



March 25, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association is comprised of professional teachers at universities with prominent agricultural programs across the nation. Members of our organization spend their time directly teaching and mentoring students in the art of livestock evaluation. Livestock judging programs provide the unique opportunity to develop critical-thinking, decision-making and communication skills, as well as develop personal character and leadership capabilities.

We feel developing these career-ready skills is not only important to secondary and collegiate students, but also professionals working in the livestock production industry. Educational and career development opportunities are incredibly vital to the success of our organization and is in fact the lifeblood of our programs and the future of the agricultural industry. We are constantly looking for new opportunities to prove to our stakeholders that the future workforce is being educated in the right fields and receiving the type of background and knowledge that will lead them to a valuable and meaningful career.

There is no doubt, the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification delivers this opportunity for individuals of all educational and career backgrounds. In addition to promoting college- and career-readiness skills, the certification demonstrates individuals have a solid understanding of the livestock industry, specifically such as selection and evaluation criteria of livestock species; stages of animal growth and how they relate to market readiness; and marketing practices for livestock, meat and meat products.

The development of competent agricultural employees is extremely critical. Our population is growing, and we will have to do more with less. We must train workers to effectively manage production systems of domestic livestock, so the system as a whole can be more sustainable, and we can feed our growing population. Individuals earning this certification will be better prepared to be future leaders and innovators or our very important industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Parker Henley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Parker Henley
President



May 14, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification endorsed by the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association.

I serve as a Ruminant Nutritionist on the Beef Strategic Technical Services team at Zoetis. Zoetis is the largest Animal Health Company in the World, with over 9,000 employees and over \$5 billion in annual revenue. I have been with Zoetis since 2016 and help support cattle customers in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas. Prior to joining Zoetis, I was on faculty at Texas Tech University in a teaching and research capacity.

These two opportunities have allowed me to work with student in academia and the industry. Although high schools are producing good students, they are consistently becoming less and less educated about the agricultural industry. Currently, about 1.8% of the population is involved with production agriculture and they are feeding the other 98.2% of the population.

Students who earn this certification have demonstrated that they have a mastery of concepts vital to succeeding in this industry or in college. We live in a global market, and a student's ability to discover and analyze the growth and development of the livestock industry as a global commodity is crucial. As fewer students are directly involved with production agriculture, it is imperative that they understand the elements of a successful breeding programs, how to analyze EPD data and parent selection. These skills are crucial to the long-term success of the livestock industry.

Without this certification program, it would take years of experience to gather this knowledge in the industry. It is crucial that we are doing all we can to prepare our future employees to be successful from their first day on the job. As the population grows, the livestock industry will be under more pressure to meet the protein demands of our World. It is imperative we have a pipeline of skilled workers for current and future positions in the industry. A student that has earned the Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification will be able to differentiate themselves based on the skills and knowledge acquired during these courses. As an employer, this certification is extremely valuable to help connect us to qualified candidates. This and other certification programs should be offered at all schools with courses in agriculture. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bryan Bernhard

Bryan Bernhard, PhD
Nutritionist
Beef Strategic Technical Services
Zoetis

May 9, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification endorsed by NCLCA.

For the last 26 years I have been a cattle buyer for Cargill Animal Protein. Cargill is a worldwide agricultural commodity company that maintains a substantial market share of the fresh beef business in the United States. In my role I oversee the purchasing, contracting and harvest scheduling of up to 500,000 cattle annually. To best determine the value and market readiness of these cattle requires an in depth knowledge of bovine breeds, their stages of development, how to evaluate the differences in muscle and fat composition of a live animal and how that translates into current market premiums and discounts.

Students who earn a certification in Livestock Selection and Evaluation will have demonstrated that they understand the livestock production system, the basic anatomy of livestock and how to evaluate live animals to predict carcass quality and value. More importantly, students will develop critical thinking skills and the communication competence necessary to explain their determinations. Any student that has this certification will have a tremendous advantage in their education and when they enter the workforce.

Fewer and fewer young people are being raised in an agricultural setting, while a greater number of our citizens are depending on them to produce the food they want and need. Students with a certification exhibiting the base knowledge of livestock selection and evaluation will be more marketable and have greater employment and educational options than those with no certification.

The agricultural industry of today is constantly being challenged to efficiently produce protein with limited resources to feed a rapidly growing world population. That is not an easy task. However, learning meat animal production and evaluation will help eliminate inefficiencies in the production system to lower costs and make animal protein more affordable to a hungry world. Therefore, I urge you to consider a certification in Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation.

Sincerely,

Rick Vogel

Cattle Buyer, Cargill Animal Protein



Charolais Association of Texas
P.O. Box 64336
Lubbock, TX 79464

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification endorsed by the Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association.

The Charolais Association of Texas is an affiliate of the American International Charolais Association with a membership of 150 Charolais breeders and ranches in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. We strive to provide a central location for people to locate quality livestock from the breeders in our membership. Annually, we provide a place for our breeders to sell their production females in the Innovation Spring Sale hosted every April. We are also affiliates with the Texas Junior Charolais Association who have an established membership of youth ages 9-21 whose goal is to promote, grow and advocate for the Charolais breed.

