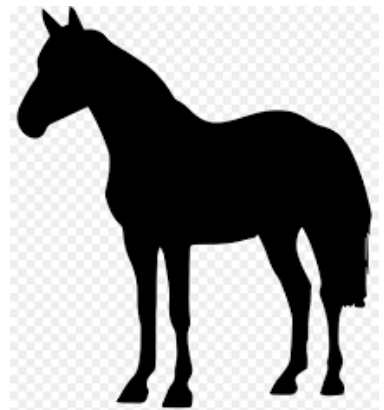
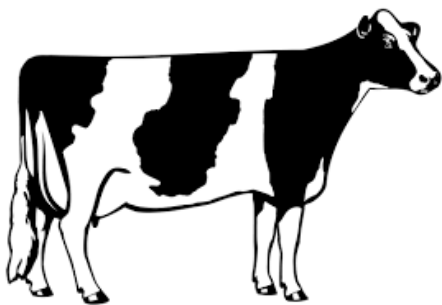


Isabella County Youth and Farm Fair

Overall Showmanship Guide

Compiled 2022



Dairy Cattle

Dairy Showmanship is all about making the cow look good and knowing that every move has a purpose.

Showing Tips

1. Upon entering the show ring, you should have only your cow and a show halter.
2. When leading, the halter should be held firmly in the exhibitor's left hand, with the hand inside the halter wrapped around the ring with a firm grip on the chain. Never lead an animal with your fingers inside the halter's ring. The lead strap should be looped loosely in the right hand.
3. When in the show ring you will almost always be walking in a clockwise direction, so this is how you should practice when preparing for the overall.
4. When showing, always stay on the cows left side. Face at an angle, in a position far enough away to see the stance of her feet and topline.
5. The judge will ask you to walk around the ring and then stop to set up your animal.
6. Setting your cow up: When setting up your animal in the ring the two front feet will always be squared. When it comes to the back legs, pay close attention to whether you're handling a heifer or a cow. "Heifer" refers to the age of a cow 1 year of age until she has delivered her first calf, therefore bearing no udder. When showing a heifer and setting her up, you want to have her back leg closest to the judge further back (staggered). Whenever the judge changes positions, the cow's legs should follow.
7. "Cow" refers to a dairy animal that has calved and is now producing milk with a visible udder intact. When setting up a cow, the animal's back leg closest to the judge should be slightly forward. With the back foot slightly forward, this gives the judge a better view of the rear udder.
8. When leading the cow around the ring, make sure the head is held high at all times. This gives the cow a longer, taller look and gives the exhibitor more control over the animal.
9. If your animal decides to act up in the ring, the most important thing is to keep calm and exhibit patience.

Common Judging Questions

- What is the gestation period of a dairy cow? 9 months
- Which breed produces the most pounds per day of milk? Holstein
- How many pounds per day of milk does a Holstein produce? 54 – 80 lbs. per day
- Which breed produces the highest butterfat content? Jersey
- The standard length of lactation of a dairy cow is? 305 days
- A dairy heifer should be first bred at what age? 20 – 24 months
- The first milk secreted after parturition is colostrum. Colostrum is vital because it contains what? Antibodies
- An inflammation of the mammary gland results in what? Mastitis
- For milk let down to occur, what hormone is stimulated by the calf or milker? Oxytocin
- The average cow reaches maturity and maximum milk production at what age? 6 years
- Dairy calves are typically weaned at what age? 6 – 8 weeks
- What does "DA" stand for? Displaced Abomasum (when the stomach fills with gas and rises to the top of the abdomen)
- What breed of dairy cow are you showing right now?

Sheep

Showing Tips

1. In the ring, walk in a straight line at a moderate pace. A lamb walking at a natural pace is more attractive to the judge.
2. Place one hand beneath the jaw of your animal and the other hand behind the ears. Having both hands on your animal gives you more control. Keep your animal's head up and ears forward to make your sheep look alert.
3. Keep your eyes on the judge at all times and follow instructions or hand signals.
4. Never block the judge from viewing your sheep.
 - a. Switch sides to always keep the sheep between you and the judge – like a sandwich. Never walk behind your sheep to switch sides.
5. When you stop, set your animal up as quickly and smoothly as possible.
 - a. All four feet should be set square at the corners, like the legs of a table.
 - b. Use your hands to pick up a leg above the hock and place it in the appropriate spot.
 - c. If you cannot reach, use your knee and apply pressure to the brisket (chest).
 - d. The more correct the animal's conformation, the more naturally it will stand squarely.
 - e. Set the legs closest to the judge first.
6. When the judge is handling your animal, be sure to brace. Bracing is when you encourage your sheep to flex the muscles in their loin and legs.
 - a. To brace your lamb, push your knee into the brisket or shoulder area so your lamb pushes against you and flexes. There are many techniques to train your lamb to brace, but the most important thing is to practice.
7. Keep one "sheep length" of space between yourself and the other showmen. The judge should be able to walk between each animal.
8. If your animal gets loose, remain calm and work with the ring stewards to catch your animal. Return to your position in the ring.
9. Stay in line with the other showmen.

