

Evaluation Rubric for **Preliminary Examination** for PhD in the  
Animal and Dairy Sciences Graduate Programs  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Name of the Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Examination \_\_\_\_\_

**The mentor fills in the committee's assessment of the student's performance on this exam under the criteria listed below and sends the completed form to the student and to the Graduate Program Manager.**

<b>Assessment Criteria (circle one)</b>	<b>Does not meet Expectations</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>	<b>Exceeds Expectations</b>
Written communication of either a research plan or answers to written preliminary exam questions are clear and demonstrate sound written communication skills.	1      2	3      4	5      6
Orally communicates the research plan or answers to preliminary exam questions with clarity. Demonstrates an ability to formulate responses upon request.	1      2	3      4	5      6
Either through a proposal or responses to questions, demonstrates the ability to identify a research problem in the context of the current state of the disciplinary field. Can develop a testable hypothesis to answer an applied or basic question.	1      2	3      4	5      6
Understands experimental designs and statistical models/approaches to test hypotheses. Understands relevant methodologies.	1      2	3      4	5      6
Demonstrates critical thinking and the ability to synthesize, integrate and critique scientific literature in the context of a research problem.	1      2	3      4	5      6
Demonstrates a strong command of the literature within the research area.	1      2	3      4	5      6
Portrays breadth in understanding of peripheral research fields.	1      2	3      4	5      6
Aware of the broader implications of the research field.	1      2	3      4	5      6
<b>Overall Evaluation (circle one)</b>	<b>1      2</b>	<b>3      4</b>	<b>5      6</b>

**Overall Strengths** (if needed, please add additional sheet for comments)

**Areas for Growth** (if needed, please add additional sheet for comments)

**Outcome of Prelim Exam (circle one)** Passed / Failed

**Faculty Advisor Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_