Students who earn the certification have demonstrated that they have a mastery of concepts vital to succeeding in this industry, including the ability to understand the elements of a successful breeding program including choosing and weighing traits, analyzing EPD data and parent selection. In addition, understanding how to identify, analyze and compare the external anatomy of livestock species.

To continue the success of our breed and the livestock industry, it is imperative for students to understand the skills required to select and raise quality livestock from breeding and market perspectives. A student that has earned the Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification that is endorsed by a nationally recognized association, such as NCLCA, will ensure that success. This certification is extremely valuable to the entire production process from breeding to the dinner table.

Sincerely,

Erin Metzler
C.A.T Office Manager
(940) 453-5391



Fort Scott Community College
2108 S. Horton
Fort Scott, KS 66701

May 16, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification endorsed by NCLCA.

I am an Agriculture Instructor and Livestock Judging Coach at Fort Scott Community College in Fort Scott, KS. We receive calls and emails constantly with job opportunities for students or graduates with livestock skill sets such as the ones provided in the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification. I have reviewed over the learning objectives and am impressed with the information provided. A student earning this certification would definitely be more prepared and employable than a student without a certification.

I believe that school districts should embrace these certifications and offer them to students to prepare them for the professional world.

Sincerely,

Blake Davis
Fort Scott Community College
Agriculture Instructor
Livestock Judging Coach

KEETON LIMOUSIN

May 16, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

We are pleased to find the Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification course will be made available to high school students to include in their agricultural coursework. As the future employees, owners, and leaders in agriculture, these young men and women will gain valuable knowledge and experience from the completion of this course.

We are a seedstock cattle operation located on the high plains of Texas and have been in animal production for over 40 years. We participate in livestock exhibitions on the national, state, and regional levels with the goal of improving our animals through evaluation of current genetic trends. We encourage other producers to improve their operations by incorporating enhanced genetics into their operations. We have served the industry through state and national leadership organizations.

We feel that student who earn this certification will be proficient in several concepts which are important to their success in the livestock industry, including:

- Basic origins of livestock breeds and their relative strengths within the industry;
- Stages of animal production with regards to meat animal production;
- Evaluation of replacement animals to incorporate back into future production; and
- Communication of the reasoning behind their decisions made in evaluating livestock.

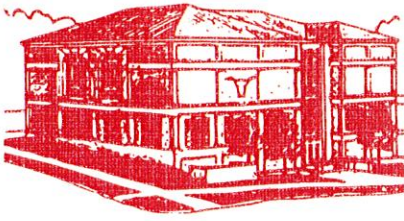
Students who earn this certification through the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches Association will have an advantage in their future as the coursework will prepare them for critical thinking and decision making in any endeavor they pursue. Job candidates with this certification will serve the agricultural industry better than those who are less prepared. We believe that all schools who offer agricultural production and leadership classes should include this in their curriculum.

Regards,



Lyle L. Keeton
Partner

10510 CR 1100 • Wolfforth, Texas 79382
Phone: (806) 866-9440 • Fax: (806) 866-9441



Alabama Cattlemen's Association

201 South Bainbridge Street • Montgomery, AL 36104 • (334) 265-1867 • www.bamabeef.org

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Living

November 23, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association (NCLCA) Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification.

The Alabama Cattlemen's Association is a non-profit developed in the state by Alabama cattle producers in 1944. Over the years, dedicated leaders helped ACA to grow its ranks to its highest point of 18,620 members in 1974, the largest cattlemen's association in the nation. Because ACA's strength lies in its network of county chapters and volunteer leaders, it is sure to continue as a voice for cattlemen in Alabama for years to come.

The Alabama Cattlemen's Association also serves as the qualified State Beef Council in Alabama with representation on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Federation of State Beef Councils. The State Beef Checkoff Program develops priority areas to support educational programs that will help enhance the skills of people who impact the beef and cattle industry.

This certification validates the foundational competencies needed to begin animal science careers, specifically those related to the selection and evaluation of breeding and market animals. Those who earn the certification are more qualified and prepared to enter a variety of roles within the industry. Additionally, the certification allows employers to identify and connect with more skilled candidates, filling gaps in the labor market and jump-starting individuals' careers. Seeing the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification on an applicant's resume indicates they have sought to become an expert in the field and have the knowledge and skills necessary to represent the interests of Alabama's cattlemen. The NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification creates employees and producers with the knowledge and skillset vital to succeed in the beef industry, specifically the cattle production sector. We fully support this.

Sincerely,

Erin Beasley
Executive Vice President



JIMMY PARNELL
PRESIDENT

December 15, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches Association (NCLCA) Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification.

My name is Graysen Biensch, and I serve as the Beef Division Director for the Alabama Farmers Federation (AFF). AFF is Alabama's largest farm organization comprised of and representing agricultural and associate members in all 67 Alabama counties. We strive to protect and improve the ability of farmers engaged in production agriculture to provide a reliable supply of food through responsible stewardship of Alabama's resources.

The NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification validates the foundational competencies needed to begin animal science careers, specifically those related to the selection and evaluation of breeding and market animals. Those who earn the certification are more qualified and prepared to enter a variety of roles within the industry.

This certification is a valuable asset for students to leverage during an interview process to land their first job in the workforce. Additionally, the certification allows employers to identify and connect with more skilled candidates, filling gaps in the labor market and jump-starting individuals' careers. When this certification is represented on an individual's resume, the employer can identify them as a driven and ambitious candidate who will not only have a solid understanding of livestock principles but put in the hard work – day in and day out.

