



PLOWING AND HOW IT IS JUDGED

A Lesson on Judging Competitive Plowing
Judges and Land Stewards Duties



PICTURES ARE TO SHOW ATTRIBUTES

Not to single anyone out for having mistakes or doing anything wrong.

Yes this is the disclaimer part!!

WHAT I WANT TO COVER

Review of the scorecard and how competition plowing lands are scored

Show antique, conventional, rollover or reversible and horse plowing lands

DEFINITION OF A JUDGE

- A person appointed to determine the result of a contest or competition
- A person who is able and qualified to give an opinion
- To form an opinion or conclusion about something
- To appraise critically

A person who by observing the land plowed, will in an unbiased and fair manor, judge a class of competitors in the proper order from 1st to last place using an IPM scorecard.

IPM SCORE CARD

International Plowing Match

Chute a Blondeau, Prescott-Russell, September 20-24, 2011

Day 1 Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Class 2 Group 3

JUDGES: Steve Speller

Field 2

STEWARDS: Mel McGuire, Bartley Bowman

Lot No.	SPLIT		Sub-Total	CROWN				Sub-Total	GENERAL WORK				Sub-Total	GENERAL APPEARANCE						Sub-Total	FINISH				Sub-Total	PENALTY			
	Straightness	Cut & Uniformity		Straightness	Closeness, Conformity	Burying Grass & Subble	Soil Available		Covering Grass	Closeness & Packing (No Holes)	Firmness	Soil Available		Straightness	Conformity	Distinctness of Furrow	Uniformity, Shape Of Furrow	Shape of Land	In & Out		Straightness	Grass & Neatness	Shallowness & Narrowness	Soil Available					
	10	10	20	10	10	10	10	40	10	10	10	10	40	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	40	(-)
94	7	6	13	6	6	7	6	25	7 ^s	7	7	7	28 ^s	6	7	7	6	6	5	37	5	7 ^s	6	6	6	6	24 ^s	12 ^s	
95	8	8	16	7	7	7 ^s	7	28 ^s	7 ^s	7	7 ^s	7	29	6	7	7	7	7 ^s	6	40 ^s	6	7	6	7	7	26	14 ^s		
96	5	4	9	6	6	6	7	25	7	6	7	7	27	7	7	7 ^s	6 ^s	7	7 ^s	42 ^s	6	6	6	7	7	25	12 ^s		
97	6	7	13	6	6 ^s	6 ^s	7	26	7	6 ^s	7 ^s	7	28	6 ^s	6	6	6	7 ^s	7	39	7	7	7	6	7	27	13 ^s		
98	5	5	10	6	6 ^s	6	6	21 ^s	7	7	7	7	28	5	7	7	7	6	5	37	5	4	5	5	5	19	16 ^s		
99	7	6	13	6	6	6	6	24	7	7	8	7	29	6	6	7	6	6	8	39	5	6	6	5	7	22	12		
100	7	5	12	6 ^s	6	6	7	25 ^s	7	6	6	6	24	7 ^s	8	8	7 ^s	7	6 ^s	44 ^s	7 ^s	7	6	5	7	25 ^s	13 ^s		
101	5	4	9	5	5	5	5	20	6	6	6	6	24	5	7	7	7	6	5	37	7	7	6	6	6	26	11 ^s		
102	4	5	9	5	6	6	6	23	6	7	7	6	26	5	6	6	6	7	7 ^s	37 ^s	5	6	6	7	7	25	13 ^s		
103	5	6	11	6	5	7	6	24	8	8	6	7	29	6	6	7	8	6	6	39	5	7	6	6	6	28	12 ^s		
104	6	6	12	6	3	5	4	17 ^s	7	6	7	6	26	6	5	6	7	5	5	34	5	6	5	5	5	21	5 ^s		

Steve Speller

LANO 104 Score 111
- Penalty -5
Total 106

PENALTY - 104 - 2 pts
h.b.

IPM SCORE CARD

This is a systematic approach which has provided a tool for consistent scoring across many types of plowing.

