

Guide For Livestock Showmanship Contest



BEEF

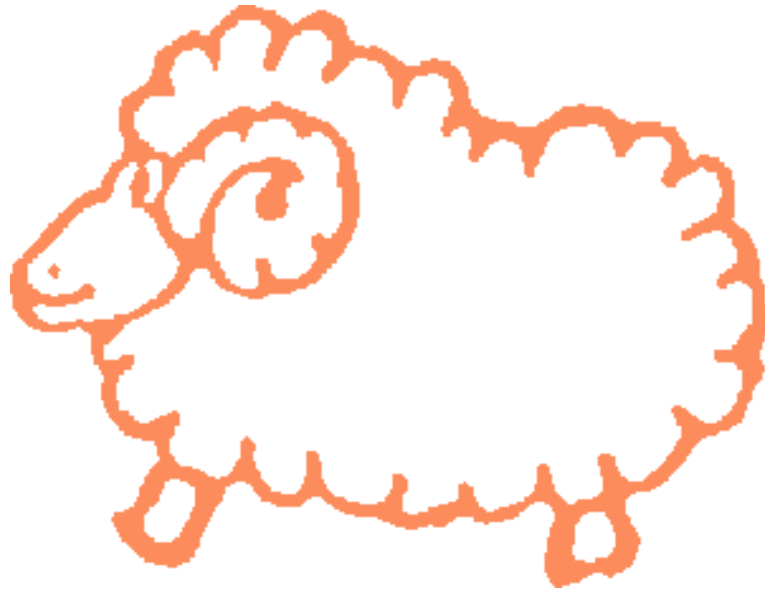
SHEEP

SWINE

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
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Introduction



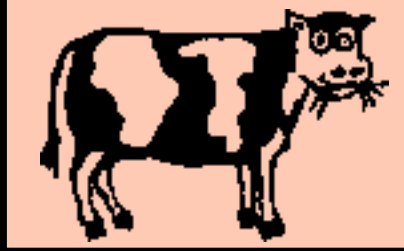
Fitting and showing is the art of training, grooming, and showing livestock to make them more presentable in competitive exhibitions.

Judging of a showmanship contest is based on preparation of animals for show, their apparent training, and the appearance and behavior of the participating showmen. Animal confirmation should not be considered except as it may affect the way an animal should be fitted and shown. Fine or technical points should not be over emphasized to the extent that they are given more weight than an effective overall job of presenting a clean animal, nor should minor infractions result in the disqualification of a showman. Basic skills in both grooming and showing should not be confused with current fads and trends.

Following is an outline of desirable showmanship practices and the relative importance of each. The showmanship judge should make placings according to the degree of excellence displayed in carrying out these practices. Exhibitors should use this guide in preparing for showmanship contests. This guide is approved for all 4-H Beef, Sheep, and Swine Showmanship Contests in Nebraska and Iowa.

At most county fairs, showmanship is evaluated by the live animal judge at either the beginning or end of the species show. Showmanship contests at regional shows and most state fairs are conducted with separate judges evaluating exhibitors during the show and making final selections at the end of the show. Exhibitors should become familiar with the premium list for the show so all animals will be groomed and exhibited in a manner consistent with the show rules.

BEEF SHOWMANSHIP SCORE CARD



(100 points possible)



APPEARANCE OF CALF

Perfect Score

40 points

1. Cleanliness

10

- a. Hair and switch clean and free of stains.
- b. Hide clean and free of dust and dandruff.
- c. Legs and hooves clean.
- d. Halter clean and properly adjusted.

2. Grooming

20

- a. Hair handled in a manner best suited to the individual calf. Long hair may be curled or it may be pulled forward and blocked. Short, stiff hair may be shown smooth. In some cases, areas may be brushed smooth, while other areas, such as the rounds, may be fluffed or pulled up to emphasize thickness or perhaps to minimize some deficiency. Short hair may be slick shorn (with the fall of the hair).
- b. Hooves trimmed and shaped so that the animal can stand straight; trimming done early enough so the animal's feet are not sore and so the animal has had time to adjust. Trimming to cause excessive straightness is discouraged. Hooves should be oiled. The addition of unnatural color or other compounds should be discounted.
- c. Horns (if present) curved, shaped, and polished.
- d. The switch may be left natural, fluffed, ratted, or formed at twist height.
- e. The addition of natural or synthetic hair or hair-like materials should be discouraged and severely discounted in a showmanship contest. A complete tail switch may be added if desired.
- f. Animals groomed with compounds which rub off color should receive lowest possible ribbon placing or disqualification.

3. Clipping

10



- a. Major clipping done about one week before show.
- b. Head clipped on polled or dehorned market calf, never clipped on horned animal but may be trimmed and cleaned up if necessary. Head clipped from ears forward and over top of poll, if desired. Ears or eyelashes never clipped. Hair blended from clipped to unclipped part.
- c. Head of polled breeding heifer clipped unless breed custom dictates. Head of horned breeding heifer not clipped.
- d. Tail clipped from a point above the twist upward to the tailhead. Tailhead never clipped but long hairs trimmed and area from clipped to unclipped parts blended.