Alabama livestock and animal science-related workplaces rely on the next generation of industry professionals to continue the success, marketability, and legacy of their organization. That is why we are urging the state to approve the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to be "Graysen Biensch", written over a horizontal line.

Graysen Biensch
Beef Division Director
Alabama Farmers Federation



August 27, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written in enthusiastic support of the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification.

My name is Dean Fish, and I manage a Family Foundation Ranch, as well as own my own cattle business. The Santa Fe Ranch works to get young people out of doors, deliver ag literacy opportunities and provide opportunities to our developmentally disabled population. All these programs are provided free of charge to our underserved community and truly improve the quality of life for participants.

One of the most impactful programs that helped put me in position to thrive in an animal science-based career is participating in competitive livestock selection and evaluation. In fact, because of the importance of this program, I have worked for the past 25 years coaching young people and coordinating contests in Arizona. The NCLCA Certification validates individuals possess those critical skills that translate to success in an animal science-based career. These skills include breed identification, phenotypic evaluation and analysis of expected progeny differences (EPDs), as well as critical thinking and decision-making skills. Individuals with these skills are more likely to find employment in the industry, as well as earn higher wages and earn promotions at a faster rate.

Businesses like mine rely on workers that have these critical skills. I believe that the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification helps to address this gap, and I need more workers with this certification. It would be a great asset for Arizona and the many who depend on agricultural innovation. I am excited to see the NCLCA Certification offered in Arizona.

Sincerely,



R. Dean Fish, PhD
Anchor F Cattle Co
PO Box 716
Nogales, AZ 85628
(520) 988-8009
anchorf@gmail.com





To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the NCLCA Principles of Livestock & Evaluation Certification.

The Arizona Farm Bureau is Arizona's largest farm and ranch organization with membership that represents production agriculture throughout the state of Arizona. We are "The Voice of Agriculture" in Arizona. Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental grassroots organization that analyzes problems and formulates action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement and thereby to promote the national well-being. As our industry continues to face new and ongoing challenges, Farm Bureau will be there to help face those challenges. One of those challenges: the lack of knowledge from consumers regarding the care of livestock.

Individuals who have earned the *NCLCA Principles of Livestock & Evaluation Certification* have demonstrated possession of knowledge and skills vital to the management and selection of livestock animals. An overall understanding of the animal agriculture industry through vocabulary, nutrition, and anatomy will give recipients a step ahead when entering an animal science career.

It is imperative we have a pipeline of skilled workers for current and future positions in the industry. Arizona's agricultural community represents \$23.3 billion of Arizona's economy. It is vital that we keep the pipeline of skilled workers open so that agriculture can continue to thrive in Arizona.

An individual who has earned the *NCLCA Principles of Livestock and Evaluation Certification*, has proven they are more qualified for employment in the animal science industry than an applicant without the certification.

We look forward to seeing this Certification making the approved list so that teachers and students can take advantage of the knowledge and skills that it provides.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Katie Aikins'.

Katie Aikins
Director of Education
Arizona Farm Bureau



June 9, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification.

My name is Terri Verason, and I serve as Vice President of Nutrition Education for Dairy Council® of Arizona. Dairy Council® of Arizona is a not-for-profit, education branch of the Arizona Milk Producers, which works on behalf of Arizona dairymen to inform, promote and support the people, products and process of the dairy story from farm to table. The Dairy Council® of Arizona is dedicated to providing the Arizona community with nutrition and agriculture education based on the latest scientific research, dairy agriculture information and the goal of a balanced diet that includes milk and milk products.

This certification provides individuals the opportunity to showcase a holistic understanding of the animal science industry, ranging from breed identification to external anatomy and breeding systems to evaluation methods. Having this foundational knowledge of the industry is incredibly valuable no matter what facet the holder of the certification decides to pursue.

In addition to the value this certification provides to the individual, it is also incredibly beneficial to local businesses in the industry like mine. Seeing this certification on a resumé shows that the candidate has a proven passion for livestock and has put forth time and energy to acquire essential knowledge and skills relevant to the industry. This effort translates into employees that are already familiar with the terminology and procedures associated with livestock, and will require significantly less training and preparation on our part. The livestock industry is a highly specialized field and employees need to have extensive knowledge and skills to be successful and productive workers in our industry.

The Arizona dairy industry is an integral part of the state's agricultural sector. We need more skilled workers to keep our industry at the forefront of innovation and productivity. We at Dairy Council® of Arizona want to see the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification be offered in the state so our industry will have access to qualified workers.

This certification is an exciting resource for the agriculture industry, and we are eager to see more individuals take advantage of this opportunity to prove their grasp on animal science.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terri Verason, MS, RDN, FAND".