Horse walking and sulky plows

Antique drag and hydraulic plows

Conventional and Reversible plows (slight variation)

This system works for a beginner class at a local match up to the Canadian Championship Plowing competition.

ALL ATTRIBUTES ARE OUT OF 10

- Each and every column on the score sheet is out of 10
- Makes for an easier way to think about scoring a land
- It becomes a mindset of 10's

- How do we learn to come up with the numbers?
- Mentoring, training, Judges School or meetings, experience

- When Judges look at plowing we may ask ourselves when determining what number to write down....
- Is it perfect?
- How can it be better or improved on?
- Did they do a half a job?
- How low do we go on poor plowing?
- What number do we assign that attribute?



OPEN SPLIT

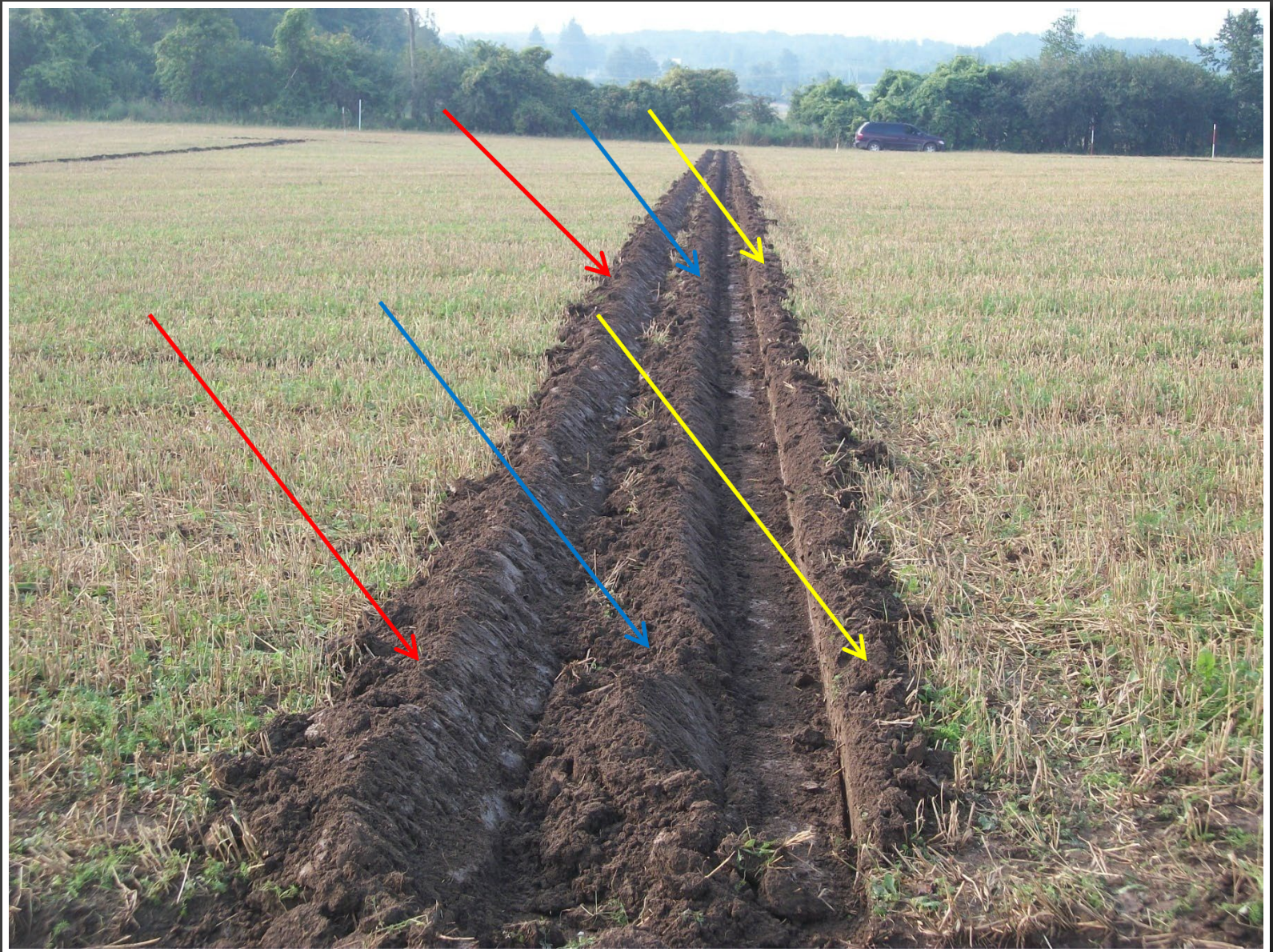
STRAIGHTNESS – 10 POINTS

CUT & UNIFORMITY – 10 POINTS



SPLIT

“The strip to be well cut through so that no land is left uncut. One round will be permitted in making opening split before judging. All sod, weeds, etc., cut so that no uncut area remains under crown furrows”



EACH INDIVIDUAL FURROW TO BE UNIFORM END TO END



Faults observed...

Centre furrow starts out small, gets larger by second arrow.

Front Furrows are more uniform!



This split will be scored low in cut and uniformity

Uncut grass or roots will lower the score on Cut & Uniformity

Uneven or lack of furrows will also lower the score on Cut & Uniformity



The split should have no grass or stubble anywhere inside of the split, either loose or still rooted in the soil.



Splits may look different from the middle of the field than they do from the ends!

YES WE DO USE PENCILS!!!



Reversible Opening Furrow is a single furrow scored the same.



Very uniform Opening Furrow!



STRAIGHTNESS IS IMPORTANT!

This is looked at from both ends of the field



CROWN - CONVENTIONAL

Straightness, Closeness & Conformity, Burying Grass & Stubble, Soil Available – 10 points each for a total of 40 points.



CROWN CONSISTS OF....

Horses – 6 rounds; Two Furrow – 4 heavy rounds

Three Furrow and larger – 3 heavy rounds



Horse Crown consists of 6 heavy rounds for both walking plows and sulky.



Reversible Crown consists of 8 heavy furrows

