



North Dakota 4-H Livestock Showmanship Guide

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NDSU EXTENSION
SERVICE

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Showmanship is the art of training, grooming and showing animals to make them more presentable in competitive exhibitions. This guide will help youth learn the standard methods of showing livestock, specifically beef, dairy, sheep, goats and swine.

Showmanship contests are based on preparation of the animal, the animal's apparent training, and the appearance and abilities of the show person. Animal conformation should not be considered unless it affects the way an animal is fitted and shown.

Fine or technical points need not be overemphasized to the point they are given more weight than the effective presentation of a clean and well-trained animal. Minor infractions should not result in disqualification of an exhibitor.

In any showmanship contest, the judge's decision is final. The judge may use different criteria than what is in this guide in selecting top show exhibitors.

The North Dakota 4-H Livestock Committee believes the practices in this publication are most acceptable when considering the well-being of the animal and exhibitor.

Exhibitor Responsibilities

Exhibiting livestock at shows is a privilege that comes with responsibility.

All animal owners are responsible for the welfare of their animals. Exhibitors are expected to provide adequate feed, water, bedding and housing for the comfort of their animals. The exhibitor is responsible for making arrangements for appropriate care if he or she is unable to be present.

The humane treatment of animals is expected, and abuse will not be tolerated. The comfort and safety of the animal must be addressed throughout the fair. Nonstressed animals will perform better for the handler. Exhibitors are expected to handle their animals in a gentle and calm manner and not create undue excitement in the vicinity of other livestock or people.

In addition, exhibitors must agree to follow the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) National Code of Show Ring Ethics (the first paragraph is printed here).

Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to junior as well as open-class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show. In addition to the "IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics," fairs and livestock shows may have rules and regulations which they impose on the local, county, state, provincial and national levels.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR

4-H/FFA Livestock Drug Withdrawal Form

In regard to the use of animal health aids, growth promotants or other livestock substances, **I am aware that:**

- Chemical substances used in livestock production or disease control have approved withdrawal times before slaughter.
- Information on specific use and withdrawal times can be found on product label instructions.
- Tranquilizers and other nonapproved substances should not be used for food animals.

Therefore, I certify that the animals I bring to this show have *(check one)*

_____ while in my ownership, never have been given any substance that requires a withdrawal time from slaughter.

_____ complied with legal withdrawal times in the use of one or more approved chemical substances for animal health, growth production or other livestock management practices.

I understand that a violation of approved usage of these substances may be prosecuted and that **any** animal at the North Dakota State Fair is subject to comprehensive drug tests at the option of show management. The North Dakota State Fair and its officers and management will not be legally responsible.

Exhibitor signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Proper Care of Animals

Treat all types of livestock with respect. Provide good care for your animals from the time you begin working with them until they are marketed or returned to their normal lifestyle.

- Animals must be fed and watered at regular/ reasonable intervals.
- Physical abuse to animals in the pens/stalls or in the show ring is not allowed.
- Treating animals improperly may result in disqualification from that show.
- Animals showing signs of any contagious diseases may be asked to be removed from any show.
- North Dakota State Fair exhibitors must sign and abide by the current North Dakota State Fair 4-H/ FFA Livestock Drug Withdrawal Form and any other forms required by the Fair Board.

Start Training Early

Success in showmanship in all species starts at home. The first step is to halter break your project (excluding swine; goats will use a collar). You will need to put a halter on your animal and be sure that the halter fits properly; not too tight so it hurts the animal and not too loose so you don't have control. Do not wrap the lead around your hand because if the animal spooks and runs, you could be injured.

Training your project to walk, stop and set up easily will take time and patience. You can start with trying to lead your animal to water or feed in a small pen. As your animal becomes more accustomed to being on a lead, try leading it out of the pen and around the yard. If you are showing beef, be sure to practice using your show stick; do not wait until the day of the show to bring out your show stick.

When practicing setting up your animal, have another person move in and handle the animal. This will help the animal stay calm under a judge's close inspection. With beef and dairy, practice a couple of times with the show halter before the show. Show halters may be made differently and fit a bit differently, so you will want the animal accustomed to the halter prior to the show.

With your hog project, be sure to practice driving/ walking with your project and using your show stick or whip to guide the hog where you want it to go so it is used to you working with it.

Breaking an animal to lead will not happen overnight; this will take time, patience, and practice, practice, practice!

Cleanliness

- The best fit and most eye-appealing animals are always very clean. The animal's coat should be free of dirt, dust, wood chips, straw and manure.
- Clean the animal's ears but avoid getting liquid in them.
- You may add conditioner to protect the skin from drying out.
- Clean the hooves using a stiff brush and water.

Grooming

- Additional credit should not be given for professional clipping.
- Addition of color that changes the natural color of the animal with the use of any natural or synthetic materials is prohibited.

Clipping Livestock

See information under each species.

- Clipping animals correctly takes a lot of practice. Avoid trimming the animal too far ahead of the exhibition. Only clip animals in necessary areas. Incomplete clipping, such as missing spots, may affect the appearance of the animal and be factored into a showmanship placing. Professional clipping is frowned upon in youth shows, and extra consideration should not be given to show exhibitors who use professional fitters.

Condition of Animal

- Proper conditioning (weight) of your animal is very important. Conditioning needs to start several weeks prior to the show season. Animals that are over- or under-conditioned do not show as well.
- Use market or breed standards when selecting your animal for show.
- Animals that have smaller and/or fewer faults usually show more competitively.

Health of the animal

- Monitor your animal for signs of infections such as ringworm, warts and pinkeye. Consult your veterinarian for treatment options if your animal is infected. Animals that are infected may be rejected from exhibition.
- Control external parasites such as lice, ticks, mites, flies and mosquitoes regularly.

Showmanship in the Ring (all animals)

Leading

- The animal needs to respond quickly to the exhibitor's commands.
- Never allow a large gap between you and the animal in front of you. Do not crowd the exhibitor ahead of you. Don't lead in front of other animals so that they cannot be seen by the judge.
- Always respond quickly when given the signal by the judge or ring steward.

