



LIVESTOCK SHOW EMPLOYEE MANUAL: HOW TO RUN A SUCCESSFUL LARGE LIVESTOCK SHOW

Table of Contents

Note from the Author	i
Beef Show	1
General Overview	1
Barn Management	2
Show Prep	2
Show Management	3
Sheep and Goat Show	5
General Overview	5
Barn Management	5
Show Prep	6
Show Management	6
Swine Show	8
General Overview	8
Barn Management	8
Show Prep	9
Show Management	9

A Note from the Author

This manual was designed to assist Junior Livestock Show Staff in creating and running a successful Large Livestock Show. The large livestock species described in this manual are beef, sheep and market goats, and swine. The contents of this manual should serve as guidelines for managing each species' barn, move-in, weigh-in, show prep, and show.

The author would like to acknowledge their appreciation towards those that helped her in the completion of this manual. By receiving input from experts in the industry, the author was able to produce a thorough manual.

Beef Show Guidelines:

General Overview:

The beef show is unique in the sense that within the beef barn there are two shows, one for market and breeding beef, and one for replacement heifers. The breeding and market beef show takes place on one day and the replacement heifer show occurs on another day with an additional day for showmanship. Both market steers and replacement heifers will also have a local bred show (please see guidebook for more information). All beef exhibitors will show in showmanship classes (IE heifers with steers) but broken down by age group and expertise.

Barn Management:

Barn steward will be responsible for patrolling the beef barn intermittently throughout the week to watch for hazards or illegal activities that may occur. These hazards and illegal activities vary by fair, and should be discussed with the Livestock Superintendent. Communication is KEY in order to prevent problems in a barn. Work with exhibitors, parents, and advisors to get to know their wants and needs. No two exhibitors or animals are alike, and it is important to understand that. Some heifers are very close to their due date and that should be something to watch out for in case of emergency. If you are having problems, immediately contact the Livestock Superintendent, they are the ones who will likely be able to get through to the parents.

Move-in:

On the day that animals move in, it is imperative that the barn steward is available to watch cattle unload. It is here that they are able to see firsthand which animals that might potentially cause problems. If they are noticeably difficult to unload from the trailer or are not behaving well for the exhibitor, barn steward should take note of ear tags and descriptions to keep on hand during weigh-in. It is also important to check for heifers close to calving when cattle are unloading.

Weigh-in:

During weigh-in, the barn steward and other individuals helping/working weigh-in should be looking out for problems with animals. These problems could be behavioral or medical. If an animal that was previously placed on the watch list during move-in is continuing to act up, it is likely necessary to talk with the exhibitor, their parents, and the livestock manager. Problems pertaining to behavior should be taken care of in a professional manner, but should not be overlooked. Animals considered wild or unruly can cause turmoil within the barn and are a huge hazard to exhibitors and visitors to the fair.

Show Prep:

Exhibitors should be the ONLY individuals fitting or feeding the animals. Advisors and parents should have as little contact with animals as possible, unless for reasons pertaining to safety. There is NO permitted use of drenchers, or un-prescribed drugs. Things to look out for include added hair and other artificial parts. A good judge can tell the difference, but it is important to keep the show fair.

Show Ring Management:

First thing in the morning prior to show, the ring should be wet down and raked to prevent dust from picking up throughout the day. This may need to be done intermittently during the show day (during a lunch break usually works well). From here you should make sure that you have ALL of your awards for the given show day, or that they are at very least organized in the livestock office. From here you should divide and go over your jobs to be clear who will be fulfilling which task.

These are the tasks to be completed within the beef show: Clerk, ring lead/check in, and awards. The clerk's job is to take all final placings and record them into the book given to them for the show. They should also be responsible for announcing classes in the ring and placings. The ring lead will work the gate, check exhibitors in, and lead exhibitors at the head of the class. They are also responsible for verifying that all exhibitors are in compliance of the dress code for show. Any exhibitor not abiding by the dress code is automatically disqualified from the class. It is important that the ring lead speak with the judge to find out how he likes to set his

classes. The awards person will give out awards to each respective individual, and the clerk should follow them to get their placings as they go.

The beef show ring can be stressful, but is also easy at the same time. Class sizes are small and faces become familiar, but it is easy to get too comfortable. As with any large animal, they can be unpredictable and it is important to treat them as so. If an animal starts to spook, just be aware and step in to alleviate the situation if necessary.

Sheep and Goat Show Guidelines

General Overview:

The sheep and goat barn is a highly competitive barn, with the majority of exhibitors being very dedicated to their animals. Sheep and goats will show on two days with one day given for market and breeding and one day for showmanship. All 4-H and FFA members will compete in market to be eligible for auction.

Barn Management:

Barn steward should patrol the sheep/goat barn intermittently throughout the week to watch for health issues or illegal activities that may occur. These problems will be brought to attention prior to the show and during move-in; it is vital to communicate with the Livestock Superintendent on potential issues. It is important to keep an eye on animals that appear to be ill of health that may need special care from a vet.