Straightness – 10 points

Cut & Uniformity – 10 points

Total of 20 points



4 FURROW OR 3 FURROW CROWN?

3 furrow may work better in loose soil or stubble. 4 furrow may work better in heavier soil or sod – Practice both to see what works best!

You will have 1 less furrow in your crown when doing a 3 furrow crown.



Closeness & Conformity

Front two furrows must meet and close so there is no open area between them.

Conformity means that each furrow in the land looks the same side by side.

All furrows should appear to have the same depth and width, and blend in well with the other plowing.

You should be able to lay a plowing stake over a crown and all the top edges touch it.



Closeness and Conformity

Do the front two furrows conform with the other furrows? They appear a little wider and flatter than the next furrows.

Burying Grass and Stubble

Nothing visible in this picture
Soil available –proper depth,
and body to make enough soil
available that if a set of
harrows were taken across on
a 30 degree angle, would create
a level seed bed.



Closeness & Conformity

1st two furrows are closed in but are too high. 2nd furrows on each side are too low.

Soil Available – not as much soil either side of 1st two furrows. Plowing somewhat flat looking without enough soil to make a good seedbed.



WHAT FAULTS DO YOU SEE HERE?

Open crowns, wheel marks, furrows not matching, no body to furrows.
This lowers score in Closeness & Conformity, Burying Grass & Stubble, and Soil Available.



GENERAL WORK

Covering Grass, Closeness & Packing(no holes), Firmness, Soil Available. 10 points each for a total of 40 points. This includes the entire land from Crown to Finish including the cast off.



GENERAL WORK is judged by walking across the land .



Covering Grass and Stubble –
“All grass, stubble and weeds
must be completely buried.”

Closeness & Packing (no holes)
– “The furrows should be well
packed and closed with no
openings between furrows”

Firmness – “The furrows
should be firm against one
another so that they do not
break down or collapse”

Soil available –proper depth,
and body to make enough soil
available that if a set of
harrows were taken across on
a 30 degree angle, would create
a level seed bed.



