

Sheep Fitting and Showing Guidelines

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I. Preparation

- A. Get your sheep as clean as possible.
- B. Train your sheep to go where you want it to go and to stop where you want it to stop.
- C. Train your lamb to brace.
- D. Market lambs may be smoothly trimmed or closely and smoothly shorn. Slick shearing will usually make good lambs look better and poor lambs look worse.
- E. Trim feet.
- F. Know everything (age, sex, breed, diet, faults, strengths, body parts) about your sheep.
- G. Tail docks should be adequate in length.
- H. Trim breeding sheep to enhance traits that are important in the breed standards.
- I. Practice, Practice Practice. Pretend a post or someone else is the judge.

II. Personal Appearance

- A. Clothing should be clean, neat and in good taste. Clothing should reflect a positive image of themselves, their youth organization and the livestock industry.
- B. Safe, clean and neat foot wear.
- C. No gum chewing or tobacco use in the show ring and hair should be combed.

III. Showing tips

- A. Be prompt when called to the showing and make positive eye contact with judge immediately.
- B. Be polite to the judge and to other exhibitors.
- C. Place the lamb in the ring where the lamb can be clearly seen by the judge.
- D. Keep your lamb set up at all times. Sheep look best on level ground or with their front feet a little higher than their rear feet. Set feet squarely under the four corners (some lambs look better slightly stretched. Keep the back level, and the head up.
- E. Remain calm, but alert and enthusiastic. Pay close attention to both the judge and sheep.
- F. Keep the sheep between yourself and the judge. Do not step over the sheep's back.
- G. Kneeling or standing is acceptable to me as long as you maintain control of the sheep.
- I. During handling, you should brace the sheep with the lamb pushing against the inside of your leg or in other humane ways but do not lift the lamb off the ground.
- J. Be perceptive and attentive. Make it easy for the judge to see what they want to see.
- K. Do not put your hand on the sheep's back without a purpose.
- L. When moving your sheep use a method, that is quick safe and requires the least effort. All movements should be for a purpose and as inconspicuous as possible. You should show the lamb from both sides so that you can always keep it between you and the judge.
- M. Repair the fleece if the judge parts the wool or roughs it up. Set up the animal before but not while I am handling it.