Introduction to 4-H Judging

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What is judging?

- Demonstrate your knowledge of a subject by placing items in the correct order from best to worst
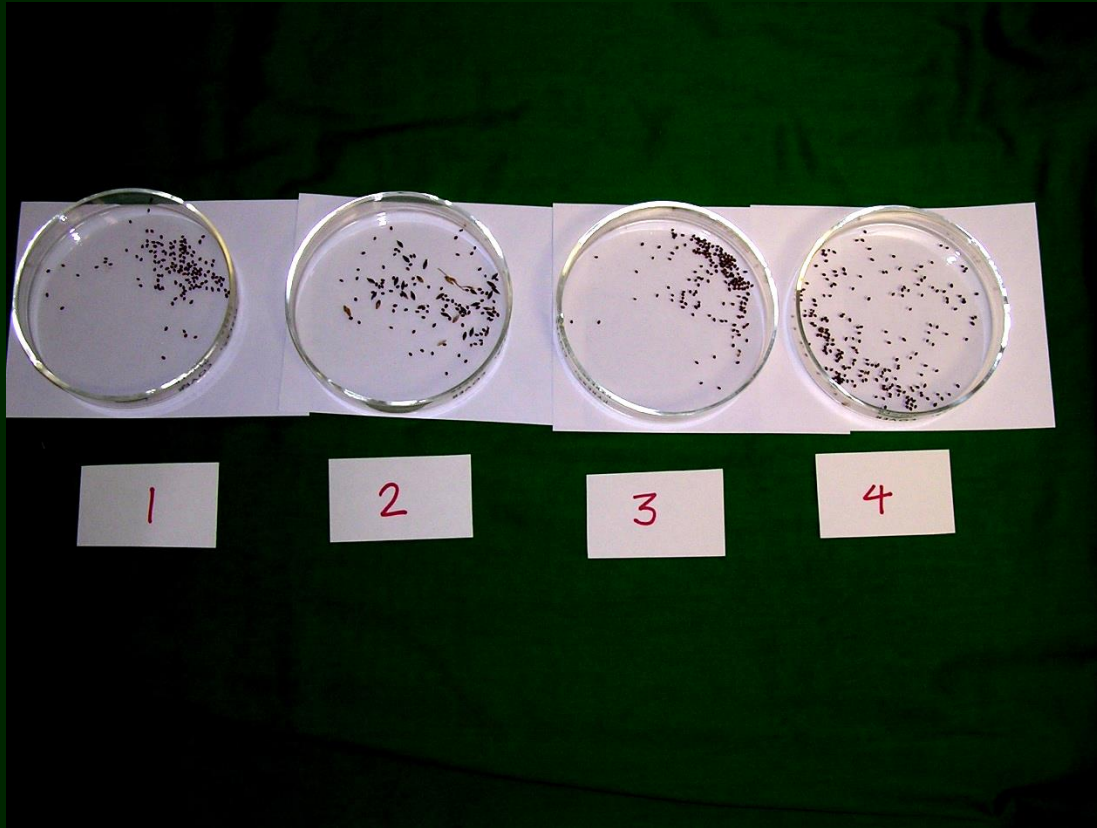
- Many competetive activities have a judging component

Classes

- A "Class" is a group of 4 similar objects to be placed in order from best to worst
- Examples:
  - Market steers
  - Seeds
  - Hay
  - Backpacks
- Can be anything!

Classes are presented left to right and are numbered 1 through 4

Prior to the contest, a judge creates the "Official Placing." This is the correct order of the classes and their "cuts."

Judges Placing Card (Hormel System)

Division __Sr._____ Ring No. ____1_____

Class __Market Hogs_____

Placing 1st ___3___ 2nd ___2___ 3rd ___4___ 4th ___1___

Cuts ___3___ ___2___ ___4___

Limitations:
1. No cuts between pairs less than 2 nor more than 8.
2. Total cuts may be 6 to 15.
3. If middle cut is more than 5, total cuts must equal 14 or less.

Jane Doe
_____
Judge's Signature

J999.3

Cuts

- Cuts are the number of points that separate 2 adjacent items placed in the correct order

- The more obvious the difference, the greater the points each cut is worth

- When items are incorrect the points are deducted from a starting score of 50

Contestants examine the class determine the correct placing order

- Examples:
  - 1-3-2-4
  - 4-3-2-1
  - 1-2-4-3
  - Etc.