Showing in the Ring

- Train the animal so you can move it quickly and easily into the correct pose. Do not overshoot. Let the animal show itself when posed well.
- Do not crowd the exhibitor next to you. Leave 3 to 4 feet on both sides of your animal to allow other exhibitors room to set up their animals when you lead into a side-by-side position.
- Do not be distracted by people and things outside of the ring.
- Be alert and responsive to the judge's and official's requests in a calm, collected manner.
- Keep an eye on your animal and always be aware of the position of the judge. Try to avoid watching the judge too intently, but know where he/she is at all times.
- Show the animal and not yourself.
- Be courteous and display good sportsmanship to other exhibitors. Do not block the judge's view of other exhibitors.
- Enjoy the showing experience.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct to the judge, an animal or other exhibitors may result in disqualification.
- Be natural. Overshowing, and undue fussing and maneuvering are distracting to the judge, animal and audience.
- Keep showing until the entire class has been placed, the judge has given oral reasons, the class has been dismissed and you exit the ring.

Show the Animal to Best Advantage

- Quickly recognize the conformation faults of the animal you are leading or driving and show to overcome them.
- You may be asked to exchange your animal with another and show a different animal. Treat that animal as if it were your own.



Exhibitor (all animals)

- **4-H Dress Code** – Dress according to show guidelines or the 4-H dress code, which is a white, green, gray or yellow shirt/blouse with a 4-H emblem on the front. We recommend that exhibitors wear dark jeans and boots/protective shoes for safety. Caps are not allowed. Clothes and personal grooming need to be neat and clean.
- The exhibitor should have a basic knowledge of his/her project: age of the animal, breeds, breed of his/her project, feed ration and other general information of the project.
- Avoid bumping, crowding or hitting other animals. If your animal becomes unruly, remain calm, do not lose your temper and try not to get discouraged.
- This is a learning experience. Congratulate winners, learn from your mistakes and remember that you are a winner by participating in something you enjoy.

Exhibitor Traits to Achieve (all animals)

- Bring the animal into the ring promptly
- Recognize the faults of the animal quickly and correct them
- Work quickly but not abruptly
- Is alert and responsive to the judge's and official's requests
- Is not distracted by people and things outside the ring

Review (all animals)

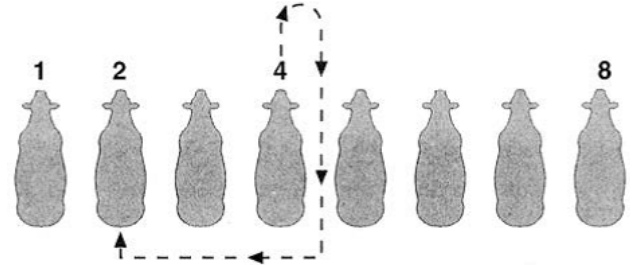
- Animal – The animal always must be set up.
- Judge – Know where the judge is at all times.
- You – Look like you enjoy being in the show ring.

These diagrams show how to move your animal in a line for beef, dairy, sheep and goats.

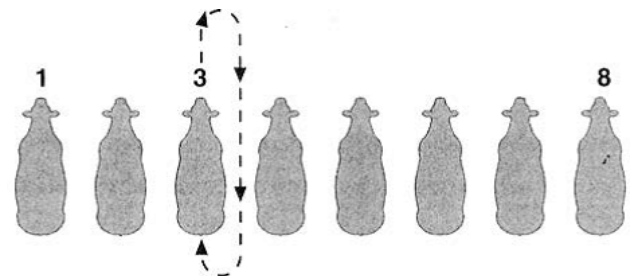
During showmanship, the exhibitor will want to keep the animal between the judge and him/herself.

Goat showmanship: When the exhibitor is required to change sides, he/she must move around the front of the goat, always facing the animal. Never change hands behind your back. Do not step behind the goat. The exhibitor may move between the goat and judge for a brief moment to position him/herself on the correct side. The goat should not be completely turned around just to keep the animal between the exhibitor and the judge.

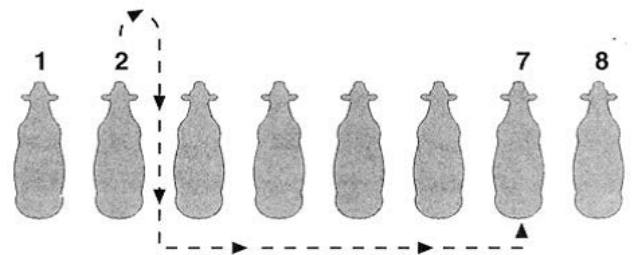
Figure 1. Moving animals to new positions.



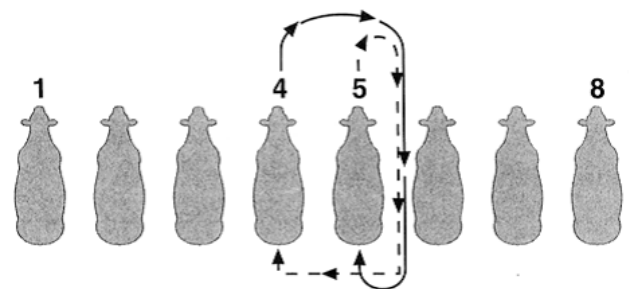
How to switch from position 4 to position 2.



How to reset in the same position using position 3.



How to go from position 2 to position 7.

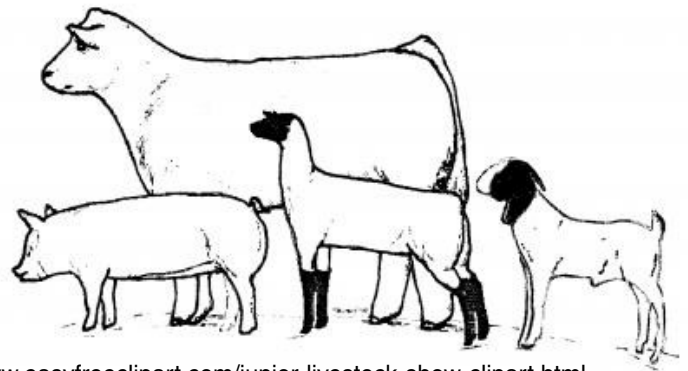


How to switch positions 4 and 5. Position 5 would move out first.