Move-in:

When animals are moving in, it is important to keep an eye on them as they are getting placed into their pens. If an animal appears to be sick, injured, or show signs of ringworm, it is important to take note so that you can watch for problems that may arise during weigh-in.

Weigh-in:

During weigh-in it is important to check back up on the animals that you made note of during move-in. Any animals that don't make

weight will be asked to leave the grounds ASAP. There will be a vet on hand to assess every animal to verify their health. Should an animal be ill or exhibit symptoms of a spreadable virus, they will also be disqualified. While this is unfortunate, it is part of the industry and maintaining as high of standards as possible.

Show Prep:

It is important to watch out for foul play within the sheep and goat barns. As this barn is highly competitive, it is important to be aware of all exhibitors, parents and advisors. Many advisors and parents will provide you with information and concerns, and it is important to take that very seriously. To best understand what issues you may run into, it is important to talk with your Livestock Manager and get to know them and the barn you are working in.

Show Ring Management:

First thing in the morning prior to show, the ring should be wet down and raked to prevent dust from picking up throughout the day. This may need to be done intermittently during the show day (during a lunch break usually works well). From here you should make sure that you have ALL of your awards for the given show day and that you know when to give which awards. Each individual ribbon should be accounted for. At this point, you should divide and go over your jobs to be clear who will be fulfilling which task. It is important that the staff in the ring communicate and understand the judge's needs and how he expects the ring to run.

During the show, typically four individuals should be in the ring. One person will be checking exhibitors in and leading the ring, the ring clerk will be taking placings and handing out ribbons, show clerk will be writing the official placings into the book. It is important that the gate person checking exhibitors in checks for the correct ear tag as well as checking the official uniform. Anyone not following dress code cannot exhibit an animal (please see the guidebook for official uniform code). The ring clerk should be an excellent communicator and should be able to tell exhibitors when they will be needing to return for a final show. Barn steward should be in the ring at all times and monitoring the barn to alleviate any issues that may arise.

Swine Show Guidelines

General Overview:

To date, the swine show is the largest show, with around 600 head of animals. While the show is highly competitive, there are also less competitive exhibitors that are raising hogs for the learning experience. It is important to recognize all exhibitors as important and treat all of them equally. Swine will show on two days with one day given for market and breeding and one day for showmanship. All 4-H and FFA members will compete in market to be eligible for auction.

Barn Management:

Barn steward will patrol the North and South Swine barns intermittently to watch for illegal activities that may occur. Pigs are sensitive animals and that should be accounted for. A watch list of ill animals is an excellent way to keep track of your hogs that could need special care or attention. The matter of the fact is that hogs are fragile animals that are prone to illness and do not take well to stress and high temperatures. However, if you do notice that an animal seems sick and needs to go home, take care of it as swiftly and quietly as possible. At the end of the day, you are doing a service to the industry by only letting the highest quality animals exhibit and sell at your show.

Move-in:

During move-in, you should be aware of animals that seem sick or injured when they are unloading out of the trailer. If you should

recognize an issue, make note of their ear tag so that you can watch them during weigh-in.

Weigh-in:

Again, it is important to watch out for animals that you had initially placed on a watch list as well as keeping an eye out for any others.

There will be animals that are overweight or underweight, they should be moved off of the grounds ASAP.

Show Prep:

This barn is one of the easiest to watch in terms of illegal drugs and artificial parts added to the animal. Since hogs are all clipped, the only thing to watch out for is problems with other exhibitors. Create a relationship with your barn security guards and let them know which animals to keep an eye on.

Show Ring Management:

First thing in the morning prior to show, the ring should be wet down and raked to prevent dust from picking up throughout the day. This may need to be done intermittently during the show day (during a lunch break usually works well). From here you should make sure that you have ALL of your awards for the given show day and that you know when to give which awards. Each individual ribbon should be accounted for. At this point, you should divide and go over your jobs to be clear who will be fulfilling which task.

The swine show is typically a well-oiled machine. Volunteers that work gates of holding pens and work boards are seasoned veterans and

will not require much guidance, if any. However, your ring staff will need to know where they belong during the show. Communication between your judge, your volunteers, and your staff is vital to know how to keep the show running smoothly.

Your staff will typically consist of several individuals. First, you will have someone at the gate checking exhibitors in. It is important that the gate person checking exhibitors in checks for the correct ear tag as well as checking the official uniform. Anyone not following dress code cannot exhibit an animal (please see the guidebook for official uniform code). One person will be ring clerk, and in charge of taking placings for the show. They should also be doing barn calls and announcing class results. This person will also hand out ribbons to exhibitors with the help of another staff. The ring clerk should be an excellent communicator and should be able to tell exhibitors when they will be needing to return for a final show. There should be one additional person on hand to help where help is needed. The barn steward should be available at the ring at all times throughout the day.