

Judging Group Classes

The primary goal in judging group classes is to find uniformity of good type. Color or color patterns should only be a concern with those breeds whose standard call for a specific color and pattern.

Remembering how individuals placed in their individual classes is helpful in speeding up the sorting process, but that comes most easily for those animals that did particularly well.

Normally groups that include individuals of greater age and maturity have an advantage. However, typical classes are:

- Dam & Daughter
 - may be a junior and a senior doe or two senior does
 - some advantage to the group where the daughter is an improvement over the dam
- Produce of Dam
 - may be 2 or 3 animals
 - may include junior does or only senior does
 - normally an advantage if different sires are represented.
- Breeders Trio
 - three does bred by one breeder
 - may include junior does or only senior does
- Best Three Females
 - three does owned by one exhibitor
 - may include junior does or only senior does
- Get-of-Sire
 - normally an advantage if different dams are represented.
 - may include junior does or only senior does
- Dairy Herd
 - may include junior does in some shows but is generally 3 or 4 senior does
 - entire emphasis NOT placed on the amount of milk shown that day

Group Classes are not easy to judge because of the variability that may occur within a group and the numbers of animals involved. Often you are presented with only a rear view of the animals, which is frequently inadequate for good decision-making. Feel free to ask the exhibitors to line their animals up head to tail or to move them as a group. Line the groups up in the order they are placed before giving reasons because it helps the ringside to follow the judge. Often, in actual practice, the reasons for group placings are abbreviated to a single category with some supporting statement.