Common Questions Asked

- What are some meat breeds? Suffolk, Dorset, Southdown, Hampshire
- What disease is the biggest problem in the sheep industry that affects the central nervous system and has no known cure? Scrapies
- What is the purpose of a scrapies tag? To trace the (bacteria/sickness) scrapies back to the farm where the lamb was bought.
- What is the feed conversion ratio for market lambs? 7 lbs. feed/1 lb. gain
- What is the average daily weight gain of a market lamb? 0.4 – 0.8 lbs.
- What is the approximate percent crude protein that growing lambs should be fed? 14 – 16%
- Name three commonly used grains in sheep rations. Oats, corn, barley, wheat, rye and sorghum

Market Beef and Dairy Feeder Showmanship

Showing Tips

1. Be prepared to answer questions about your animal and the cattle industry.
2. When leading, walk on the calf's left side with the lead in your right hand. Hold your hand 6 to 12 inches from the animal's head on the lead strap.
3. ALWAYS turn into your animal when changing positions or repositioning your animal.
4. When the judge handles your calf, use a comb to reposition the hair on the calf (judge watches for this).
5. When pulling into line, leave about 3 feet between you and the calf to your left.
6. Face the calf, switch the lead strap to the left hand and show stick to your right hand and back into line
7. No matter the placing at the end of the show, feel confident knowing that you have competed and presented yourself and your animal to the best of your ability and in a professional manner.
8. Always move quickly to your new position when given the signal by the judge
9. When setting up your calf up:
 - a. Switch the lead strap from the right hand to your left hand quickly and smoothly.
 - b. Switch the show stick from your left hand to your right hand.
 - c. Slowly scratch the calf's belly a couple of times to help calm the calf.
 - d. Set the calf's feet in the appropriate position. Set the rear feet first. To move a rear foot back, push backward on the lead and use the show stick to press (do not jab) the soft tissue between the toes in the cleft of the hoof. To move a rear foot forward, pull on the lead and use the show stick to apply pressure under the dew claw. You can move its front feet by using your boot or show stick to apply pressure on the foot while pushing or pulling with the halter lead in the desired direction you want the foot to move.
 - e. When cattle are lined up side by side in a straight line, the feet should be set on all four corners.
 - f. When the cattle are lined on the profile (head to tail), stagger the rear feet so your near side foot is slightly in front of the foot closest to the judge
10. Do not "saw" your calf in half with the show stick. Use slow, calm strokes with the show stick.
11. Do not make noises or rattle the chain of the halter.
12. Remember to allow proper distance between calves, and set the calf up at its best.
13. As the judge pulls cattle from the profile line, empty spaces occur. As spaces between cattle become empty, move forward in the line.
14. Pushing the calf's head away from you prevents the possibility of the calf stepping on your foot, causing harm to you or the calf.

Common Questions Asked

- What is the feed conversion ratio for cattle? 7 lbs. feed/1 lb. gain
- About what % of water will a calf drink of its body weight in cold weather? 8% ...and in hot weather? 19%
- What is the average daily weight gain of a market steer? a. 2.0 – 4 lbs./day
- What is the approximate percent crude protein that growing cattle should be fed? a. 12 – 16%
- What is the most common concentrate in beef rations? a. Corn
- What is the normal temperature of a cow? a. 101.0°F
- The gestation period for a cow is...? a. 285 days (9 months, 7 days)
- How many stomachs does a steer have? Name them. a. 4: Rumen, Omasum, Abomasum, and Reticulum
- What are the top cattle producing states? a. Texas, Nebraska, Kansas, California, Oklahoma
- The acceptable weight range of an ideal market steer should be...? a. 1250 – 1350 lbs.
- What are the names of three retail cuts of beef? a. Round steak, rib eye roast, arm pot roast, T-bone steak, skirt steak, brisket, sirloin steak, short ribs, back ribs, chuck eye roast.