Usually the placing is recorded on a Placing Card

Consumer Judging Placing Card

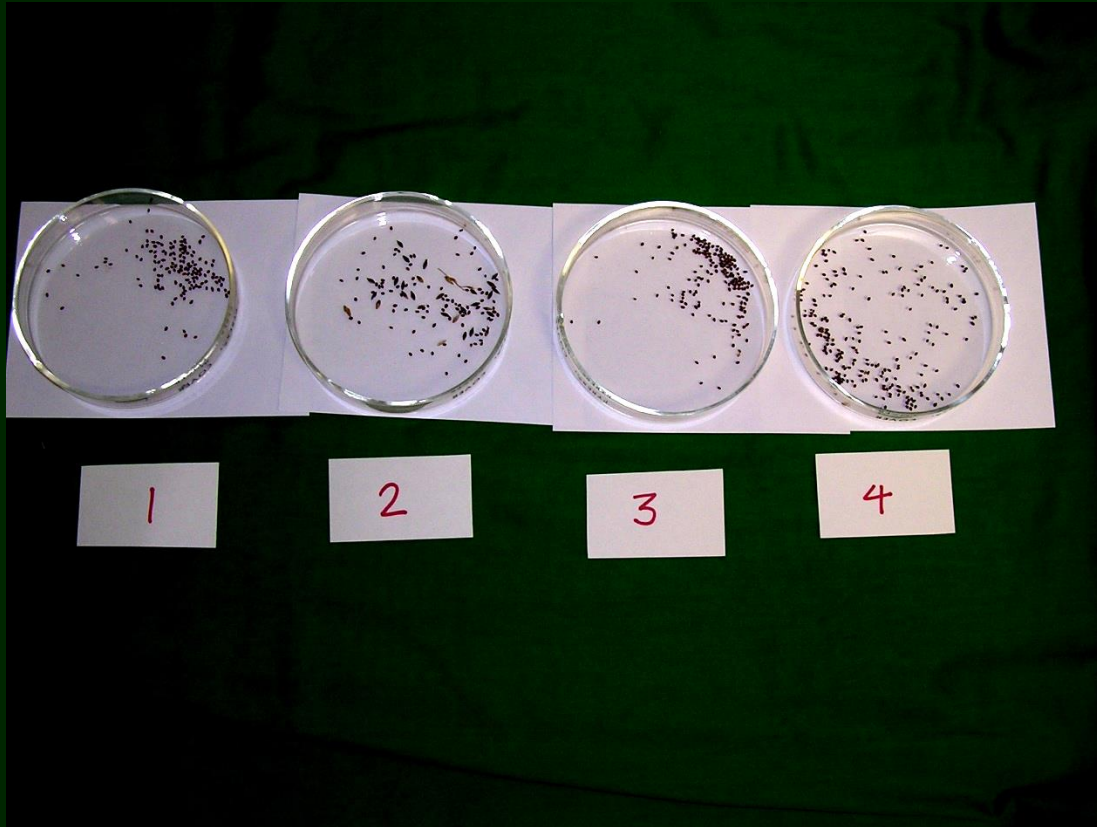|		
	1 2 3 4	
	1 2 4 3	
Contestant No. _____	1 3 2 4	
Class _____	1 3 4 2	
Placing Score _____	1 4 2 3	
Reasons Score _____	1 4 3 2	
Total Score _____	2 1 3 4	
	2 1 4 3	
	2 3 1 4	
	2 3 4 1	
	2 4 3 1	
	3 1 2 4	
	3 1 4 2	
	3 2 1 4	
	3 2 4 1	
	3 4 1 2	✔
	3 4 2 1	
	4 1 2 3	
	4 1 3 2	
	4 2 1 3	
	4 2 3 1	
	4 3 1 2	
	4 3 2 1	

- Check box corresponding to your placing
- Check only **1** box!
- Don't forget class and contestant information

- This person placed the class 3-4-1-2

Giving Reasons

- In some states and in FFA, contestants give oral reasons to a judge to explain the placing chosen

