

STANDARDS FOR JUDGING SHOWMANSHIP

A. APPEARANCE OF ANIMAL – 30 POINTS

1. Cleanliness – 10 points

The best fitted animals are always extremely clean. Hair and switch must be completely clean and free of stains.

2. Grooming – 10 points

Hair properly groomed and hide soft and pliable. Hair dresser and powder should not be used in excess. Excessive manipulation of hair is undesirable; however, top lines may be blow dried and hair spray used to straighten top lines.

3. Clipping – 5 points

Final clipping should be done just before the show. Clipped and unclipped areas should be smoothly blended so clipper lines do not show. Head, neck, ears, tail, udder (for cows), and elsewhere clipped as needed. Front and rear legs should be clipped to give the appearance of greater flatness of bone and to remove stains. Withers are clipped to a sharp point to improve angularity. Body clipping is acceptable, but additional credit should not be give for professional clipping. Belly and udder should not be clipped on heifers that have not freshened and are not springing close.

4. Condition and thriftiness, showing normal growth, being neither too fat of too thin – 5 points

B. APPEARANCE OF EXHIBITOR – 10 POINTS

Clothes and person should be neat and clean. An all-white uniform is required. The show harness or hat with entry number displayed will be considered part of the uniform and must be displayed while in the show ring. Durable, protective shoes are recommended. Uniforms bearing farm names or advertising will not be acceptable in the show ring.

C. SHOWING THE ANIMAL – 60 POINTS

1. Leading – 25 points

- a. Enter leading the animal at a normal walk around the ring in a clockwise direction, walking opposite the head on the left side, holding lead strap with the right hand

- quite close to the halter with the strap neatly but naturally (not coiled) gathered in one or both hands. Holding close to the halter or with the hand inside the halter ensure a more secure control of the animal.
- b. Animal should lead readily and respond quickly to the exhibitor. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to respond quickly with the animal to the signs given by the judge.
 - c. The halter should be of the right type for showing dairy cattle, fitting properly and placed correctly on the animal. Nose band should fit across the bridge of the nose midway between the eyes and the muzzle. A leather halter with leather or chain lead is preferred.
 - d. As the judge studies your animal, the preferred method of leading is walking slowly facing the animal and holding the lead strap in the left hand with the remainder of it neatly, but naturally gathered in one or both hands. At all other times walk facing forward at a quicker pace. When given the signal to pull into line, move quickly to that position in the ring.
 - e. Lead at a comfortable pace with the animal's head held high enough for impressive style, attractive carriage, and graceful walk. Never allow a large gap to occur between your animal and the one ahead of you. Do not crowd the exhibitor ahead of you nor lead in front of that animal so that it cannot be seen by the judge.

2. Posing – 15 Points

- a. When posing, stay on the animal's left side and stand faced at an angle to her in a position far enough away to see the stance of her feet and top line.
- b. Pose animal with her feet squarely placed. The hind leg nearest the judge is posed slightly behind the other one when showing heifers. The hind leg nearest the judge should be far enough ahead to allow the judge to see both the fore and rear udder when exhibiting cows.
- c. Animal should be trained so the exhibitor can move it quickly and easily into the correct pose. The position of the rear legs should be reversed when the judge moves around to view the animal from the other side. Do not over show. When judge is observing animal, let it stand when posed reasonable well.

- d. Face animal uphill if possible with front feet on slight incline.
- e. Always move quickly into line when given the signal by a judge. Neither crowd the exhibitor next to you nor leave enough space for another animal when you lead into a side-by-side position.
- f. Animal may be backed out of line when the judge requests that its placing be changed. Move animal back by exerting pressure on the shoulder point with the thumb and finger of the right hand while pushing back with the halter. Many prefer to lead animal forward and around the end of line or back through the line. Do not lead animal between judge and animal being observed. To move animal ahead, pull gently on the lead strap.
- g. Do most of the showing with the halter lead strap and avoid stepping on animal's hind feet to move them.

3. Show animal to best advantage – 10 points

- a. Quickly recognize the conformation faults of the animal you are leading and show her to overcome them. You may be asked to exchange with another exhibitor and show a different animal.
- b. For the judge to evaluate the animal properly, it is vital that the exhibitor know basic information such as birth date, fresh date, breeding date, and due date. Knowledge of this information will help show the animal to its best advantage.

4. Poise, alertness, and attitude – 10 points

- a. Keep an eye on your animal and be aware of the position of the judge at all times. Do not be distracted by people or activities outside the ring.
- b. Show the animal at all times and not yourself.
- c. Respond promptly to requests from the judge and officials.
- d. Be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times.
- e. Keep showing until class has been placed and judge has given reasons.