Terri Verason, MS, RDN, FAND
Vice President of Nutrition Education
Dairy Council® of Arizona

Dairy Council® of Arizona
An Affiliate of National Dairy Council®

510 South 52nd Street, Suite 101, Tempe, AZ 85281 • 480.656.7163 • www.dairycouncilofaz.org

The nutrition education people



To Whom it may Concern,

My name is Mike Zamudio I am the co-owner in San Simon Valley Show Pigs LLC, and a nationally recognized livestock judge. Through my experiences in the areas I am involved in I am asking that the NCLCA Principles of Livestock and Evaluation be approved as a State of Arizona Industry Certification. Livestock Evaluation is a very valuable tool for our show pig operation. Without the training and knowledge to match genetics and make breeding decisions our quality of product would not be nearly as respectable. My training on a collegiate livestock judging team has given me the opportunity to use skills in my own businesses, and in the show ring as a livestock judge. The NCLCA is a very respectable organization amongst livestock industry leaders. This Certification will give individuals an opportunity to polish their skills and build their own breeding programs with more success. Livestock evaluation not only helps individuals learn decision making, but also written and oral communication skills. In our operations day to day business its important to have knowledgeable people in place to assist customers with selection and production. This Certification will assist in a multitude of ways. Please adopt the NCLCA Principles of Livestock and Evaluation Certification. Livestock evaluation has been critical in the development of our business and daily lives.

Sincerely,

Michael Zamudio

Mike Zamudio

San Simon Valley Show Pigs



Intermountain Farmer's Association
390 30th Street
Elko, NV 89801

September 20, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification.

I have worked for Intermountain Farmer's Association in Elko, Nevada, for the past 35 years. We are an agricultural cooperative owned by our members. We have 28 locations across Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Colorado and New Mexico. This includes feed mills, agronomy centers, and retail stores. We started as "Utah Poultry" in 1923. Today, we serve many facets of the livestock industry. We provide products and expertise on everything from feed and fertilizer to animal health and fencing, as well as tack and clothing items that suit our patrons way of life.

Individuals who earn this certification have demonstrated possession of knowledge and skills vital to succeeding in the livestock industry. In order to feed the world we need to produce food in a more efficient way than ever before. Individuals who are adept at evaluating livestock for soundness, muscularity, and quality will lead the way for selecting the best products our industry can offer. It is forward progress that will allow us to continue feeding a growing world population.

It is imperative we have a pipeline of skilled workers for current and future positions in the industry. The decision making skills alone give young people an edge in life after education. A certification like this one, shows us that individuals not only have an in depth understanding of the livestock business but also show their commitment to educate and make themselves more marketable team members.

This certification is what the livestock industry can utilize as a tool to employ people who share our passion for animal agriculture. It is another way to distinguish themselves as an asset to potential employers. This provides an opportunity that has not been present in the past, for young people to set themselves apart and for us to recognize someone who has gone above and beyond.

An individual who has earned the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification, issued by a nationally recognized, industry-leading organization, has proven they are more qualified for employment in the livestock and animal science industries than an applicant without the certification. In addition, this certification is extremely valuable to employers like me because it helps connect us to qualified candidates.

Sincerely,

Darla Barkdull
Branch Manager
Intermountain Farmer's Association



Nevada Farm Bureau Federation

2165 Green Vista Dr., Suite 205, Sparks, NV 89431

Phone: (775) 674-4000 or Toll-Free (800) 992-1106

August 16, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

Nevada Farm Bureau is the largest agricultural organization in Nevada, representing farm and ranch families throughout the state. We are pleased to offer our endorsement for the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches Association (NCLCA) Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification.

As a statewide organization that's mission is to be the voice of Nevada's agriculture, we see the importance of this certification. At Nevada Farm Bureau Federation, we work to promote, preserve, protect, and resolve challenges in agriculture through advocacy, education, and leadership. This certification directly lines with our values seeing as it provides proper education in the livestock industry. With industry standards developed by the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches Association, I can be sure that the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification is relevant to the livestock industry.

I believe this certification will provide individuals with the skills needed to enter the livestock industry with confidence and succeed. Earners of this certification will be much more qualified than those who do not hold this certification. I would absolutely consider an individual who holds the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification for an interview or job with Nevada Farm Bureau Federation. I know that earners are dedicated to their work, willing to step outside of their comfort zone, and overall well-rounded individuals. I look for this in all employees and feel confident that earners will have all of these skills.

Agriculture is an extremely technical and wide-ranging industry. Those who have earned the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches Association (NCLCA) Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification have demonstrated that they come to you with qualified expertise.

Sincerely,

Doug Busselman

Executive Vice President



McSpadden Land and Cattle Company
992 Highway 464
Lordsburg, NM 88045
575-542-8997

February 19, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

As one of the owners of McSpadden Land and Cattle Company, a family owned and operated cow calf ranch located in southwestern New Mexico, I am involved in all areas of the business, from financial management and budget planning to selecting cattle for our breeding program and continuing genetic improvement and development as we see fit. I assist in training horses, managing their health as well as the cattle and seeing that all duties involved in ranch ownership are accomplished each day including but not limited to checking waters and pipelines for leaks, maintenance of cattle quality and health through supplementation throughout the year as well as working with local agencies to ensure that our cattle are utilizing the native grasses efficiently through scientific research of feces and energy evaluation. Our goal is to raise the highest quality cattle in our area, where we sell the steers by the truck load as well as sell grass fat beeves to local customers. Our ranch involves the northwestern portion of Hidalgo County, New Mexico where we are permitted to run 540 head of cattle. We employ two generations of our family, as well as a camp manager and his family; totaling 3 full time employees, not to mention day work help throughout the year.