Packing & Closeness – Should not have open areas. Skimmer depth, pressure on moldboard, speed all can make a difference.



Although we can't walk across this land today, what would you expect to find???

The other point of this slide is to show that everyone has a bad day. This was plowed at the World competition!!



General Work for Reversible is scored the same way.



What would this be like to walk across? Sometimes it will surprise you how firm or soft plowing is until you walk across it!!!



Reversible Plowing

Connecting Furrow - 10 points
Butts – 10 points



The Connecting Furrow should be level with the balance of the plowing. There should be no dips or holes. All soil must be plowed.



Butts – “Visibility, Uniform,
No wheel marks”



REVERSIBLE IS A REAL CHALLENGE!!!

Connecting Furrow & Butts

From butts to finish must have 19 or 20 furrows



GENERAL APPEARANCE INCLUDES ALL FURROWS PLOWED

Straightness, Conformity, Distinctness of Furrow, Uniformity & Shape of Furrow, Shape of Land, Ins & Outs – 10 points each for a total of 60 points.



Conformity – Same depth and width of furrow. Furrows should appear to be the same all across the land. No paring. (The red lines are the same length).



Distinctness of furrow –
Furrows will appear to be well defined and distinct from each other. 10 points



Uniformity, Shape of Furrow –
Furrows should be the same shape, depth and width the length of the furrow. 10 points



Shape of Land – The proper relationship of crown to body of land to finish



Shape of Land – level crown
with the balance of the land.



SHAPE OF LAND

Problems earlier in lands can lose you points again in Shape of Land.
Good crowns, plowing and finishes will gain points in Shape of Land.



INS AND OUTS

“All soil inside the scratch furrows should be turned with a minimum amount of headland being disturbed by the plow.” The plow should be to plow depth as quickly as possible.



Ins and Outs

There are 10 points for Ins & Outs. Both ends of field are looked at for scoring.



FINISH

Straightness, grass & Neatness, Shallowness & Narrowness, Soil Available – 10 points each for a total of 40 points.



Finish - “includes the last 12 furrows (6 furrows on the throw out side of the finish and 5 furrows and the sole furrow on the crown side.” There is a misconception that it is only the last round of the plow.



Straightness – not only must the furrows be straight, they must be parallel. Note that the tire track crosses over 1 complete furrow instead of staying true all the way across the field. This lowers the score for straightness.



Grass & Neatness – “finish should be free from loose soil, weeds, etc.”

Shallowness & Narrowness – “Depth should not exceed the average depth of plowing in the field” The final or sole furrow should be at the same height as other furrows.

Soil Available – is there enough soil available to fill in the finish? Is the tire track up or looks like another finish?



Antique Finish no longer is to have a 4" step



Good Finish –

Straight

No grass or soil in bottom

Not too deep or wide

Lots of soil to fill in the finish

Sole furrow up as high as other furrows in the finish

No step at the base of the finish



These were tough conditions but....

Sub Soil was plowed up
Tire track not parallel and deep.

Sole furrow uneven and too small, front furrow too deep and wide

Looking over last 12 furrows they do not match up

Makes for a wide finish with not enough soil to fill in



Furrow that tire track ends up on was slightly larger when plowed.



Tire track kept up level with other plowing.

Furrows blend in well. No grass and very little soil in bottom of finish.



REVERSIBLE FINISH

Straightness, Neatness & Weed control, Final Furrow Level with Crown, No Unplowed or Replowed Soil 10 points each for a total of 40 points.



Reversible Finish has the Finish right beside the Crown. The Open Furrow is under the 1st Crown furrow.



Back coulters should cut the last of the unplowed soil but not cut the Crown furrow.



Reversible Finish

Final Furrow level with Crown
19 or 20 Furrows must be in
place from Connecting Furrow
to Finish

3 MAIN TIPS FOR PREPARATION FOR A PLOWING MATCH

- Practice
- Practice
- Practice!!!