- This will not be covered here as we do not require reasons in our contests

Judging Example

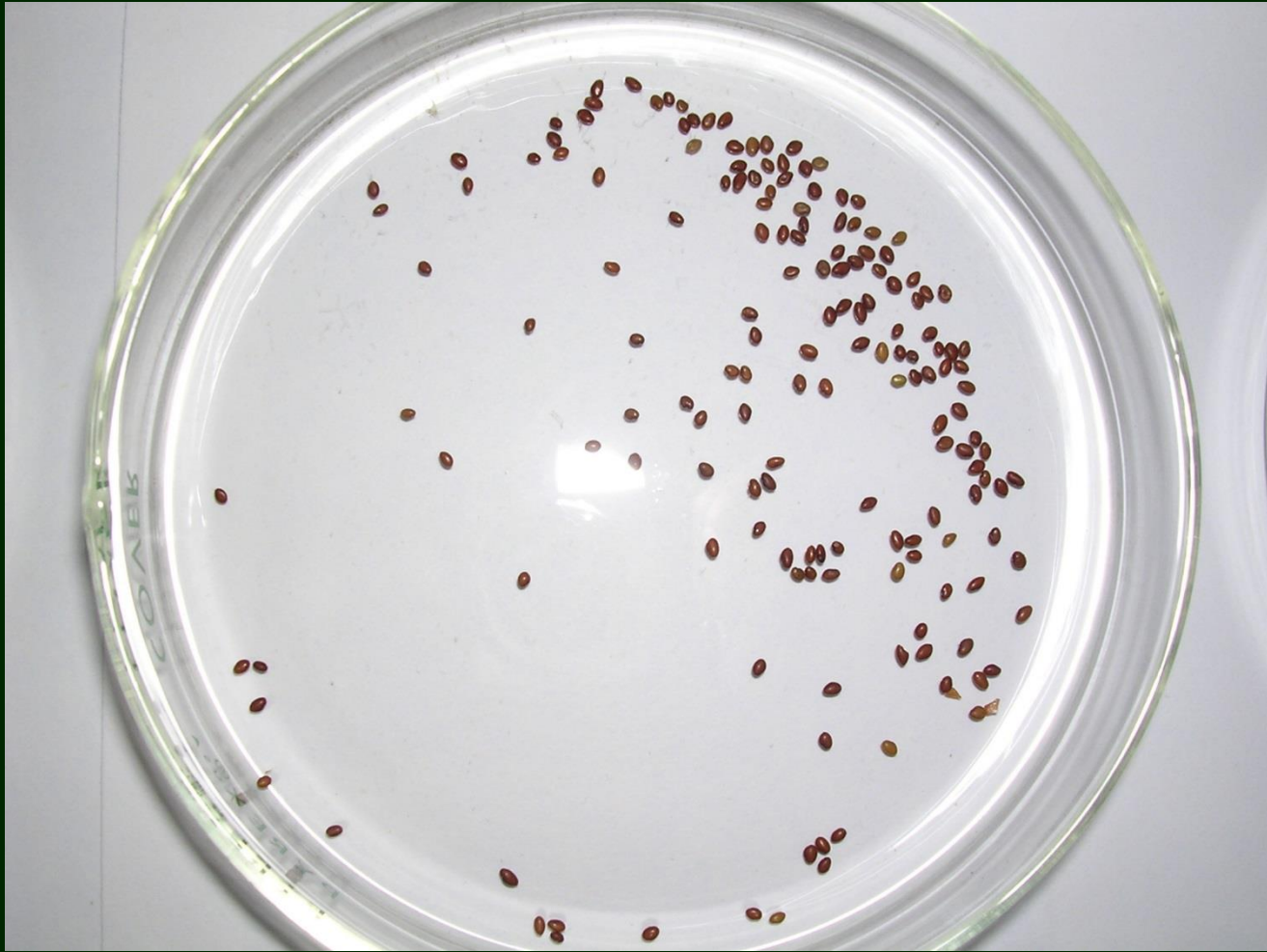Class: sericea lespedeza seed
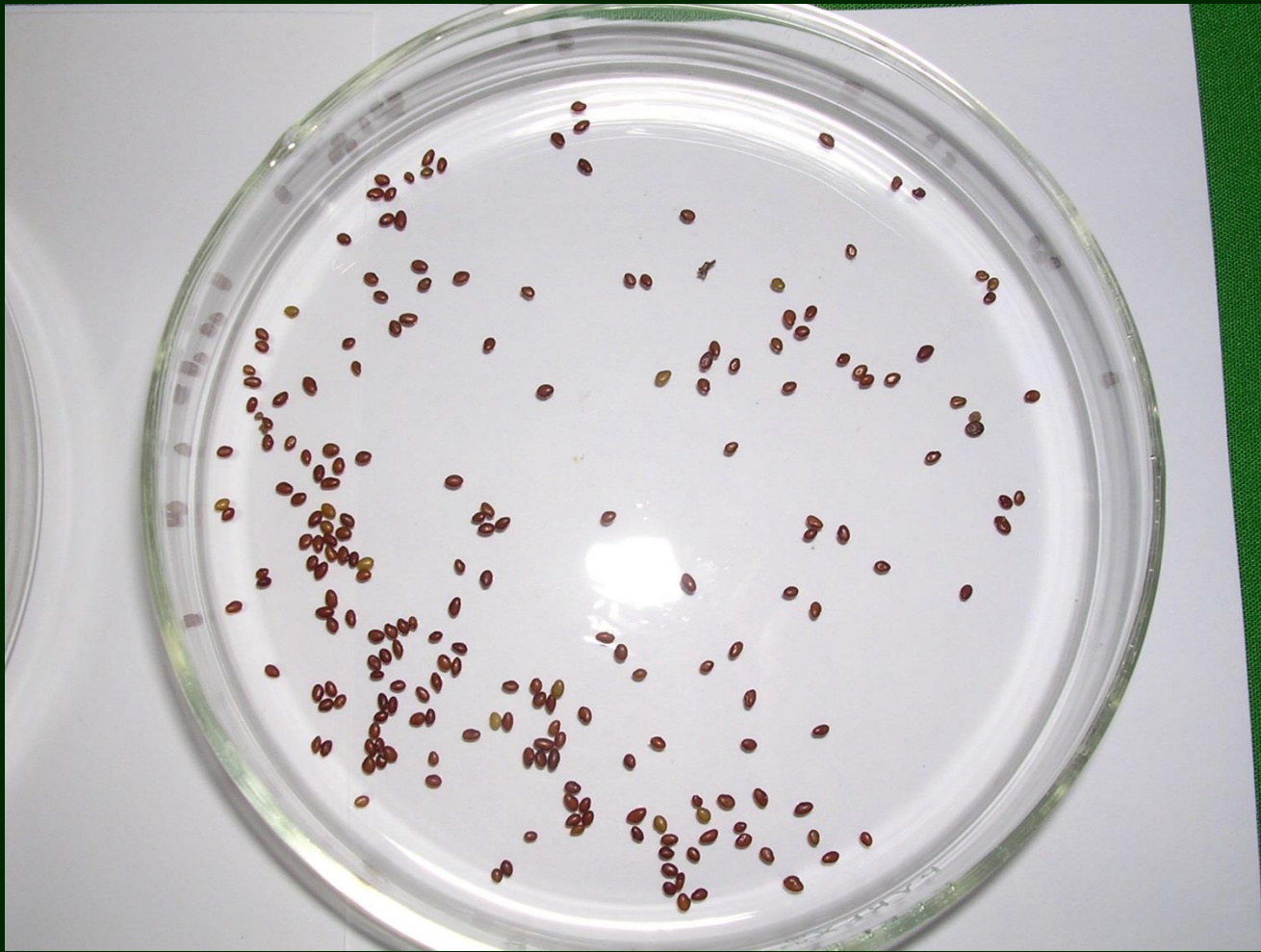
Tray 1