We are looking to have the state of New Mexico approve the NCLCA Principles Livestock Selection and Evaluation certification. This certification will allow youth to focus in areas of interest while they are in high school, specifically agricultural education courses that will not only allow them to learn the specifics of running or working in animal production agriculture, but also develop the skills of livestock selection and evaluation. Doing so will allow these youth to be better prepared for the workforce and allow them to be more prepared for success upon graduation from high school.

Youth of today are not always interested in college, but many are interested in directly entering the workforce and when they are allowed to learn a trade from a younger age during school, it will allow them to not only enter the production agriculture industry at a younger age and lay a path for success quickly but will serve as a motivator to do well in school. It is hard to find employees who have the knowledge and skill in livestock management and care, including selection and evaluation of better building a herd that is healthy and contains the phenotypical traits that we appreciate in a quality herd

of cattle. This certificate approval will allow exactly what we need in today's agricultural and industrial market field.

I would be happy, and excited as an employer to see a qualified applicant with this certificate on their resume, as I will know and trust that the applicant has a sincere interest in livestock selection and evaluation in the animal industry. I would be willing to offer a higher starting pay with potential for a raise within the first year of working for us if a qualified applicant were to apply.

In closing, I request that the state approves the certification for the NCLCA Principles Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certificate. This certification is essential not only to the youth of today entering the workforce, but also to the production agricultural industry specifically ranchers, feedlots, seedstock facilities and even packers. This certificate will allow youth to be better prepared when entering the workforce as well as allow the potential for a higher rate of pay and better career opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie McSpadden".

Katee McSpadden
Owner, McSpadden Land and Cattle Company



College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences

Cooperative Extension Service
Department of Extension 4-H Youth Development
MSC 3AE
New Mexico State University
P.O. Box 30003
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8003
575-646-3026, fax: 575-646-3027
state4h@nmsu.edu

March 11, 2022

To Whom it My Concern:

My name is Craig Painter and have been an agriculture educator for the past thirty five years serving as a High School Agriculture Teacher, Extension 4-H Agent and State 4-H Agent for New Mexico 4-H. As I recently retired, I am currently working in the meat industry assisting with a local start-up meat processing facility in southern New Mexico. I have had the opportunity to work with numerous amount of students especially in the area if meat evaluation and livestock selection. I have been fortunate enough to have coached many livestock and meats teams that have participated in the National contests for both FFA and 4-H.

I understand and fully support to need for state certifications in the area of livestock selection and management as well as meat evaluation and processing. As a former educator and now working in the field the need for qualified individuals with the proper background and training is crucial to the agriculture industry. I have been fortunate to have worked with students that have excelled in career develop events (CDE) in FFA and Judging program in 4-H that went on to make a career in the livestock and meat industry. Developing a certification for these areas would only better prepare them to possibly go straight into the industry and have valuable skills to offer employers. Working with a start-up company processing meat on a local level it is difficult to find any entry level employees with the basic food safety knowledge to hit the ground running. A large portion of time is needed to train individuals to become valuable and productive employees. The recent pandemic has taught us the importance of being able to process local foods for our communities.

The importance of state approval for a certification program in the area of food safety, culinary meat selection and cookery, meat evaluation along with a certification in the area of livestock judging is needed to prepare youth for their careers and allow employers to realize the extent of their knowledge base. The proposed certification programs would fill a vital need in our food safety industry by providing certified employees to work in the industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Craig Painter'.

Craig Painter
State 4-H Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Retired



Rio Rancho Public Schools Career Technical Education Team
500 Laser Road
Rio Rancho, NM 87124
(505) 962-4624

February 28, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the CTE Program Manager with the Rio Rancho Public Schools' Career Technical Education team. The Rio Rancho Public schools are located in Rio Rancho, NM. Our CTE team supports all of our CTE programs in the district with funding and guidance for curriculum, supplies, equipment, and professional development. The Rio Rancho Public Schools is a school district of roughly 17,300 students with approximately 6000 high school students. Of those 6000 high school students, we have approximately 3500 students who are currently enrolled in a CTE course. We have a strong and successful Agricultural Sciences – FFA Program with over 300 students.

The certifications that would be of most value to our students and are in alignment with the curricular content of our Agricultural Sciences and FFA program would be:

- Plant science
- Ecology conservation and management
- Fundamentals of animal science
- Principles of livestock selection

We are requesting state approval for certification in these areas, as it would give our CTE Ag students something tangible and of value that they could take with them outside of the educational walls that illustrates proof of their knowledge and what they can do. We trust ICEV as the certifying body of this certification as they have established themselves as a trusted leader in CTE curriculum and historically proven that they are knowledgeable of the industry and its needs.

In closing, I feel that having the ability to offer students a certification in the aforementioned areas adds legitimacy to the curricular programs and the students' learning. In addition, it provides the students something that can potentially help them get a foot in the door for employment where they can continue to learn and grow in an area where they have a passion.

Sincerely,

Benton Spradlin
CTE Program Manager, Rio Rancho Public Schools



August 15, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification. Because of the standards and competencies required by the certification program, it is without hesitation that I recommend this certification for your approval.