Tips- Have your equipment ready!!!

Don't wait for the night before to prepare.



Sharpen shears, skimmers and coulters.

Have every adjustment working – the day of the match is not time to have to get things working.

Turnbuckles on mouldboards, coulters adjustments, top link and plow leveling cranks.

Replace any worn out bearings or other parts



Practice driving strait!

Straightness is in the scorecard 4 times! Practice cutting the grass straight, working ground straight, driving the 4 wheeler straight – every opportunity **PRACTICE!**



Ask others for help. Work together and critique each others work in a helpful way.



Every time you make a pass across the field look back and ask yourself – “How can I improve on what I am seeing?”



After each match and the end of the season get things cleaned up, well oiled and repairs done for the next match!



My last plowing tip – HAVE FUN – it's a challenge, meet great people, get to see other parts of Ontario.

My challenge to you is to compete next year at the IPM.

HOW TO BECOME A PLOWING JUDGE

- In May of 2007 Jim Armstrong, Judge in Chief at the time forwarded the following to OPA
- JUDGING GUIDELINES
- To encourage new Judges to be added to the judging list, they must attend 6 Branch Matches and accompany a qualified Judge and with assistance, and help score the classes.
- This must be documented as to the Judge and Branch Match attended.
- This was reviewed by Jim at the 2008 Annual Meeting and approved

FROM THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OR PRIZE LIST.....

- To encourage new Branch Judges they must attend 6 Branch Judges in Ontario and be accompanied by a qualified Judge and with assistance help score different classes. This must be documented as to who the Judge was and what Branch Match they attended.
- The final selection is at the discretion of the Judge in Chief and Assistant Judge in Chief and the names will be forwarded to the OPA Board of Directors for approval.

BECOMING A JUDGE

- Please contact the Ontario Plowmen's Association
- We would like to help in any way possible.
- Judging Guidelines are on the OPA website
- A person should have plowing or coaching experience
- Be physically fit to walk the fields and across the plowing
- Have good vision!
- Be able to be impartial and treat everyone fairly

STEWARDS DUTIES & OBJECTIVES

- To officiate over the plowing competition and see it is carried out in a fair manner, enforcing all the rules and assigning penalties if need be.
- Attend all info meetings prior to the start of competition
- Read and understand the rules of the competition as set out in the Official Handbook (prize list) or Local Plowing Match and be in a position and prepared to act on them.
- Proceed to the plowing field of the Class, either before or at the same time as the contestants.

STEWARDS DUTIES CONTINUED....

- Check to see that there is a lot for each contestant in your class, and that all lots are plowable. Report immediately to the Chief Steward and presiding Judge of any changes that are made to a lot location or number.
- Know your Class lot numbers and locations and direct competitors to them
- When all stakes are set by competitors, the Steward shall signal them to commence plowing.
- Record the time, watch for and record any plowmen who goes over the 20 min for split. Record any penalty on the time sheet.

STEWARDS DUTIES CONTINUED...

- After Judges are completed scoring the opening splits in Tractor Classes, the Steward will signal the contestants to commence plowing
- Please be at the end of the field where the Judge finishes to move things along quickly
- Record start time and calculate finish time (2hours and 40 minutes)
- Inform EACH CONTESTANT of the finish time and the current time on the Stewards watch.

STEWARDS DUTIES CONTINUED

- Monitor closely the class during the competition to ensure that no one is doing anything outside of the rules! Including coaching, dismounting on wrong side of tractors, tramping headlands etc.
- Record time of breakdowns and allow time for repairs according to the OPA rules.
- Do not travel together to cover a broader number of competitors at any one time.
- Monitor closely at the end of allotted time and record any competitor who is over the time limit and record the penalty.
- Sign and leave the time sheet with the Judge

CONCLUSIONS

- As Judges and Stewards of plowing competitions, we want to be sure that all competitors are treated and judged in a fair and equitable way according to the rules.
- I wish you all good luck and good plowing in the coming year!



Thank You – Steve Speller