

South Dakota State University Extension

DAIRY CATTLE Showmanship



Criteria	Points Possible	Points Deducted
1) Appearance of Animal (30)		
A. Cleanliness A best-fitted animals are always extremely clean, including hair, switch, feet, legs, and ears. Animal is completely dry.	10	
B. Grooming Properly groomed, hairdresser and powders not used in excess. No excessive manipulations of hair. Top lines may be blow-dried and hair sprayed to straighten them. Hooves trimmed correctly. Animals older than six months are dehorned.	10	
C. Clipping Final clipping done prior to the show. No visible clipper lines. Head, neck, ears, tail, udder (for cows), and elsewhere clipped as needed. Front and rear legs clipped to enhanced flatness of bone and to remove stains. Top lines trimmed to improve straightness. Withers clipped to a sharp point. Body clipping is okay. (NO extra credit for professional clipping.) Belly and udder not clipped on heifers that have not freshened and are not springing close.	5	
D. Condition Condition and thriftness, showing normal growth, being neither to fat nor too thin.	5	
2) Appearance of Exhibitor (10)		
Clothes and person neat and clean/white costume preferred, standard 4-H exhibitor attire perfectly acceptable. Durable, protective shoes recommended. Practical clothing - following 4-H exhibitor attire guidelines.	10	
3) Showing Animals in the Ring (60)		
A. Leading Lead the animal in a clockwise direction. Hold lead strap close to the halter with strap neatly gathered in one of both hands. Animal should lead rapidly. Use properly fitting dairy show halter placed correctly on animal (leather halter with leather or chain lead preferred). During judging, lead the animal by walking slowing facing the animal, comfortable pace with the animal's head held high. Keep even spacing between your animal and the one ahead of you. Do not lead in front of that animal so the judge cannot see it.	25	
B. Posing Stay on the animal's left side so you can see her feet and top line. Place feet squarely, with hind leg nearest the judge slightly behind (heifers and bulls) or slightly forward (cows). Train animals so it will move quickly and easily into the correct pose, and will reverse its rear legs when the judge walks around to view the other side. Do not over show. Face animal uphill, if possible. Move quickly into line when instructed, neither crowding other animals nor allowing large gaps. Animals may be backed out of line or led forward when a change in line is requested. Never lead animal between the judge and an animal being observed. Use the halter strap to move animal, instead of stepping on its hind feet.	15	
C. Showing Animal to the Best Advantage Recognize the conformation faults of animal and show to overcome them. Know basic information such as birth date, fresh date, breeding date, and due date.	10	
D. Poise, Alertness, and Attitude Keep an eye on your animal and be aware of the judge. Show the animal, not yourself. Respond rapidly to requests and be courteous and sportsmanlike. Show until the entire class has been placed and be judge have given reasons.	10	
TOTAL	100	

Comments:

Circle Appropriate Ribbon Placing

Purple	Blue	Red	White
(100-90)	(89-80)	(79-70)	(69 & below)

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Judge's Initials