As a producer of both terminal stock for slaughter as well as show stock, I have a thorough understanding of the knowledge students must possess to be successful in the livestock industry. Additionally, we are investing in the future stockman which will be producing our nation's food supply - it is critical to their success to be knowledgeable in matters of evaluation. Today the industry demands the production of a higher quality animal and carcass more so than ever before. It is critical to student success to be skilled in selection and communication of standards of selection to others, particularly as we face a public which is further removed from the industry which produces our nation's and the globe's food supply.

As a former FFA & 4-H member who participated in animal evaluation events, I can attest the value of the experience in training me to think critically and decisively based upon criterion provided. Furthermore, these events demanded my focus and confidence to defend the decisions made on the rail. These skills have been invaluable to me as I market live animals, but more so in marketing our USDA inspected lamb products sold directly to consumers and retailers. My past experiences enable me to educate clients on the products for purchase. What is great about this certification, though, is it takes all of that a step further. It is more than an evaluation event, which I appreciate.

It is without reservation that I request the approval of the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification. Those successfully completing certification will have a firm grasp of various aspects of the livestock and animal science industries - thus more prepared to meet the growing demands on our industry to feed the world. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have additional questions for clarification.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie Holman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Bonnie Holman
283 Salem Road
Lebanon, TN 37090
615.417.2253



Kail Auctioneering Service



Tucker Kail
Auctioneer
Kail's Auctioneering Service
835 Foundry Hill Rd
Puryear, TN 38251

August 20, 2020

To whom it may concern,

Kail's Auctioneering Service is a small organization operated by myself, Tucker Kail, in Puryear, TN. I have been a contract auctioneer since 2016; specializing in livestock, equine, and farm equipment. The general public has the idea that an auctioneer is just someone that talks fast, but that is just a small portion of what we do. I offer my services to local stockyards, producers, and farmers to market their property to its highest monetary value. Producers rely solely on the income of selling their livestock, usually only once a year. It is my job to be well educated on the breed, body type, and confirmation of various types of livestock to maximize the producer profits.

I am requesting the PRINCIPLES OF LIVESTOCK SELECTION & EVALUATION CERTIFICATION for state approval. The accrediting body for this course is the NCLCA, or the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association. They have long history of preparing students for what they will experience in the agriculture field as well as many others. Not only do they instruct on the fundamentals, they also instill the discipline to strive to be better professionals. In our industry, it is pivotal to understand exactly what you are marketing. One needs to be extremely proficient in identifying and evaluating all livestock, because the buyers are not going to trust purchasing these animals from a representative that is unfamiliar with what they are selling. With this certification, students are better equipped to pursue a career in the auction business or livestock marketing to become experts on breed identification, genetic selection, as well as knowing how to evaluate the animals as a whole. Entry in the livestock auctioneering profession is tough, even if you have a lifetime of experience. This certification shows me as a

potential employer that the job applicant is passionate and dedicated to studying details that some neglect to recognize, possibly resulting in a higher salary or commission base.

This certification is an asset to the livestock marketing industry by providing more competent and better educated auctioneers. It has many benefits to the producing side as well. Such as, selecting superior genetics to produce top quality animals. With knowledge obtained from this certification, an elite set of skills will develop in the next generation of livestock marketing auctioneers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tucker Kail". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Tucker Kail
Auctioneer
Kail's Auctioneering Service



August 11, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of approving NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification in the State of Tennessee.

Mill Creek Land & Cattle is a Registered Brangus and Ultrablack operation based in Northwest Tennessee. As a seedstock producer, we supply genetics around the world that impact global beef production. Through my lifelong involvement in the beef industry and my experiences judging livestock, both in the United States as well as on the international level, I can confirm the importance of certification in livestock evaluation to the future of the beef and agriculture industries.

An individual with a certification in Livestock Evaluation will have developed a skill set that includes being able to analyze live animals as well as data that is relevant to the industry potentially resulting in long term impacts to the beef production system. The process of developing these abilities also builds critical thinking and analytical skills as well as communication and decision-making capabilities. An individual that is proficient in identifying genetically superior animals through phenotype and genetic evaluations is more desirable in certain career fields due to their specialized knowledge that is often only obtained through years of experience. As an organization comprised of industry respected individuals, the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association is duly qualified to educate and certify a Livestock Selection and Evaluation program.

I ask that you please adopt the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification in the State of Tennessee. In the animal science industry, students that have completed the certification will have demonstrated their desire to expand their knowledge making them more desirable candidates in the workplace. Production agriculture is facing many challenges. An educated, skilled workforce to help navigate those challenges is becoming more and more essential.

Best regards,

Traci Middleton
Mill Creek Land & Cattle



SWEETWATER VALLEY FARM

17988 West Lee Highway Philadelphia, TN 37846

info@sweetwatervalley.com 865-458-9192

August 20, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Sweetwater Valley Farm is home to over 1,500 dairy and multiple beef cows in Philadelphia, TN. As the owner of Sweetwater Valley, I am responsible for overseeing all the ins and outs of the daily operations. On our farm we produce cheese from our own cattle, which is sold in our farm store, café and in several businesses around the state. We were the first Tennessee operation with the Lely XL Robotic Milking Technology and use this to milk 500 cows. We also maintain crops that are utilized for feeding our cattle. The use of the café, farm store and farm tours provide us the opportunity to create consumer awareness. Of course, in the dairy industry, it is especially important to maintain sound livestock for a promise of longevity. This is why I am writing in support of the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification.