Source: Mississippi State University

Knowledge of Livestock

Each judge has a unique way to evaluate showmanship. Some judges evaluate solely on exhibitors' technique or skills in the show ring, while others use knowledge of the project in addition to showmanship techniques. Exhibitors should have basic knowledge of the characteristics you would like to change about the animal: age, weight and breeding.



Source: www.easyfreeclipart.com/junior-livestock-show-clipart.html

Fitting and Showing Beef Cattle

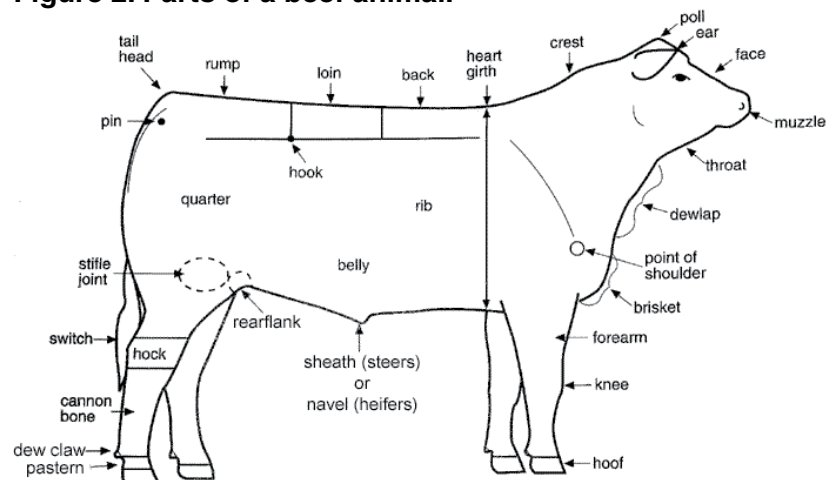
Feeding the Calf

- Begin feeding your show calf a good show ration several months before the show. Ask someone with experience feeding calves to help you design a ration and how much to feed.
- Balance the calf's ration to the weight and condition of the calf for the most important shows.
- Don't change feed when taking your calf to a show.
- Feed the calf from the same feed pans/troughs as it was fed in at home. Avoid borrowing buckets or troughs from others.
- Provide your calf with plenty of clean, cool water.

Preparing Your Beef Calf for Show Day

- Select a beef animal with correct confirmation and breed characteristics.
- Begin training your calf with a nylon halter three to four months before the show.
- Lead the calf on soft ground, not gravel or pavement, when training.
- Lead the calf every day until it is trained well and comfortable with being led.
- Developing a routine with your calf will help reduce stress in the animal. Excess stress in your calf could cause a calf to go off feed.
- After the calf is trained to lead, teach the calf to stand by using a show stick. Use calm, deliberate strokes with the show stick; do not "saw" your animal with rapid movements.
- Practice with a leather show halter two weeks before the show.
- Tying the calf up during the day and letting it loose in the evening is best. Never leave the tied calf unattended if injury is possible.
- Practice leading your calf in and out of a trailer and take your animal for a ride in the trailer if possible.

Figure 2. Parts of a beef animal.



Source: Ohio State University Extension, outreach arm of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

Appearance of Calf (see all animals)

Beef Calves

- Begin rinsing your calf several months before the show. Rinsing helps remove dull/dead hair and stimulates new hair growth. A mild soap can be used, but completely rinse the animal's body. Soap residue dries the skin, causing dandruff, so getting all the soap out is important! Washing can remove natural oils from the hair, making the hair look loose and fuzzy. You may use conditioners to restore oils to the hair/skin.
- You can use whiteners to lighten tough stains. Never use bleach or other chemicals that may cause damage to the hair coat. You can use bluing on white-stained areas such as knees and tail. Wash the switch several times before the show. Use a soft-bristled brush or comb to untangle the switch hair. Avoid pulling out hair.
- After rinsing, use the flat edge of the scotch comb to scrape the excess water out and then brush all the hair down. This will get all the hair initially going the same direction.
- Next, begin brushing the hair forward and slightly upward to start training the hair to grow up and out. Use a rice root brush because it is a good tool for training hair. Tail-head hair, as well as the hair on the rest of the body, needs to be trained forward.
- You can brush your animal completely dry or use a blower. Making sure the nozzle of the blower is not pointed at the dirt, begin blowing the calf at the front, blowing hair forward and slightly upward as you move to the rear of the animal. Blow the hair in the same direction you brushed it.
- Trim and shape hooves to enable the animal to walk and stand naturally. Do not trim too short or make incorrect angles. Ask a professional for help.

Clipping Beef Calves

- Major clipping is done one to two weeks before the show, depending on breed and hair growth to allow time for some regrowth.
- Do the final clipping just before the show. Smoothly blend the clipped and unclipped hair so the clipper lines do not show.
- Avoid clipping eyelashes and nose hair.
- Long hair in the ears may be trimmed in beef animals.
- In general, clip from the poll forward on the head of your animal and then from the base of the ear toward the jawbone, blending this down into the dewlap and brisket. Some breeds may have specific standards. Steers usually have their heads clipped completely.

Figure 3. Direction hair should be brushed and blown on the legs and body after rinsing.