Swine Showmanship

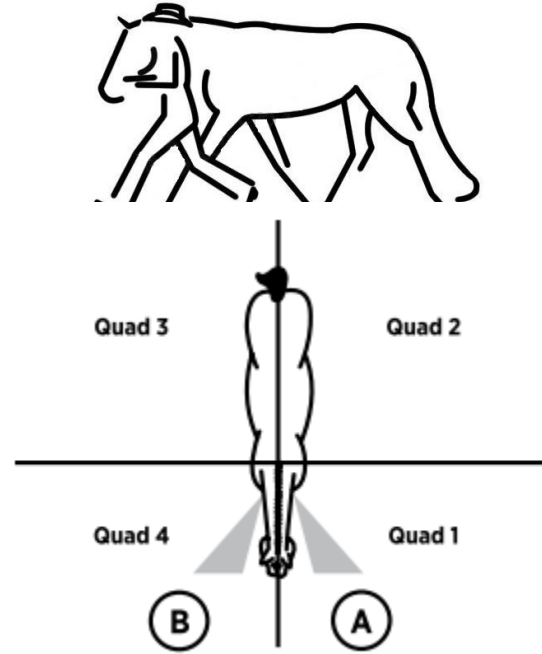
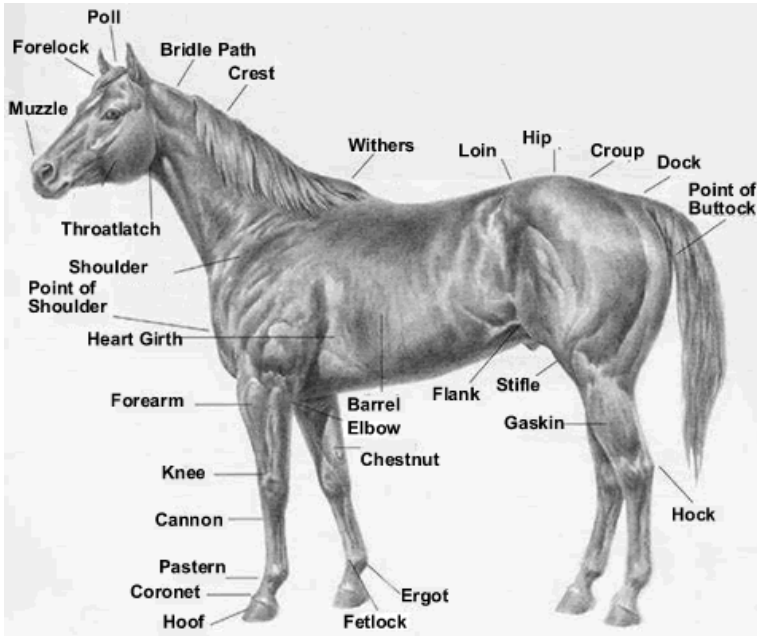
Showing Tips

1. Keep your eyes on the judge.
2. Don't use feet or knees to get your pigs moving, but you can use your hands if pigs stop along a fence or in a corner.
3. Keep the pig in between you and the judge at all times.
4. When a judge tells you to go to a pen, leave the pig to go open the gate, then get your pig and bring the pig to the pen.
5. Pay attention in the holding pen before entering the ring – locate judge.
6. Head pig off before it gets to a corner.
7. Stay out of groups.
8. Show intensity by being focused.
9. Keep hog moving 10-15 feet away from the judge.
10. Keep one eye on the pig and one on the judge.
11. Show from the hip of the pig. Do not walk behind the pig and look like you are following.
12. Don't beat your pig with the show whip or show stick.