When I come across prospective employees with an existing knowledge of animal science, I most always consider them better qualified than other candidates. The Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification helps individuals hone in on important skills in our field, such as anatomy of the animal; while building a knowledge of criteria that we utilize on our operation regularly. Hiring individuals that are more career ready and able to identify ideal criteria in a dairy production cow, allows me to focus more time on management of our operation as a whole and less on training the new employee. Essentially with employees who have proven the skills tested for on the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification, we are a more efficient operation.

Our vision and mission at Sweetwater Valley Farm is being committed to consistently producing superior agricultural products through dedication to our employees, animal care and natural resources. We strive to create a sustainable business model through innovation, efficiency, leadership development, and customer satisfaction. I encourage the approval of the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification to help us, and others in the industry, to better align with these and other goals.

Sincerely,

John Harrison
Owner

Sweetwater Valley Farms



May 11, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification endorsed by the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association. I am a former member of the South Plains College and Texas Tech University livestock judging teams. Fortunately, my teams were able to achieve a number of great successes, none more memorable than receiving the honor of 2011 National Champions while at Texas Tech. Additionally, I was named to the All-American livestock judging team in both junior and senior college. After the completion on my undergraduate education, I completed a M.S. and Ph.D. program in Animal Science with a focus in ruminant nutrition.

I currently serve as a consulting nutritionist for Purina Animal Nutrition, LLC. I represent a company that is well established as the leader in livestock nutrition. My primary responsibility is to provide technical support for the sale beef cattle products in West Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. I have been blessed to work with some of the most prestigious ranching entities in the country to drive cattle performance with sound nutrition.

The skills that I developed while involved with livestock judging provided a foundation for success in my personal and professional life. There is no doubt, the Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation Certification, developed in collaboration with CEV Multimedia, provides tremendous opportunities for students. The curriculum promotes career-readiness skills and provides students with knowledge of the livestock industry. Students that utilize this tool develop the ability to select and evaluate livestock, understand the physiology of animal growth, and apply the concepts of "market readiness" to the food product industry.

The development of competent, career-ready agricultural students is imperative. With a world-wide focus on sustainable agricultural systems, we must equip students with the skills necessary to address the challenges ahead. We must train students to effectively evaluate and manage production systems of domestic livestock in order to promote a sustainable system that will feed our growing population. Students earning this certification will be well positioned to make an impact on production agriculture.

Sincerely,

Clay Burson

Clay Burson, PhD

Beef Cattle Consultant

Purina Animal Nutrition, LLC.

212 East Harvard St.

Lubbock, TX 79403

Email: WCBurson@landolakes.com

Phone: 325-260-8484



SAN ANTONIO LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION, INC.

"A Volunteer Organization that Emphasizes Agriculture and Education to Develop The Youth of Texas."

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operations@sarodeo.com

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FAX (210) 223-5859
tickets@sarodeo.com

WWW.SARODEO.COM

Thursday, May 10, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

The San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo is a volunteer organization emphasizing agriculture and education. Since the inception of our show, we have provided over \$186 million to the youth of Texas in the form of scholarships, grants, endowments, auctions, calf scramble, and show premiums.

Our event is home to some of the largest and most prestigious livestock shows in the country. This can make it challenging to find individuals with the necessary qualifications to serve as a livestock judge. An exceptional livestock judge must possess the ability to identify, analyze and compare animals and be able to effectively explain his/her reasoning to the crowd. Due to the size of our event, it is imperative that a livestock judge be able to make rational decisions in a timely fashion so that each of our exhibitors receives a fair look in the show ring.

There is no doubt that a student who has earned the Livestock Selection & Evaluation Principles Certification from a nationally recognized association such as the NCLCA would have the necessary foundation to potentially serve as a livestock judge in the future. Certifications such as this are sure to pay dividends for students as they begin to make their mark on the industry.

Sincerely,

Brady Ragland
Livestock Director
San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Department of Animal and Food Sciences

May 10, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association (NCLCA) Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation.

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Animal & Food Sciences at Texas Tech University. Since 2002, I have coached hundreds of students at the collegiate level and led teams to a record-setting nine National Championships. I have consulted for livestock operations across 30 states and internationally. Individuals who have an understanding of livestock evaluation and selection are better equipped to effectively manage livestock operations which is critical for us to sustain protein production for a continuously expanding global population.

Individuals who earn this certification have demonstrated that they have a mastery of concepts vital to succeeding in this field. A sampling of the skills learned through this certification include:

- Evaluate the marketing practices for livestock, meat, and meat products.
- Identify and analyze livestock breeds, their inherent strengths, and their origin.
- Identify, analyze, and compare external anatomy of domesticated livestock species.
- Assess the stages of animal growth and relate this to their market readiness and carcass merit potential.
- Understand the selection priorities necessary to logically rank breeding livestock in order to precisely accelerate the genetic progress of an animal breeding program.

In my own experience, the key to training students to be proficient in livestock selection is based upon the total amount of experience a student can accumulate. Anyone who has earned the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification has a foundation of knowledge which will set them up for success. Moreover, they will be better prepared to study the field of Animal Science. I strongly recommend and seek out students that have this certification.