B.

SHOWING CALF

Perfect Score

40 points

1. Parading and Changing Positions

10



- a. Calf led from left side; lead strap held in the right hand from 1 to 2 feet from the head and at height of calf's poll. Extra length of lead strap balanced between left and right hands or carried in the form of several large folds in right hand. Extremely short lead straps may not require folds. Wrapping strap around hand should be severely discounted. Exhibitor never leads calf while walking backwards.
- b. Backward pressure applied with the lead strap and by pressing on the point of the shoulder to back calf out of line.
- c. Halter should be properly adjusted and show stick of suitable length.
- d. Calf also may be moved out of line by leading forward, then back through the line.
- e. Calf led in clockwise direction when necessary to parade it or move it to a different line.
- f. About 6 feet of space maintained between exhibitor calf and next calf in front.

2. Posing in Ring

15



- a. When pulled into line, showman keeps calf in position at least 3 feet from calf to the left.
- b. Exhibitor faces calf and holds lead strap in left hand while showing.
- c. Calf stands alert with head up, back level, and legs placed squarely under the body.
- d. Show stick used to place calf's hind feet. Either show stick or exhibitor's foot used to place calf's front feet.
- e. Exhibitor keeps whereabouts of judge in mind and has calf in position when judge looks at him.

- f. Proper to let calf relax and brush or comb calf when judge is at other end of ring.
- g. Exhibitor posing calves in a location to block judge's view of other animals should be severely discounted.

3. Cooperation with Judge **15**



- a. Awareness of position of judge maintained but not made obvious.
- b. Exhibitor does not obstruct view of judge.
- c. Calf maneuvered into improved position for benefit of judge's inspection before but not during inspection.
- d. Exhibitor steps aside if judge desires front view inspection.



APPEARANCE AND MERITS OF EXHIBITOR

Perfect Score

20 points

1. Appearance **10**



- a. Exhibitor well groomed and clothes reasonably clean and neat.
- b. It is suggested that no headwear be worn in class. However, the final decision on headwear is left to the individual show.
- c. Dark blue jeans are preferred. Shorts are inappropriate. Extremes in colors and fit are inappropriate. Belts should be worn with trousers with carriers or loops.
- d. White shirt (or blouse) with the official 4-H chevron, a 4-H T-shirt or official shirt (or blouse) provided by show management are appropriate. However, the final decision on dress code is left to the individual show.
- e. Hard soled shoes or boots should be worn. Other footwear is inappropriate.

2. Merits **10**



- a. Brings calf into ring promptly.
- b. Recognizes quickly and corrects faults of calf.
- c. Works quickly but not abruptly.
- d. Alert and responsive to judge's and ringmaster's requests.
- e. Not distracted by people, activities, and objects outside ring.
- f. Shows calf, not himself/herself.
- g. Does not leave ring until released by ring official.
- h. Displays a courteous and sportsmanlike attitude while at the show.
- i. Gives prompt answers to questions related to 4-H beef project (e.g., age, breed, nutrition, pregnancy status, performance, carcass value).

SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP SCORE CARD



(100 points possible)

A.

APPEARANCE OF LAMB

Perfect Score

40 points

1. Cleanliness

25

- a. Wool clean, dry, and free of foreign matter.
- b. Flanks, feet, and legs clean.
- c. Ears and nose clean.
- d. Addition of color or addition of natural or synthetic materials to any part of the animal should receive a white ribbon in showmanship contests or disqualification.

2. Trimming

15

- a. Desirable that fleece of market lambs and meat type breeding ewes be tight sheared. Wool may be left below knees, hocks, and forward of ears.
- b. Fleece of breeding ewes trimmed to a length of $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, or in the case of wool breeds, a length which is appropriate for the standard of their breed.
- c. Feet trimmed so that lamb walks and stands naturally and correctly.

B.

SHOWING LAMB

Perfect Score

40 points

1. Posing and Changing Positions

30

- a. Lamb kept well posed at all times but exhibitor not engaged in undue fussing or maneuvering.
- b. Lamb shows evidence of training as indicated by responsiveness to handling.
- c. Exhibitor should always have lamb between judge and self. However, an exhibitor stepping over or around behind animal should be severely penalized.
- d. Exhibitor shows while standing or in squatting position except when moving lamb to a new position.
- e. Lamb led from side with one hand under jaw and the other hand at the dock if lamb needs to be encouraged to move.
- f. At ring steward's direction, always maintain reasonable distance from next animal.

