



**For Immediate Release**  
**Contact: Livestock Publicity**  
**817-285-7101 [anne@j3group.net](mailto:anne@j3group.net)**

### **Fashion Matters**

Looking put-together should always be a priority, but in livestock judging it can also make you stand out in front of an official and be the difference between winning and losing.

Collegiate livestock judging is a contest that allows judging team members to evaluate four animals at a time and rank them from best to worst. Then, they present a set of oral reasons, or justifications, for their placing.

The points are added and specie specific, as well as, overall awards are presented in both team and individual categories.

“The benefits of judging are numerous,” said Clay Elliot, livestock judging coach at Redlands Community College. “No class can better prepare them for the work force.”

However, more goes into getting a team ready for a contest than practicing animal evaluation. Having appropriate attire can make a huge difference.

Coaches often regulate what team members wear or how they present themselves. It’s rare to see a Mohawk or facial piercings at a contest.

Elliot, who has strict regulations for his team’s attire, said “it’s all about professionalism.”

Typically, individuals wear dark blazers and khakis, with a modest colored shirt for girls, and the same with a nice tie for guys.

However, wearing more eye catching pieces can prove beneficial. When only a few points separate the winners it is important to have the total package.

For girls this may mean a bright blazer or colored shirt or oversized accessories.

“I like bright colors and want to be different,” said Tori Tiemann, from Blinn College.

Males may be seen in nontraditional colors, such as hot pink or lavender. Some coaches even make them shave facial hair to appear clean-cut.

“I wear whatever makes me stand out,” said Hunter Wehner, from Coffeerville Community College.

Standing out physically can leave a lasting impression on a reasons taker, and when every point counts remember, fashion matters.

**Krista Anderson**

**Oklahoma State University**