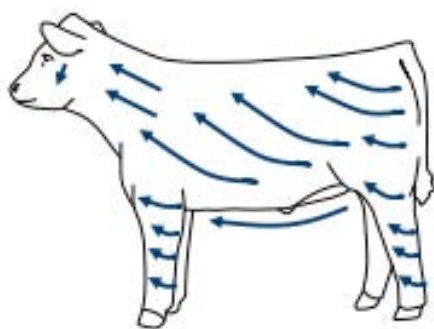
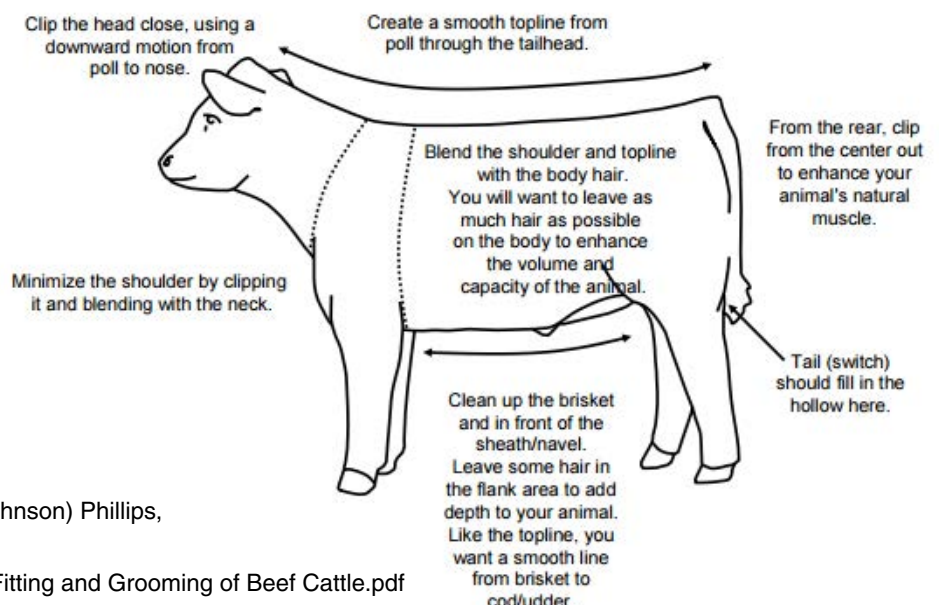


Figure 4. Clipping a beef animal.



Illustrations used with permission from Celina (Johnson) Phillips, Chico State University

www.chicostatesheepgoat.com/pdfs/Successful Fitting and Grooming of Beef Cattle.pdf

Showmanship in the Ring (see all animals)

Leading

- Lead the calf from the left side; hold the lead strap in your right hand at the height of the calf's head. Balance the extra length of the lead strap between your left and right hand. Hold the strap close enough to the halter to have good control of the animal. Do not coil the strap or wrap it around your hand.
- Hold the show stick in your left hand and point it downward while on the move. If the show stick is held in front of the calf to aid in control of the calf, be sure you have control of the show stick and it is not a safety issue to others in the show ring. The show stick should be pointing down when on parade if the calf is cooperating.
- Lead the calf at a comfortable pace with the animal's head held high enough for impressive style, attractive carriage and graceful walking. Leading too fast or too slowly could indicate lack of control.
- For a show, you will use a beef show halter that is fitted properly. A beef show halter is usually leather with a chain on the lead. The noseband needs to fit across the bridge of the nose midway between the eyes and muzzle. Practice with the show halter a couple of weeks before the show to get your calf accustomed to the chain lead.
- Striking the animal in the ring is frowned upon and may result in disqualification.

Side profile in beef showmanship. (NDSU photo)



Posing in Ring

- When pulling into line, leave about 3 feet between you and the calf to your left.
- Face the calf, switch the lead strap to your left hand and the show stick to your right hand.
- The show stick is used to set the calf's feet squarely. Do not use your feet to set up the calf.
- Avoid facing the calf's front feet in a downward direction. Keep your calf set with four legs squarely under the calf, not overstretched or set too closely under the calf. You also may scissor the rear legs with the leg to the judge being slightly set back to show the length of the animal. These posing positions will require practice before the show.
- Always move quickly to your new position when given the signal by a judge or ring steward.
- When moving your animal into a new position, lead the animal forward and come back through the same spot and toward the rear of the line, turning into your animal. When you are turning to the right, turn into your animal and never pull the calf toward you unless you are moving toward the left. Then you can pull the calf toward you when you lead into the new position from the rear of the line.
- When the judge handles the calf, use a scotch comb or flat plastic comb to reposition the hair on the calf. Then put the comb in your pocket. If you are using a scotch comb, keep the teeth turned inward.
- A successful show person will have a well-trained calf that poses in the ring without unnecessary movement.
- See Figure 1 on Page 6 on how to move your animal in line.



Exhibitor

- Equipment needs to include a properly fitted beef halter, flat plastic comb or a scotch comb in your pocket (teeth pointing inward), and well-adjusted show stick.
- 4-H Dress Code - see Page 6, 4-H Dress Code under Exhibitor.
- Exhibitors should have a basic knowledge of their project: age of their project, different breeds, breed of the project, feed ration and other general information on the project.
- Be courteous to other exhibitors.

Some basic pieces of equipment that may be used for training and showing your beef animal:

Necessary

Electric clippers
Nylon training halter
Beef show halter
Show stick
Scotch comb
Soft-bristle brush
Hard-bristled brush
Mild soap
Pail for water
Hay
Feed
Hose
Show box