- g. It is proper to let lamb relax (keep in position) when judge is at other end of arena.
- h. Lamb held firm for handling by two hands holding chin and press back against the forward pressure of the lamb. Lifting feet off ground or placing on any support should be severely penalized in a showmanship contest.
- i. Physical contacts with lambs that appear to be abusive (e.g., slapping, pinching, etc.) should be disqualified in a showmanship contest.

2. Cooperation with Judge **10**



- a. Awareness of position of judge maintained, but not obvious.
- b. Body not permitted to obstruct view of judge.
- c. Lamb maneuvered into position for benefit of judge's inspection before, not during, inspection.
- d. Exhibitors posing animals in a manner to block view of other animals in class should be severely penalized.



APPEARANCE AND MERITS OF EXHIBITOR

Perfect Score

20 points

1. Appearance **10**



- a. Exhibitor well groomed and clothes clean and neat.
- b. Although the final decision on headwear is left to the individual show, it is suggested that no headwear be worn in class.
- c. Footwear should be comfortable, appear neat, and be substantial enough to provide protection without detracting from exhibit.
- d. Dark blue jeans are preferred. Shorts are inappropriate. Extremes in colors and fit are inappropriate. A belt should be worn with trousers with carriers or loops.
- e. White shirt (or blouse) with the official 4-H chevron, a 4-H T-shirt or official shirt (or blouse) provided by show management are appropriate. However, the final decision on dress code is left to the individual show.

2. Merits **10**



- a. Brings lamb into ring promptly.
- b. Responsive to judge's and ringmaster's requests.
- c. Works quickly but not abruptly.
- d. Recognizes quickly and corrects faults of lamb.
- e. Not distracted by people, activities, and objects outside ring. (Ringside coaching is considered a distraction.)
- f. Shows animal, not himself/herself.
- g. Does not leave ring until released by ring official.
- h. Displays a courteous and sportsmanlike attitude while at the show.
- i. Gives prompt answers to questions related to the 4-H sheep project (e.g., breed, sex, age, nutrition, stage of pregnancy, carcass value, growth performance).

SWINE SHOWMANSHIP SCORE CARD



(100 points possible)

A.

APPEARANCE OF PIG

Perfect Score

40 points

1. Cleanliness

15

- a. Hair and hide clean and free of dandruff.
- b. Feet and legs clean and hooves scraped.

2. Grooming

15

- a. Hair brushed in direction that it grows.
- b. Pig should be shown without hair dressing.
- c. Pig sprinkled with water on warm days is appropriate.

3. Clipping

10

- a. Tail clipped from switch to tail setting or left unclipped.
- b. Ears clipped (inside and outside) or left unclipped.

B.

SHOWING PIG

Perfect Score

40 points

1. Presenting Pig to Judge

30

- a. Small whip, bat, or short cane used to direct pig around arena. Pig should be gently prompted in correct places. Pig should not be touched with hands.
- b. Pig shown at slow walk except when judge indicates a desire for exhibitor to halt for closer observation.
- c. Pig never allowed to assume an awkward position when standing still. No attempts made to place pigs feet by handling them.
- d. Pig not forced to make abrupt turns in show ring or permitted to walk into a spot from which it must back out.

- e. Exhibitor should never block judge's view.
- f. Do not punish a pig for lying down. Gently encourage pig to stand and continue to show.

2. Cooperation with Judge **10**



- a. Awareness of position of judge maintained but not made obvious.
- b. Pig kept in clear view of judge at all times.
- c. Pig kept in open area about 10 to 20 feet, from judge, never in crowded area within a few feet of judge.
- d. Pig brought to immediate halt if judge indicates a desire to inspect it standing.

C.

APPEARANCE AND MERITS OF EXHIBITOR

Perfect Score 20 points

1. Appearance **10**



- a. Exhibitor well groomed and clothes clean and neat.
- b. Although the final decision on headwear is left to the individual show, it is suggested that no headwear be worn in class.
- c. Dark blue jeans are preferred. Shorts are inappropriate. Extremes in colors and fit are inappropriate. A belt should be worn with trousers with carriers or loops.
- d. White shirt (or blouse) with the official 4-H chevron, a 4-H T-shirt or official shirt (or blouse) provided by show management are appropriate. However, the final decision on dress code is left to the individual show.
- e. Prefer shoes or boots that provide adequate protection and comfort for exhibitor.
- f. Exhibitor may carry a small brush if needed.

2. Merits **10**



- a. Brings pig into ring promptly.
- b. Responsive to judge's and ringmaster's requests.
- c. Works quickly but not abruptly.
- d. Recognizes quickly and corrects faults of pig.
- e. Not distracted by people, activities, and objects outside ring.
- f. Shows animal, not himself/herself.
- g. Does not leave ring until released by ring official.
- h. Displays a courteous and sportsmanlike attitude while at the show.
- i. Gives prompt answers to questions related to the 4-H swine project (e.g., age, breed, sex, growth performance, reproductive performance, ear notches, carcass value).

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