

## **Market Lamb Sept. 2008**

### **Market Lamb Oral Reasons by Rod Geppert**

#### **Placing 4-1-2-3**

#### **Cuts 3-1-2**

I placed the class of Market Lambs 4-1-2-3. I started the class with 4 as he has the best combination of muscle, leanness and balance. In the top pair of heavy muscled wethers it's 4 over 1. 4 displays more length of body of his fore and hind saddle. In addition, he is heavier muscled in the lower part of his leg. Due to his advantages in muscle and trimness, 4 should go to the rail with superior cutability. I realize that 1 is smoother about his shoulder and slightly more balanced, but at the same time he appears to be shorter loined and heavier conditioned.

Still its 1's advantage in balance and structure that places him over the dark fleeced sheep in the middle pair. 1 is the more structurally correct lamb as he stands squarer and more secure on his rear legs. In addition he displayed more volume in his forearm. I admit that 2 appears to be bigger framed and longer loined lamb, however I criticize 2 and placed him third as he is the poorest balanced, least desired structured lamb of the class.

Despite these faults it's 2 advantage in length of skeleton and product that places him over the ewe in the bottom pair. Two appears to have a larger rack coupled with tremendous length of loin and hindsaddle. I recognize that 3 is more structurally correct, smoother shouldered, balanced and more attractive from the side, but this doesn't compensate the fact that 3 is the shortest bodied lamb and likely the lightest in weight lamb of the class, offering the least pounds of saleable product.

**Rod Geppert**