Optional

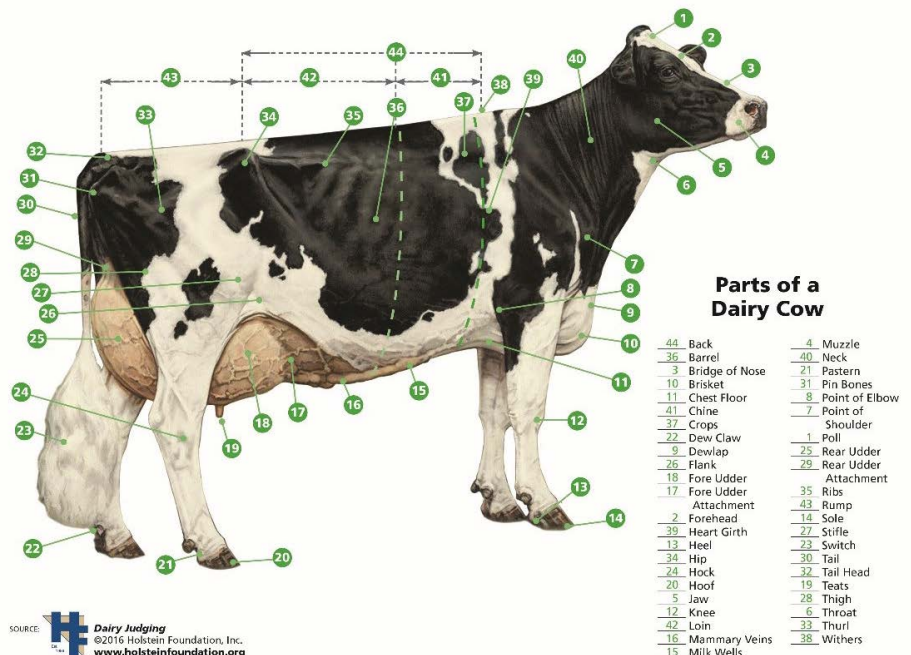
Blocking chute
Steel curry comb
Fans
Show adhesive
Hair spray
Rubbing alcohol
Mineral/baby oil
Adhesive-removal products/soap

Fitting and Showing Dairy Cattle

Preparing the Dairy Calf for Show Day

- Select your show calf several months before the show. Begin halter breaking and put the calf on a feed program to make your calf look its best. Animals that go off feed before a show will look gaunt and not show well.
- Get the animal out of the hot sun and control flies several weeks before the show. Keep heifers inside during the day and outside at night, if possible.
- Start rinsing the animal several weeks before the show. This will help remove the dead/dull hair. Rinse thoroughly because leftover soap can appear as dandruff. Washing too often also can cause the hair to be dry.
- Clean the ears with a damp or wet cloth.
- Always brush dairy cattle with a rubber curry or long bristle comb, never a steel curry. Start brushing/grooming your heifer at least three weeks before the show.
- Avoid getting the animal overconditioned. Dairy cattle that get fleshy do not show as well and may be faulted.
- Hoof care is important to keep the dairy animal sound. Hoof trimming should be done by someone with experience.

Figure 5. Parts of a dairy cow.



SOURCE: Dairy Judging
©2016 Holstein Foundation, Inc.
www.holsteinfoundation.org

Source: Copyright 2016. Holstein Foundation Inc. – Dairy Judging workbook, www.holsteinfoundation.org

Appearance of the Calf

(see general appearance of all animals)

Grooming Dairy Calves

- Each breed may be different, so check the breed manual for other clipping instructions.
- Do not body clip from October through April in North Dakota.
- Most dairy cattle will be body clipped except for the topline and tail. When body clipping, take long, slow passes. You may blow the topline and get the hair standing up on the topline before clipping. This will help in determining where to stop so enough hair is left to finish the topline correctly.
- Trim the toplines to give the dairy animal a sharp appearance. Have the animal straight across its top before trimming toplines.
- Clean dirt/dust and manure from the hair.
- Clip the head, neck, ears, tail, udder (on cows) and elsewhere as needed. Begin clipping at the point of the shoulder to the top of the neck. Blend all clipper lines. If you are not body clipping your heifer, begin clipping at the point of the shoulder to the top of the neck. If you are body clipping, you will need to leave a couple of inches on the topline to work with to improve the look of a straight topline.
- Clip in a well-lit area so you can see your work clearly. Once you start on one side of the calf, make sure to finish that side before moving to the other.
- Clip hair inside and outside the ears.
- Clip front and rear legs to give the appearance of greater flatness of bone and to remove stains.
- Trim top lines to improve straightness.
- Clip withers to a sharp point to improve angularity. (Winter clipping)
- Clip the tail from about 4 inches above the long hairs of the switch and blend into the tail head (where the tail lies between the pinbone).
- Trim the hooves at least two weeks before the show, if needed. This may require professional help.

Showmanship in the Ring

(see all animals)

Leading

- Use a dairy show halter that is fitted properly. A dairy show halter is usually leather with a chain on the lead. The noseband needs to fit across the bridge of the nose midway between the eyes and muzzle. A leather halter with leather or chain lead is preferred in the show ring. Train the calf using a nylon halter.
- Enter the ring walking forward and leading at a natural pace around the ring in a clockwise direction. Walk on the left side. Hold extra lead neatly gathered in one or both hands. Do not wrap the lead strap around your hand. Hold the halter close to the animal's face.
- As the judge studies your animal, the preferred method of leading is walking backward slowly, facing the animal. Hold the lead strap in your left hand with the remainder of it neatly, but naturally, gathered in one or both hands. At all other times, walk forward at a quicker pace. When given the signal to pull into line, move quickly to that position in the ring. Lead at a comfortable pace with the animal's head held high enough for impressive style, attractive carriage and graceful walking.
- Position the animal with the halter as much as possible. You can apply pressure on the lead strap and point of shoulder to back the animal.
- Respond quickly to the judge's or ring steward's commands.
- Practice setting up your heifer at home so that you can maneuver your heifer easily in the show ring.
- Apply pressure with the lead and at point of shoulder to back the animal.
- Striking the animal in the ring may result in disqualification.

Posing in the Ring

- When posing and showing an animal, stay on the animal's left side. Stand facing at an angle to the animal's front shoulder in a position far enough away to see the stance of the animal's feet and topline.
- Pose the animal with the front feet placed squarely. When showing heifers or bulls, the hind leg nearest the judge is posed slightly back or behind the other leg. On heifers, this will show fore udder development, and on bulls, this will show scrotal development. When exhibiting cows, the hind leg nearest the judge needs to be far enough ahead of the other to allow the judge to see the fore and rear udder. On cows, heifers and bulls, this will require the exhibitor to move the hind legs correctly when the judge moves to the other side of the animal. Train the animal so you can move rear legs quickly and easily into the correct pose. The position of the rear legs needs to be reversed when the judge walks around to view the animal from the other side.
- Do not overshow. When the judge is observing the animal, let it stand when well-posed.
- Face the animal uphill, if possible, with its front feet on a slight incline. Always move quickly into line when given the signal by a judge.
- If the judge touches the animal, brush the animal with your hand to acknowledge that the judge handled your animal.
- When the judge requests that the placing be changed, lead the animal forward, back through the same opening, then place the animal in the new position requested by the judge from the rear of the line.
- Always turn into the animal; never pull the head toward you when turning.
- Do all the showing with the halter lead strap and by pushing on the front left shoulder. Never step on the animal's feet to move them.
- See Figure 1 on Page 6 on how to change positions in line.



