

Four-H Kids Told How to Prepare Livestock Entries For County Fair

Girls and boys in 4-H club work, do you realize that your County fair is only about four weeks away? Naturally you are interested in making your calf, pig or sheep look as nice as possible when you show them. It will require some work on your part to get them ready to show. Here are only a few suggestions that may help the animals look their best.

Start washing your beef animal now. Use tar or castile soap with the water and scrub with a stiff brush. Do this once each week between now and fair time. Rinse out the soap after washing. It would help if you blanket the animal after it is dry following washing. Blanket can be made from burlap sacks. Work with your calf each day training it to lead and pose for the show. In posing, the calf should stand with the feet squarely on all four corners of the body. The day before the fair, wash the tail switch and braid it into four or five braids, then unbraid and comb out to make it fluffy just before entering the show ring. Moisten the hair with water to which sheep dip has been added at the rate of 1/2 pint to 3 gallons of water. Brush the coat down smooth with a stiff brush starting at the back down to lower part of body. Draw straight lines about an inch apart with a curry comb lengthwise from front to rear of body. Then with a large comb or brush

rough up the hair from bottom side of body to the back. This will make the side fluffy and your calf will look better in the ring. Wash the dirt off the hoofs and feet before entering ring for showing. Dehorned calves or pole calves look better if the heads are clipped to a point just back of the ears. This is not done with animals having horns. The tail of all calves look better if clipped from top of switch to the tail head of rump.

When leading your beef calf face in the direction you are leading. Lead calf from its left side. Lead with your right hand. Carry a show stick in the left hand. When the judge asks you to pose the animal, take the show stick in the right hand and hold calf with your left. Use the show stick to press feet in the proper position. Remember, if you are kind to your animal, he will cooperate with you.

Dairy animals can be put in show condition by brushing the coat with a soft brush. A piece of rubber, like a rubber heel, will help also in removing the old hair in the coat. Blanket the animal to bring out the natural oils in the skin. Train your dairy calf to lead and pose in the show ring with feet placed in natural position. A show stick is not used in showing dairy animals. By a little training you can make the animal pace its feet properly by a pressure with your hand on the point of the shoulder. The head of the dairy animal should be clipped also. Clip the neck to a line just in front of the shoulder vein, also clip the tail from top of switch to the tail end, just as with the beef animal. Also behind the switch the day before showing and comb it out just before you take the animal to the show ring.

The hair on both dairy and beef animals will be more glossy if you give a rub down before showing, using a woolen or flannel cloth which has been treated with

a light coating of oil such as equal parts of sweet oil glycerine and denatured alcohol. Be careful that you do not get the cloth too heavily saturated with oil as that will cause the hair to appear greasy. *Too much oil on the hair is objectionable.*

Give your pig a good bath before show time, using a stiff brush and tar soap. Brush the coat before entering show ring with a cloth of oil such as is used for cattle.

With a stick or cane you can train your pig to move where you wish in the show ring. Tap lightly on the side of the head or behind to move him in the direction you desire. This takes a little time in training each day until fair time. They soon learn. At all times be patient and treat your pig as you would any other good friend.

Your sheep should be clean. Brush out the dirt and straw on the outside of the fleece. Ordinarily we do not wash sheep for show as the water removes the natural oil, which is a desirable quality of wool.

The appearance of the mutton breeds of sheep, or medium wools can be improved by what we call "blocking". In blocking, use a wool card or stiff brush to straighten out the wool fibres on the back and side. The wool should be moistened lightly before this is done. Then with sharp shearing blades trim the ends of the fibres to give the body a blocky square appearance. Do not cut too deep. A quarter of an inch is usually plenty. Make a smooth trim over the body. Deep cuts will make the body appear low in spots.

Long wool sheep need only a trim with the shears. That is only enough to give the animal a uniform even appearance.

Trim the hoofs if they need it. This will allow the sheep to stand in better position.

Train your sheep to lead. Lead from the left side. Grasp a turf of wool under the sheep's jaw with your left hand, then with your right hand on the "dock" you can soon train the sheep to move easily.

When showing see that the feet are placed squarely on all four corners of the body.

Hold the sheep in the ring by the wool under the jaw and place yourself at the front of the animal.

In the show ring hold all class-

Along Azalea Row

The pot-luck picnic of the Azalea Garden Club was held Thursday, July 15 at Azalea Park with the weather cooperating beautifully to provide a warm, windless day for the affair. Two tables of members were present to enjoy the outing, with a short business meeting presided over by Mrs. Ruby Harvey, new president, who announced her committees for the coming year. However, most of the afternoon was spent in informal "garden talk".

Local gardeners are reminded that it is times such as this, (warm weather following a spell of rain) when black spot and the spore diseases as well as aphids are most active. So now is the time to spray and to clean up under roses and shrubs.

The August meeting of the Garden Club will be a garden tour followed by a silver tea, details of which will be announced later.

Going sport fishing on the coast soon? If so, watch out for the northwesterly winds that come up most afternoons. It can build up a dangerous chop in a very short time.

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