Tray 2

Tray 3

Tray 4

All 4

1

2

3

4

How did you do?

- Official: **1-3-4-2**   Cuts: **2-2-6**
- 1 was uniform, intact and dark; no weed seed
- 3 was intact and dark, but not as uniform; no weeds
- 4 was very non uniform and had a few non-viable seeds
- 2 was full of weed seed

Scoring

- If you placed it 3-4-1-2 you scored 44 points out of a possible 50

Consumer Judging Placing Card

Contestant No. _____	1 2 3 4	
	1 2 4 3	
	1 3 2 4	
Class _____	1 3 4 2	
Placing Score _____	1 4 2 3	
Reasons Score _____	1 4 3 2	
Total Score _____	2 1 3 4	
	2 1 4 3	
	2 3 1 4	
	2 3 4 1	
	2 4 3 1	
	3 1 2 4	
	3 1 4 2	
	3 2 1 4	
	3 2 4 1	
	3 4 1 2	✔
	3 4 2 1	
	4 1 2 3	
	4 1 3 2	
	4 2 1 3	
	4 2 3 1	
	4 3 1 2	
	4 3 2 1	

Where did that score come from?

- Prior to the contest, each possible placing was assigned a score using a "Hormel Computer"

- Online version: *http://www.calaged.org/caescripts/Judging/Scoring.asp*

- For the curious: the score is derived from adding all the cuts for every placing inversion

You can judge a class of anything!

Class: Mole traps

Mole Trap Placings

- Official: **3-4-1-2** (same as before)
- Cuts: **2-4-6**
- 3: most effective and durable
- 4: effective, but not durable
- 1: not effective deep or shallow, but at least it's a mole trap
- 2: this is a gopher trap!