

N.Z. Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs



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Annual Stock Judging Competitions Of Levin Club

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THE annual stock judging contests of the Levin Young Farmers' Club were held on May 16 on Mr. Harold J. Lancaster's farm at Fairfield, when members had their most successful field day to date. Some 30 young farmers were present, as well as a number of others associated with the movement, and the wide scope of activities provided much of interest and educative value.

The programme of competitions was one of the largest yet organised by a club, and covered the wide field of primary activity embraced by pigs, sheep, horses, and cattle. Each section was taken separately, and opened with a brief outline by a competent judge of the desirable type characteristics, after which the young farmers were asked to judge three animals and give their placings and the reasons for them. This was followed by the judge stating his placings and indicating the features leading to his decision.

Baconer Pigs

The class for the baconer most suitable for export was in charge of Mr. E. P. Nielsen, of Tiakitahuna, who mentioned that while the reverse was the case three years ago, today Great Britain had asked New Zealand breeders to produce as much bacon as possible and not pork. The requirements of the Home market in respect of baconers was for a pig not too heavy, with a fine head, even top, fine bone, good length and good ham. The speaker said that if New Zealand breeders were going to conform with the standards fixed by the English authorities more attention would have to be paid to the length and quality of pigs. Differences of opinion in regard to quality had retarded the industry's progress.



A group at the annual stock-judging contests of the Levin Y.F.C.

The judging results were:—Mr. C. V. Lewis (165 points), 1; Mr. M. Jepson (160 points), 2; Messrs. H. Marshall and R. Blackburn (135 points each), equal 3.

Fat Lamb Breeding

Mr. J. H. Staples, of Manakau, judged the class for the Southdown ram most suitable for mating with a flock ewe for breeding fat lambs, and also the best flock ewe for that purpose. Mr. Staples said a selection in this instance was made more difficult by the influence of the various types of land used and the fact that different farmers used sheep of different ages. The ewes should not be too thick in the shoulder, and should have good depth in the body and little wool over the head. Alertness, plenty of capacity, and con-

stitution, with the body not too near to the ground and legs not too close were other features to look for. The ram should be distinguished by a short neck, strong and masculine head, thick, and low-set body, with the meat well down to the hock and a tight fleece.

The judging results were:—Mr. V. C. Lewis (160 points), 1; Mr. M. Jepson (145 points), 2; Mr. P. Carter (140 points), 3.

Draught Horses

Mr. V. Bird, of Himatangi, said that in judging draught horses one went first to the head to look for character and a keen eye, followed by a nice crest and shoulder, with the front legs set not too far forward and of hard bone. The ankle should not be too thick, with a clean coronet at the top