

Equipment

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Goal (learning objective)

Youth will learn about correct, working equipment needed for livestock showmanship and quality classes at the fair

Supplies

Provide examples of equipment that are in working and non-working order.

Clothing:

- Show Clothes that are clean and pressed. Jeans, long-sleeved, collared shirt, belt, polished boots
- Work clothes
- Tank tops and shorts

Animal equipment:

- Beef: Scotch comb, show halter, show stick, nose lead
- Sheep: Cloth
- Goat: Show collar, choke chain collar
- Swine: Cloth or brush (small, with handle), driving device, spray bottle
- Dairy: Show halter

Table

Beach ball - 1 for each group

3x5 index cards for each species (write Beef, Sheep, Goat, Swine, Dairy on 1 card each)

Pre-lesson preparation

- Review Beef, Sheep, Swine Showmanship videos posted at <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/projects>
- Familiarize yourself with the showmanship equipment needed for each species
- Check your county's exhibitor guidelines regarding clothing (i.e. sleeve length, foot wear, etc.)

Lesson directions and outline

Introduction

Showmanship equipment in the showring should be clean, properly adjusted, and in working order. It is important for exhibitors to look the part in the arena as well.

Go over the following items with your group:

Clothing: When youth step into the show ring, he/she has one chance at making a first impression with the judge (and the public). Clothes should be clean and presentable. Most counties have an exhibitor dress code which outlines specifics regarding sleeve length, collars, fabric type, foot wear, etc. It is important youth know the expectations before stepping into the ring.

Scotch comb, cloth, brush: These items should be carried in the exhibitor's right back pocket or in a specially designed holder. It is used during the show to "adjust" the animal's coat after the judge has handled it.

Show halter: A medium show halter is the most useful size because it can be adjusted larger or smaller, fitting most show animals. A properly fitted halter should sit on the bridge of the animal's nose, evenly spaced below the eyes and above the muzzle. The

lead strap should be held in the right hand (left hand for Dairy) about 6 to 12 inches from the animal's head. This is usually at the junction of the chain and leather portion of the lead strap. Often, exhibitors will shorten the leather strap a little so it can hang down gracefully without touching the ground. Do not wrap lead straps around your fingers or your hand.

Nose lead: A nose lead is used when showing a bull. It is not recommended to use a nose lead with steers or heifers during the show for purposes of controlling the animal. Exhibitor and spectator safety is very important.

Show collar: A show collar has a chain with a leather handle. The collar should be properly adjusted to the size of your animal, not too loose or too tight. Choke chain collars are not recommended.

Show sticks and driving devices: For beef exhibitors there are several types of show sticks (wood, fiberglass, aluminium, aluminium alloy, or plastic pipe). Beef show sticks have four sizes (small, medium, large and extra-large). The most commonly used is the large show stick. When selecting a stick the size of the showman and the animal should be taken into consideration. A short stick should not be used by a young exhibitor. The showman must be able to remain in control at the head of the animal and the stick should be long enough so the stick can be used to set hind feet. The skill of the showman guides the decision as to the length and type of end hook needed.

For swine exhibitors, driving devices come in a variety of styles and are typically 36" long.

Spray bottle: Spray bottles are used by swine exhibitors to help cool the pig down. These are usually used only once the pig has been penned. However, they can be used if an animal becomes unruly at the out gate. Exhibitors don't carry their spray bottle into the showing but it can be available at ring side when needed.

Conducting the activity (DO)

1. Conduct a relay race. Have your group split up into teams so that there are 6 to 8 members per team.
2. Provide each team with a beach ball
3. At the far end of the room (or area) have a table with all of the equipment on it (both working and non-working) and species cards.
4. From the starting line have 2 members from each team run down to the table. Pick up a species card, and a total of 3 to 4 items of equipment and run back.
5. The next 2 members use the equipment to "show" the beach ball. They have to show the beach ball based on the species card drawn, using all equipment as well.
6. The beach ball is "shown" to the equipment table where the species card and equipment is returned.
7. Run back to the starting line and the next two members take a turn. Repeat the activity until all team members have participated.

What did we learn? (REFLECT)

- Ask: What did you learn?
- Ask: Was there special equipment for some species and not others? Why?
- Ask: Are there special uses of the equipment for some species and not others (i.e. beef show stick is different than the swine show stick)? Why?

Why is that important? (APPLY)

- Ask: Can you do a job if you don't have the correct equipment?
- Ask: What is the importance of making a positive first impression?
- Ask: Why is safety important during showmanship classes?
- Ask: What lifeskills does showmanship teach?

Resources

Ohio State University Extension. (2011). Getting Ready for the Show. *Beef resource handbook*. (pages 9-12 through 9-18).

Ohio State University Extension. (2008). Preparing Your Animal for Show. *Goat resource handbook* (pages 175-176).

Ohio State University Extension. (2011). Showing and Selling. *Sheep resource handbook for market and breeding projects* (pages 91-93).

Ohio State University Extension. (2000). Showing Your 4-H Market Hog. *Swine resource handbook for market and breeding projects* (pages 12-1 through 12-5)

University of Idaho Extension Beef Showmanship video (#72999) available at: <https://youtu.be/E-7UF-qiSjS4>

University of Idaho Extension Sheep Showmanship video (#72898) available at: <https://youtu.be/2B-VEegUchds>

University of Idaho Extension Swine Showmanship video (#72998) available at: <https://youtu.be/22e-p02oH08>