A) Leg placement on a heifer: rear leg back.
B) Leg placement on a cow: rear leg forward
(NDSU photos)

Exhibitor

(see all animals)

- 4-H Dress Code – See Page 6, 4-H Dress Code under Exhibitor.
- Equipment should include a properly fitted dairy halter.
- Exhibitors should have a basic knowledge of their project: age of animal, dairy breeds, breed of their project, feed ration and other general dairy information.
- Be courteous to other exhibitors.

Some basic pieces of equipment that may be used for training and showing your dairy animal:

Necessary

- Electric clippers
- Nylon halter
- Dairy show halter
- Soft-bristle brush
- Comb for tail
- Rubber curry comb
- Pail for water
- Hay
- Feed
- Show box

Optional

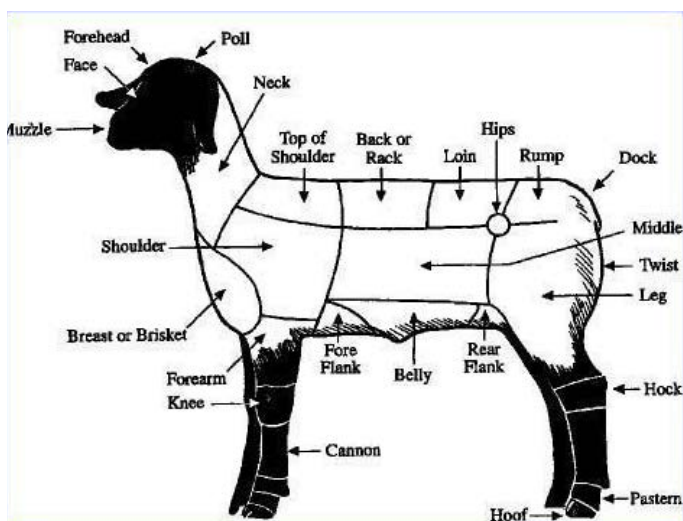
- Show adhesive
- Hair conditioner
- Baby powder
- Baby oil

Fitting and Showing Sheep

Preparing Your Sheep for Show

- Begin feeding your lamb with a good show feed at least two months before the first show.
- Feed your lamb a ration to target your animal's weight for the first show. Lambs will gain .3 to 1 pounds/day, depending on the diet and genetics.
- Modify the feed type as little as possible if the lamb is consuming adequate rations.
- Provide adequate fresh, cool water at all times.
- Begin training the sheep several weeks before the show. Practice walking with and without other sheep if possible.
- Practice having your market lamb brace against your leg. The lamb's front feet must remain on the ground when braced. The feet may be lifted slightly to set the front legs only. Do not slap your lamb to get the lamb to brace.
- Never tie your lamb up and leave it unattended.
- Use your own feed pans/troughs and pails; do not share with others.

Figure 6. Parts of a sheep.



Source: Ohio State University Extension, outreach arm of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

Appearance of the Animal Cleanliness

- Sheep need to be free of straw, wood chips, dung balls and other foreign matter.
- Meat breeds are washed; wool breeds aren't. Wash meat breeds several times before the show. Roughly carding the sheep just after washing can save a lot of time carding after the sheep is dry.
- Wash the wool early enough so wool is thoroughly dry. You do not want the wool to be wet when you are showing.
- Do not get water in the lamb's ears.
- Clean the ears with damp cloth. Wipe the face with a clean cloth just before the show.
- Trim the hooves three to five days before the show. Clean them with a hard-bristle brush and water. Polishing of hooves is optional.
- Legs should be free of stains or manure.
- Blankets can be used on breeding and market lambs to keep them clean.

Carding and Clipping

Breeding Sheep

- Begin carding and clipping breeding sheep at least two weeks before the show. The more you card and clip them, the better the sheep will look.
- Complete fitting of breeding sheep a few days before the show.
- The length of the wool on breeding sheep is set by the breed association. Refer to specific breed standard information.
- Carding is the most important action in ensuring a nicely fitted sheep. Card until all the wool has been neatly carded, then clip off the long wool and shape the sheep to how you want it to look. This process may be done several times before the wool has a tight, smooth set and is shaped to your expectations. You can't clip a sheep neatly without good carding.
- Professional fitting is discouraged.
- Using latex paint of a natural wool color is acceptable in breeding sheep to give the sheep a more unified look after clipping.

Market Lambs

- Slick shear market lambs one to two days prior to the show.
- Paints or similar products used to change the color of the animal or misrepresent the animal are not allowed.
- Do not slick shear the legs from about 1 inch above the knee to the hoof. Shaping the fuzz or leg wool will give the lamb the appearance of having more column of bone.

Showmanship in the Ring

Leading

- Working with your animal regularly is important so your lamb responds quickly and smoothly to your prompts and cues.
- Enter the ring leading the animal in a clockwise direction, walking beside the head on the left side of the animal.
- Your left hand should remain on the chin, not the throat. Place your right hand behind the point of the ears when the sheep is leading well. You can use the dock to help move the sheep when the sheep is being stubborn.
- Move the animal at a comfortable pace with the animal's head held high enough for impressive style, attractive carriage and graceful walking.

Posing/Moving

- As the judge studies your animal, make sure the animal's head is raised and the animal is positioned correctly. Make sure the legs are placed squarely and comfortably directly under the animal.
- Only market animals are braced; front legs may be lifted slightly from the ground to position the front feet.
- Do not "slap" your market lamb to make it brace.
- Market lambs are braced to enhance muscle expression of the lamb.
- Always remain on the left side to the front and center of the animal when the judge moves from one end of the line to the other. Avoid crossing over the front/center of the sheep to the right side. North Dakota exhibition experts believe you have more control of your sheep if you don't switch sides.

