

Note: Last year the “Cowboy Articles” were written to help you with your beef project. This is a new article about fitting your steer for showtime.

Title: Fitting for Showtime

By Cindy A. Kinder, Area 4-H Extension Educator



Last month I talked about clipping Cowboy and this article I want to tell you how I fit Cowboy for the show last year.

Once Cowboy was clipped, cleaned and dried. I put Cowboy in the clip chute and blew his hair forward and applied show foam (mousse) to his neck, whole side and back. I brushed that in by brushing forward. I worked all summer to get the hair to lay forward and it worked. The show foam holds the hair that would not stay put. Brushing forward helps Cowboy look smoother and longer



Next I “boned” the legs. I used adhesive to pull his leg hairs up to show off his large bone and hindquarters. I did that by applying adhesive on the leg hairs and then combing the hair straight up or out. On the back legs, I started at the hoof line and moved up to the flank; pulling the hair straight up. I boned all sides of the legs. The hock bone looked larger so I trimmed the hair on the bone so they leg looked uniform.



On the front legs I started at the hoof line and then moved up to the knee. Depending on what the animal needed I stopped at the knee or kept boning up to the shoulder. I then trimmed the hair on the knee bone.



At the underline, I trimmed the sheath, only, and combed the belly hair forward making the hair stand up. Combing the hair here helps the animal look deeper.

At the top line I brushed the hair forward and depending if the animal had a “broken top”(not straight) I will apply adhesive to the parts that





needed to stand up so the back looked level or straight. I then took my clippers and trimmed the glued hair so it does not look so obvious. I also blended and trimmed the hair at the crest.



Finally the tail. At the tail head I applied adhesive and again made the hair stand up and out. Depending on the amount of hair here it could look like fish fins. I wanted the tail head to be square so the hip and pens looked level. Therefore, I took my clippers and trimmed the hair. I trimmed the switch off at the hocks and I combed out the tail. I tease the hair more or less depending if the steer needed to look more full in the cod. Cowboy is ready to go.



How is your project going? Here are some questions you can ask yourself.

- ✚ Is your animal going to make his ideal MARKET weight?
- ✚ How are you practicing for the show?
- ✚ How are you clipping and fitting your animal?
- ✚ Boy I am glad I learned my animal parts at my club meeting! Did you?
- ✚ Good luck and see you at the Fair!!

This year's steer - Dash

Dash got his hooves trimmed. They look a lot better, but I think I injured his shoulder by letting his toes grow to long and not trimming them sooner. After two weeks Dash is still not walking correctly. See the difference in his hooves?

Dash now weighs 1088 lbs (7/27); he is gaining 2.52 lbs per day. He is getting 22 lbs of grain ($1088 \text{ lbs} \times 2\% = 21.76 \text{ lbs per day}$) and approximately 4 large flakes of alfalfa hay ($1088 \times 1\% = 10.88 \text{ lbs hay/roughage}$) per day.

