

LIVESTOCK GRADER

Livestock graders serve the purpose of assuring that accurate grades are placed on livestock or meat that is sold according to standards set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES WILL I HAVE?

- Determine the grade of market livestock with high accuracy based on the length of the animal, the degree of muscle, frame size and the amount of visible fat
- Weigh livestock using livestock scales
- Assign grades according to USDA standards
- Complete and file grading paperwork
- Keep abreast of specific livestock markets
- Attend livestock sales or visit sites like farms or feedlots where grading is requested
- Collect product information from sellers
- Work closely with marketing specialists and buyers
- Remain up to date on industry trends and news



WHAT EDUCATION & TRAINING IS REQUIRED?

Associate's or Bachelor's degree in animal science, meat science, agriculture or agribusiness; USDA certification also required

THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES ARE RECOMMENDED...

Agricultural education, anatomy, biology, government, economics; participate in livestock judging contests

TYPICAL EMPLOYERS

Government agencies like the Department of Agriculture; work in variety of environments

FUTURE JOB MARKET/OUTLOOK



SUGGESTED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

- American Meat Science Association
- National Meat Association

AVERAGE ANNUAL FULL-TIME SALARY

\$34,000