Sincerely,

Ryan Rathmann, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
John W. & Doris Jones Professorship Holder
Department of Animal & Food Sciences
Texas Tech University
(806) 789-6725
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Department of Animal & Food Science • 715-425-3771 • Fax 715-425-4486 • Arquimides.reyes@uwrf.edu

2/12/2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association; Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation. As an assistant professor of beef production and meat science at the University of Wisconsin River Falls, I believe this certification will provide an individual with a specific training that will make them more desirable for the industry. I have been coaching livestock and carcass evaluation since I was a Master of Animal Science Student. Currently I am coaching a group of 20 students in livestock and carcass evaluation and feel that if my students would of have taken this certification, they would have been more competitive in the field.

I believe that an individual who earns this certification has demonstrated ownership of the subject and has increase their knowledge and skill allowing them to succeed in the agriculture industry. They have learned the necessary skills to assist the industry with problems associated with livestock selection. This certification will train an individual with in-depth knowledge of livestock production practices and allowed them to assist the industry in sustainability.

It is imperative we have a bank of skill individual that are ready to answer the call of our livestock industry. Our industry is lacking qualify work force. The opportunities provided by this certification will provide our industry with tremendous advantage in training. In addition, this certification will provide individual with faster opportunities of advancements.

This certification is what our industry has been looking for to increase the numbers of qualify employees. The biggest problem with hiring is that experience is always required, and this certification will provide a portion of that training.

An individual who has earned the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association; Principles of Livestock Selection & Evaluation issued by a nationally recognized, industry-leading organization, has proven they are more qualified for employment in the industry and as competitors in the collegiate level, than an applicant without the certification. In addition, this certification is extremely valuable to employers it helps them connect with more qualified candidates.

Sincerely,

Arquimides A. Reyes, PhD, PAS

Assistant Professor – Beef Production & Meat Science

Department of Animal & Food Science

University of Wisconsin – River Falls

410 S. Third St.

River Falls, WI 54022 USA

Phone: (715) 425-4047

Email: arquimides.reyes@uwrf.edu



February 12, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation certification.

My name is Brooke Roberts, and I serve as the Director of Communication and Outreach for the Wisconsin Beef Council. Our organization is funded by the \$1.00 per head assessment on all cattle sold in the state of Wisconsin per the Federal Beef Promotion and Research Act & Order. The purpose of the Council is to fund beef promotion, research and consumer education activities supporting Wisconsin's \$2.1 billion beef industry.

This certification provides individuals the opportunity to showcase a holistic understanding of the animal science industry, ranging from vocabulary and regulations to anatomy and nutrition. Having this foundational knowledge of the industry is incredibly valuable no matter what facet of animal production the holder of the certification decides to pursue.

In addition to the value this certification provides to the individual, it is also incredibly beneficial to local businesses and organizations in the industry. Seeing this certification on a resumé shows that a candidate has a proven passion for animal production, and has put forth time and energy to acquire essential knowledge and skills relevant to the industry. This effort translates into individuals that are familiar with the terminology and procedures associated with animal production, and will require significantly less training and preparation.

This certification is an exciting resource for the agriculture industry, and we are eager to see more individuals take advantage of this opportunity to proof their grasp on animal production. We want to see the Elanco Fundamentals of Animal Science certification offered in Wisconsin because it will foster a new group of industry leaders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooke Roberts".

Brooke Roberts
Director of Communication and Outreach
Wisconsin Beef Council



April 26, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Hoosiers earning the National Collegiate Livestock Coaches' Association (NCLCA) Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification, especially for those seeking careers in the animal science industry. Agriculture is one of Indiana's most prominent industries, and well-credentialed staff is particularly important to us.

Since 1995, Orange County Economic Development Partnership has been acting out the mission to improve the quality of life of Orange County Citizens. In my role as the Executive Director, it is my duty to local businesses to improve the availability of a skilled workforce. An easy way for me to do that is to help see that employers have access to applicants that possess the certifications the employers are looking for.

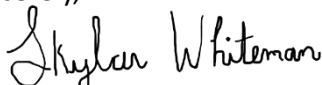
Individuals credentialed with the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification have the foundational competencies needed to begin animal science careers related to breeding and market animals. The best part of this certification is it easily stands out on a job application versus someone describing the skills or experience they possess, which is often vague or nearly impossible to verify. Hiring managers easily identify candidates qualified for entry-level positions where this certification is listed.

It is imperative we have skilled workers for current and future positions in the county. In the case of attracting new business, when I can share that Orange County schools are certifying individuals in the NCLCA Principles of Livestock Selection and Evaluation Certification, it shows that Orange County has the talent necessary to meet employers' needs. It is harder than ever for Orange County's employers to find quality candidates, so I know our employers are eager to offer interviews to entry-level applicants with this certification.

Candidates who obtained this certification have acquired the industry-recognized skills and standards produced by NCLCA, an organization known for knowledge and skill development in the livestock industry.

This certification legitimizes the skills learned in this program and gives individuals the opportunity to stand out amongst others. This certification is extremely valuable to economic developers like me because it supports our talent pipeline of individuals entering the animal science industry.

Sincerely,



Skylar Whiteman
Executive Director



505 S. Maple Street
French Lick Indiana 47432



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