placings for the National Championship. A Results Page can be printed and distributed to Competitors.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF THE PROGRAM:

1. Data can only be **entered** into selected spread sheets and cells. All other cells are locked.
2. A number of cells are automatically filled in through their connections with other TABS and therefore cannot be changed.
3. When the Program is first opened there will be a Security Warning. Select *Enable Content*. The File will need to be **named** and **saved** to a selected destination. The FILE TYPE is an '*Excel Macro-Enabled Workbook*'. Save the File on a regular basis.
4. TABS located across the bottom of the Program allows data to be entered.

5. **Title TAB:**

Under the **headings coloured green** enter the name of the Championship/ Competition, location (Agricultural Show) and date of Competition.

6. **Results TAB:**

At the top right of the spreadsheet enter the number of '**Groups**' being judged, e.g. if there are three (3) Classes of cattle being judged then write in three (3). If there are two (2) Classes of merino fleece being judged then write in two (2).

In the '**Name**' column enter each Competitor's name. The '**Entrant No**' is the Competitor's identification number for the particular Championship being judged.

Where a Competitor does not turn up for the Championship then either delete the Competitor's name that may have been entered or leave the '**Name**' column blank.

7. **Group One (1) TAB:**

At the top of the spread sheet under **Group One (1)** enter the name of the Group being judged, e.g., Angus, Merino, etc.

Judge's Placings is where the Championship judge's placings are entered, e.g. three, one, two and four (3 1 2 4) or two, four, one and three (2 4 1 3) or one, three, two and four (1 3 2 4), etc.

Judge's Cuts is where the Championship judge's cuts are entered. The total of the three (3) numbers of the cuts/ gaps should not be more than fifteen (15) or less than three (3). If the total cut equals fifteen (15), the middle cut must not be more than eight (8) or if the total cut equals fourteen (14) the middle cut must not be more than eight (8). A **Warning** will appear if these conditions are not met. The Championship judge must adjust the cuts to meet these conditions.

Note that the '**Entrant No**' will appear automatically once a Competitor's name has been entered next to a number on the '**Results TAB** spread sheet, e.g. if Fred Smith's name has been entered in the '**Results TAB** spread sheet as the third Competitor, then a three (3) will appear under the '**Entrant No**'.

Once each Competitor has completed their placings and have handed in their placings, enter their information in order under '**Placings**' e.g. three, one, two and four (3 1 2 4) or two, four, one and three (2 4 1 3) or one, three, two and four (1 3 2 4), etc.

Note that the score will automatically be calculated and can be seen under '**Score**'.

8. **Group Two (2) TAB:**

The process for Group Two (2) spread sheet is the same as for '**Group One (1) TAB**'.

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9. *Group Three (3) TAB:*

The process for Group three (3) spread sheet is the same as for '**Group One (1) TAB.**

10. *Group Four (4) TAB:*

If a Group Four (4) is required then the process for Group Four (4) spread sheet is the same as for '**Group One (1) TAB.**

11. *Oral TAB:*

This spread sheet lists all of the Competitors and their scores to date. For the Oral part and depending on what order the Championship judge chooses, the Competitors can be asked to speak in order of their score.

The blue arrow on the left puts the Competitors in order of their '**Entrant No**'.

The green arrow on the right puts the Competitors in order of their '**Score**', in Rank Order from highest to lowest score.

When the Championship judge has listed each Competitor's Handling Score then the scores can be entered on the '**Results**' TAB spread sheet.

Note:

In the Championships where there are no Handling scores, e.g. Beef Cattle Judging and Dairy Cattle Judging, a Zero (0)' should be entered against each Competitor. Handling scores only apply to Merino Fleece Judging, Merino Sheep Judging and Meat Breeds Sheep Judging.

12. *Scoring Oral And Handling Scores:*

Once the Championship judge has given the Competitor their Oral and Handling scores (where appropriate), then enter these scores in the '**Results**' TAB spread sheet.

Note that these scores then carry through to the remaining TABS.

13. *Final TAB:*

This spreadsheet contains all of the scores that allow the Competitors to be sorted into '**Entrant No**' order or '**Placing**' order.

If there are any ties then go to the '**Final**' TAB spread sheet and click the green arrow. This will list the Competitors in Rank Order. Use this information and the Championship Rules to determine the '**Placings**' if ties are not permitted. There will be a need to go to the '**Final**' TAB spread sheet and enter the placings in the '**Placings**' column.

14. *Print TAB:*

This spread sheet has all of the information that has been provided in the previous TABS.

To get the '**Place**' column completed, there is a need to go back to the '**Results**' TAB spread sheet and enter the top three placings under '**Place**'. This is easily known via the '**Rank**' column which is located to the left.

The entered information will then automatically transfer through to the '**Print**' TAB spread sheet.