Common Questions Asked

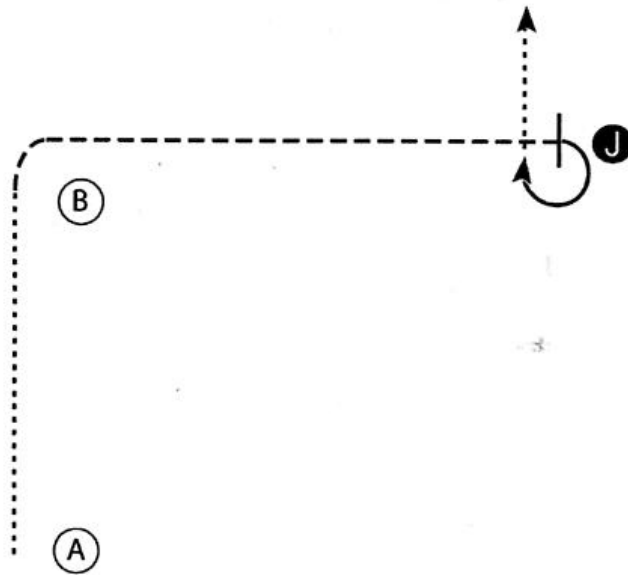
- What is the feed conversion ratio for a hog? 3 lbs. feed/1 lb. gain
- What is the average daily weight gain of a hog? 1 – 2.8 lbs.
- What are some common breeds? Hampshire, Yorkshire, Berkshire, Blue Butt (Hampshire/Yorkshire cross), Duroc
- Young pigs are fed a diet containing what percent of crude protein? 20 – 22%
- Finishing pigs are fed a diet containing what percent of crude protein? 13 – 15%
- Name three commonly used nutrients in hog rations to provide energy? Corn, wheat, milo, barley, oats
- What are three examples of feed ingredients used as a protein source in a ration? Soybean meal, blood meal, fish meal, dried whey
- What is the normal temperature of a hog? 101.5°F - 102.5°F
- The gestation period for a sow is...? 3 months, 3 weeks, 3 days
- How many pigs are typically born in a litter? 9 - 13
- Name a disease swine may get. Parvovirus, leptospirosis, transmissible gastroenteritis, baby pig anemia, brucellosis
- What are the top hog producing states? a. Iowa, Minnesota, North Carolina, Illinois, Indiana
- The acceptable weight range of an ideal hog should be...? a. 240 – 300 lbs.
- True or False: Compared to 50 years ago, pigs today are leaner. True

Overall Horse Showmanship



- The exhibitor should lead from the left side of the horse, holding the lead shank in the right hand about 8 to 12 inches from the halter. Smaller exhibitors may need a longer hold. Emphasis should be placed on light control of the horse with minimum pressure on the lead shank to allow the horse to hold its head naturally. Any excess strap length should be held loosely in the left hand in a loose loop for safety. The hands will never change on the lead at any point while showing. The arms should be held at a 90 degree bend, held tight to the body and should not swing when walking or running.
- The horse should move readily and freely at a walk and trot with very little urging by the exhibitor. The exhibitor should stay in position by the near (left) side of the horse's neck, preferably halfway between the horse's head and shoulder. A well-trained horse will move rapidly at a gait and speed equal to the speed at which the exhibitor is moving.
- The horse should move out quickly and quietly when signaled to do so by the exhibitor. When moving toward or away from the judge, the horse should be kept in a straight line. The exhibitor should move in a brisk, alert manner and allow enough slack in the lead rope for the horse's head to move freely.
- When stopping the horse in front of the judge, the exhibitor should stop approximately a horse length away.
- Setting up for Inspection - Turn to face your horse but do not touch the horse to square the feet. Put slight pressure by a gentle push or pull on the lead until the horse squares (lines up) it's feet you wish to move.
- Inspection – The judge will walk completely around the horse. The horse's body is divided into four quarters (See Diagram above). The exhibitor should always be in the opposite quarter from the judge, crossing over in front of the horse each time the judge moves into a new quarter. The exhibitor position is shown as A & B in the Diagram. Example: Exhibitor is in position A, the judge travels around the right side of the horse from quad 4 to quad 3. When the judge passes into quad 3 the exhibitor shall cross over to position B. As the judge crosses into quad 2 the exhibitor shall cross back to position A. As the judge crosses into quad 1 the exhibitor shall cross back to position B. The exhibitor is to remain in position B until the judge acknowledges the end of the inspection, at which time the exhibitor will return to position A and complete the remainder of the pattern.
- Pivots will be made to the right. Ideally the horse will pivot on the right hind leg but pivoting on the left is allowed. The pivot foot should remain steady and the horse should not switch feet while turning.

Overall Horse Showmanship Pattern



1. Walk from A to B.
2. Trot from B to the Judge.
3. Stop and set up for inspection.
4. When dismissed perform a 270 degree turn and walk straight away from the Judge.