Presenting in sheep showmanship. (NDSU photo)



- When you are asked to move in line, lead the animal forward and back through the position from which you just left. Lead to your new position from the rear of the line.
- Always turn into the animal when moving to another position in line except when turning to the right from the rear of the line (see Figure 1 on Page 6).
- Breeding sheep are not braced; their feet should be set comfortably at all corners. To set the legs squarely under the sheep, place the hind left leg parallel with the right and set the front legs by reaching over the sheep. Never use your feet to position the feet of your lamb.
- Exhibitors of breeding sheep should keep their body about 6 inches away from the sheep when standing in line.
- After the judge handles your lamb in market or breeding, brush off the lamb to acknowledge that the judge handled your project.
- Lifting, striking or abusing an animal may result in disqualification.
- Avoid crowding/bumping into other animals in line. Leave adequate space between your animal and the animals around you, but do not leave too much space.
- Avoid overshadowing and unnecessary maneuvering of the animal.
- Recognize type faults of the animal and learn how to show your animal to minimize those faults.
- See Figure 1 on page 6 for diagrams on how to change positions in line.

Exhibitor

- 4-H Dress Code – see Page 6, 4-H Dress Code under Exhibitor.
- Always be attentive to the judge and ring steward and follow directions.
- Exhibitors should have a basic knowledge of their project: age of animal, sheep breeds, breed of their project, feed ration and other general sheep information.
- Be courteous to other exhibitors.

Some basic pieces of equipment that may be used for training and showing your market and breeding sheep:

Necessary for Market Sheep

Electric clippers
Training halter
Feed pan
Pail for water
Hoof trimmer
Feed
Tack box

Optional for Market Sheep

Sheep stand
Spandex blanket
Blower

Necessary for Breeding Sheep

Cards
Hand shears
Hoof trimmer
Halter
Feed pan
Water pail
Feed
Tack box

Optional for Breeding Sheep

Blower
Blankets
Electric clipper
Curry
Sheep stand

Fitting and Showing Swine

Preparing Your Pig

- Feed the pig a good ration several months before the show season begins.
- Select a pig that will reach market weight at the time of your most targeted shows. If a pig is to be shown at 250 pounds, a 60-pound pig will need 100 to 120 days to reach that weight. A pig's typical growth rate is between 1.55 and 1.75 pounds a day. Preferably your pig isn't over- or under-conditioned at show time.
- Avoid leaving your pig for long periods in hot sunlight. Pigs do not sweat and they sunburn easily.
- Be sure that they have plenty of fresh, cool water at all times.

Cleanliness

- The hair coat must be completely clean and free from stains and dandruff.
- Clean ears, face, feet and legs.

Grooming

- Brush the hair in the direction that it naturally grows.
- You can use several hair products to give your pig a more attractive, shiny appearance.
- Oil-based skin conditioner may be applied if the skin is dry and flaky.
- Misting a pig with water on warm days is appropriate.
- Clipping around the ears, face and tail is recommended. Body clipping is common, especially with breeding hogs. The hair on the pigs should appear fresh, which may require clipping several days before the show.

Presenting swine in showmanship. (NDSU photo)

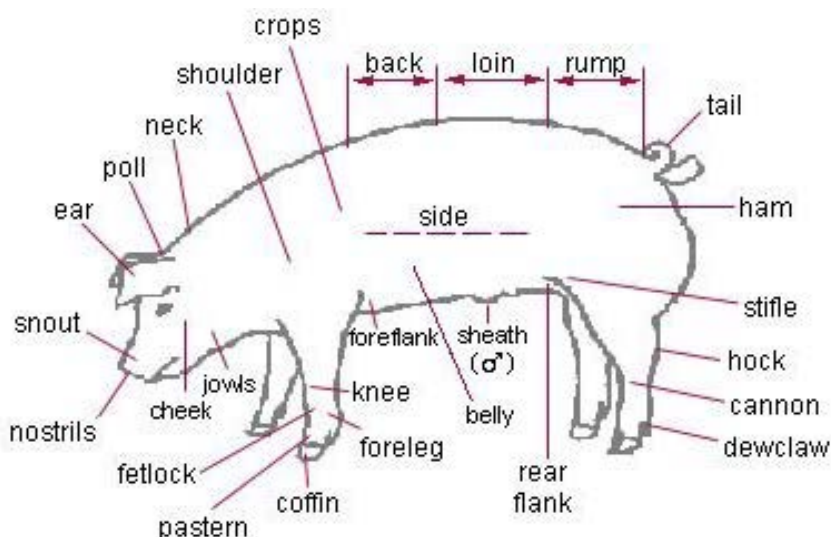


Showmanship of Swine

Showing

- Enter the ring with the animal at a slow walk.
- Use the appropriate equipment: a bat or whip and small brush.
- Keep the pig between you and the judge. Leave 10 to 15 feet between the pig and the judge.
- Keep the pig moving, but at a slow pace; it never should run.
- Avoid slapping the pig from the shoulder to the ham.
- Restrain the hog from fighting with others, if possible.
- As the judge studies your animal, make sure that it is on the move and relaxed.
- When turning the pig, step up in front and turn the pig's head toward you by placing the bat/whip on the opposite side of the head. Sometimes turning may require moving the pig away from you.
- Avoid using the bat/whip excessively.
- Use your bat/whip to guide the pig. Avoid using your hands or legs to move the pig.
- Every time the judge handles your pig, use your brush to reposition the hair, then put the brush back into your pocket.
- Avoid letting your pig crowd; your pig will show better when it is on the move and the judge can see the whole animal.
- If the judge has questions for you, let the pig go, answer the questions, then return to your animal and resume showing.
- If your pig takes off into a run, do not chase it, but continue to walk calmly until your pig settles down.

Figure 7. Parts of a pig.