Where print facilities are available, print off the '**Print**' TAB spread sheet and distribute the Championship results to Competitors.

A copy of the National Championship final results should be retained for the ASA Secretariat.

15. *Save file:*

DON'T FORGET TO SAVE THE FILE.

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HANDY HINTS ON THE HORMEL SLIDE AND JUDGING CHAMPIONSHIP

By Geoff Mayo

This is an American invention that is held copyright by George A Hormel & Co., invented in 1975.

Four (4) animals, are to be used at all times. It is usual to have Competitors place two (2) or three (3) Classes of four (4).

Always use the Numbers one, two, three and four (1, 2, 3, 4) not A, B, C, D. By using Numbers, they can be put into twenty four (24) possible placings.

Competitors can obtain a maximum of fifty (50) points per Class and are scored down according to variations in their placings compared to the Championship judge's placings.

The Championship judge will have previously inspected the animals and have a good idea how he/ she will place them before they enter the Judging Ring. It is recommended that the Championship judge has another look at the animals as they are being paraded, so that he/ she views them under the same conditions as the Competitor sees them.

After completing placing decisions, the Championship judge will then proceed to put what is called a cut or spilt between the First (1st) and Second (2nd) placing, Second (2nd) and Third (3rd) placing, and Third (3rd) and Fourth (4th) placing.

The Championship judge arrives at the decision of the cuts as follows:

- By adding the cuts together they must not be under three (3) and not more than fifteen (15). If the cuts fifteen (15), then the middle number cannot be larger than five (5). If the cuts total fourteen (14), the middle number cannot be larger than eight (8).
- Where the first two (2) animals are very close, the judge will put a cut of one (1) or two (2) between the animals. If the judge feels that there is a lot of difference, then a much larger cut will apply. The same applies between second (2nd) and third (3rd) placing and between third (3rd) and fourth (4th) placing.

From the Competitor's point of view it simply means that if they have two animals that have been placed opposite to the Championship judge and there is a small cut between them, very few points will be lost. Where the Competitor has made a greater cut then they will lose more points. The fewer the faults between the animals the smaller the cut and vice versa.

An Oral is then conducted, which means that the selected Competitor must tell the Championship judge and spectators why they have placed the animal in a particular order.

In Championships where Competitor numbers are larger than say ten (10), it is usual to select those Competitors with the higher total points after judging the Non-Oral Classes to speak at the Oral Class. This applies particularly for cattle Classes as the animals get very tired being moved constantly, especially after the Class Judging. The spectators need to be considered - if Championships are too long, they become bored and leave the Judging Ring.

The Oral is judged on one (1) Class only. This Class may be selected by the Championship judge or the Competitors – it varies with the type of Competition.

National ASA Merino Fleece Judging Championship

Agricultural Shows Australia Handbook

HOW TO USE THE HORMEL SLIDE

By Geoff Mayo

Points to Look For:

- Four (4) animals (or whatever is being judged) are to be used at all times.
- Make sure the animals are numbered one, two three and four (1, 2, 3, 4) and not A, B, C, D. Using A, B, C, D can be converted but with a large numbers of Competitors, it takes a lot of time and leaves room for error.
- After completing placing decisions, the Championship judge will then proceed to put what is call a cut or split between each placing, First (1st) and Second (2nd) placing, Second (2nd) and Third (3rd) placing, Third (3rd) and Forth (4th) placing.

Using the following as an example:

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|-----------|
| Placings: | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Cut between animals: | 4 | 1 | 5 | |
| Total cut adds up to: | | | | 10 |

Now to Set the Hormel Slide

1. Take all Cards from the Hormel Slide.
2. Find the White Card that has the Number ten (10) at the top of the Card. Place this Card on top of the remaining Cards.
3. Find the Clear Plastic Card with the red numbers, and then find the numbers three, one, two and four (3, 1, 2, 4) at the top of the Card.
4. Place the Clear Plastic Card on top of the White Card being used and place all other Clear Plastic Cards at the back.
5. Gently put all Cards back into the Hormel Slide as this keeps them tight.
6. Now push the Clear Plastic Card along until the Numbers three, one, two and four (3, 1, 2, 4) appear at the top on the left side of the viewing space in the centre of the Hormel Slide.
7. Move White Card along until the Numbers four, one and five (4, 1, 5) appear at the bottom of the viweing area on the Hormel Slide.
8. After making sure that the placings and cut are lined up correctly it is suggested to place a clip in the Hormel Slide to ensure that the cards do not move.
9. Let the Championship judge or personnel at the table check to make sure that the placings and cut are lined up correctly.
10. Correct scores will now appear directly opposite all twenty four possible placings at the Competitors have placed them.
11. Note that a copy of the National Championship final results should be retained for the ASA Secretariat.