Source: University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment

Exhibitor

- 4-H Dress Code – see Page 6, 4-H Dress Code under Exhibitor.
- Do not abuse or aggressively hit your animal.
- Be courteous to other exhibitors.
- Be knowledgeable about your project: know breed, feed rations, weight and other important information about your project.
- Work with your project regularly so that it responds to commands or cues promptly in the ring.

Some basic pieces of equipment that may be used in training and showing your swine project:

Necessary

- Bat/whip
- Brush
- Waterer
- Feed pan
- Feed
- Small soft bristle brush (for showing)
- Shampoo

Optional

- Electric clipper
- Hair conditioner
- Water spray or misting bottle
- Pig board
- Hair conditioner

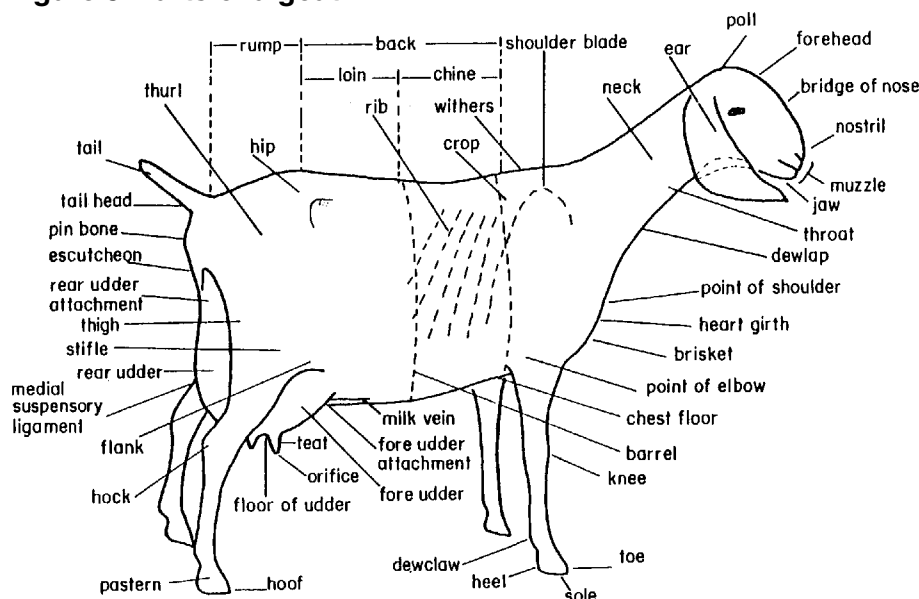


Fitting and Showing Goats

Preparing Your Goat

- Your goat should be on good-quality show feed at least two months prior to the first show. You may want to visit with a local nutritionist or feed consultant to determine a ration that fits your goat's needs.
- Goats will gain between .25 and .50 pound per day, depending on feed and the goat's genetics.
- Do not change feed rations unless you have a problem with palatability or consumption.
- Provide fresh, cool water at all times.
- Select your goat and begin training several weeks prior to the first show.
- Getting the goat accustomed to leading with a halter, collar or chain will take some practice. When you begin training, having your goat follow a trained goat may help speed up the training process.
- Be gentle when training. You can pull on the tail gently to assist in getting the goat to move.
- Keep the goat out of the sun at least six weeks prior to the show, especially if you are slick shearing it.
- Goats may be "blown out" using a commercial blower to remove dirt and debris. Cleaning and blowing the animal's coat helps keep the clippers sharp and will provide a more even fit job.
- We recommend that you use a conditioner after washing to replenish body oils.
- Clip the goat several days (or about one week) prior to the show to allow some hair growth and lessen the visibility of clipper marks.
- Clip the goat at a uniform length over the whole body except below the knee. Hair should be $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch long. Leave the hair long from about 1 inch above the knee to the hoof.
- Do not leave the goat tied up unattended.
- Goats should be washed thoroughly with a mild soap and rinsed thoroughly before fitting.
- Don't get water in the goat's ears.
- Market goats are usually slick sheared except for the legs a few days prior to the show.
- Meat breeding goats are fitted, and most of the hair is left long.

Figure 8. Parts of a goat.



Source: GBG091 Goat Showmanship Manual



Showmanship

- In goat showmanship, use a choker chain or collar; some chains may have a size-adjustment clip. A properly fitted chain/collar will not slide over the horn/head when the animal is exhibited.
- Lifting, striking or abusing your animal may result in disqualification.
- Enter the ring leading the goat in a clockwise direction. Keep the goat between you and the judge at all times.
- Move the animal at a comfortable pace with head held high for impressive style.
- Never switch sides by moving around the back side of the goat.
- When the judge studies your animal, be sure that the goat's head is raised and the goat is set squarely on all four corners/legs.
- In goat showmanship, you can move your goat and lead from the left or right side, always keeping the goat between you and the judge.
- Hold the head of the goat up with the chain/collar. The goat can push into the chain/collar. Do not brace the goat by grabbing the head/neck and lifting.
- Breeding and market goats should be shown without bracing. Keep the goat's feet set squarely.
- Exhibitors should keep their body about 6 inches away from the goat when in line.
- Avoid overstretching the goat.
- Reach over the goat and not under to position the legs. Handle the goat between the hock and knee when repositioning the leg. Do not use your feet to move the goat.
- If the judge handles your goat, brush it off to acknowledge that the judge handled your animal.
- See page 6 for diagrams on how to change positions in a line.



Exhibitor

- 4-H Dress Code – see Page 6, 4-H Dress Code under Exhibitor.
- Do not abuse or aggressively hit your animal.
- Be courteous to other exhibitors.
- Be knowledgeable about your project: know breed, feed rations, weight and other important information about your project.
- Work with your project regularly so that it responds to commands or cues promptly in the ring.

Some basic pieces of equipment that may be used in training and showing your goat project:

Necessary

- Choke chain or collar
- Hoof trimmer
- Water pail
- Feed pan
- Goat feed
- Small soft-bristle brush
- Tack box

Optional

- Electric clipper
- Blower
- Blanket for goat

Presenting to the judge in goat showmanship. (NDSU photo)





North Dakota 4-H Livestock Showmanship Guide

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