



## Meeting the Needs of Others

By: Ryan Harrell

### Year End Review:

TheJudgingConnection.com continues to strive for improvements and be the leader in education as well as judge selection. In 2013, two new companies started businesses similar to our website. With competition, it always brings new and improved ideas. I personally take pride in our website and the professionalism I feel the industry should present. In 2013, we had **27 new judges** sign up for our website and we had **87 new newsletter subscribers**.

Our site continues to offer **free services** for our viewers and free sign up for our judges. Other sites may require judges to pay to be on the list or for selection committees to pay them for a qualified judge to select. TheJudgingConnection.com prefers for the viewer or show committee to make their own selection on their own needs. What is in your budget, what judge you feel is qualified for the job and what qualifications you are personally seeking. Our goal is to provide this option and information to you completely free.

Our success comes from our viewers! We have averaged over the past several years **over 200 viewers a day** and this continues to grow each year. We also started our business with just one judge (myself) and it has grown since 2007. Our judges want to be on our website, and we never posted biographies of judges without permission, as it was their desire to be on our website. We also have an approval process making sure the person is qualified to be a judge. Qualifications include attending judging colleges, being on a judging team, having association judging certifications or being a breeder currently in the industry.

### Judges Success:

Every year, I receive positive comments from judges thanking me for the judging jobs they have had over the year. It pleases me to see the website being used as it is intended. Our goals was to grow and develop young judges by giving them more experience and working them up the chains to bigger shows. For example, the Canadian Royal has used our website for the past several years to select judges for their show.

Ryan,

Just wanted to send you a quick Thank You. I ended up judging about 30 shows this year and I really owe a lot of them to the judging connection. It has been a great way to get my name out there and meet a lot of people. I seem to also sell a lot more calves and lambs, and my judging experience also helped land me a new job in feed sales this year. I judged a lot of county fairs, but also some state wide shows in WV, VA, OH, and MI this year. I also judged the Market Steer show at the Canadian Royal in Toronto. Hopefully I continue to get called for more large shows for 2014, but am really excited from what came my way in 2013. Again, thank you!

Levi Richards

### Positive Comments:

Various means of technology including BLOGS have given people the options to bash judges. Our goal at TheJudgingConnection.com is to continue to be positive, as the judging processing takes time to mature to become a successful judge. I applaud other website such as showpig.com for also not allowing judge bashing on BLOG postings.

With all due respect, everyone has an opinion and some people feel the need to express their opinion publicly. Which is understandable but I respect and listen to others opinions to make improvements. We offered the comment posting option for our judges 2 years ago and it has been utilized for its intended use. For example:

Judge: **Austin Chandler**

Comment from: **Kristine Bickel** - Austin was the swine & goat judge at the Eastern Michigan Sate Fair in August 2013. I would enjoy having him work through our kids & hogs again. Showmanship was a great experience for all & a great education for any youth who wished to gain knowledge on showmanship. He also did a great job working through our cloverbud showmen. His market decisions throughout the day were solid & reasoned well. Appreciated that he was bold enough to put quality & deserving purebreds in some top spots. He was professional with the youth, parents & public.

Judge: **Levi Richards**

Comment from: **Len Dobbin Q.G.Chairman** - Levi judged our 4-H Market beef show in Toronto, Ontario this year. The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is the world's largest indoor agricultural show and Levi was more than up to the challenge. Judging both conformation and showmanship he was great on the mic and took time with each exhibitor. The Queens Guineas as it's called is the premier market beef show in our country and Levi got em right. Excellent Judge and individual.

### Industry News:

Our newsletter was started two years ago in order to keep judges and viewers up-to-date on the current issues within the industry. I personally think education is the key to make programs and organizations, such as 4-H, better. The judge needs to be professional and educated in order to effectively communicate that to others. Parents, exhibitors and show committees also need to be informed on diseases, industry problems and topics most are afraid to discuss. If we do not talk about the controversial topics, how can we make improvements. I am very pleased to see the newsletter continuing to educate others as well as increase in subscriptions each month.

### Thank You:

I personally want to thank our judges as well as our viewers for our continued success.



## Featured Livestock Judging Team

Texas A&M University  
High Senior College Team at the 2013 NAILE



## Introducing Our New Judge

Andy Barth: Stillwater, Oklahoma

## Special Thanks To This Months New Newsletter Subscribers

6 New Subscribers for the Month:



## Biosecurity for 4-H Livestock Exhibitors

By: David W. Snively (Ohio State University)

Reducing the risk of disease in your project animals begins with selecting healthy animals. Project animals should come from farms that have a well-developed health program. Be sure to ask questions about the health of the herd. Then work with your veterinarian to develop a health program to fit your situation. Your health program probably will be fairly simple and may require only some vaccinations, parasite control, and a sound feeding program.

If you plan to exhibit your project animal at fairs and shows, exposing it to other animals, equipment used on other animals, or livestock trucks and trailers will increase the chances of your animal contracting and spreading a disease. Once exposed to other animals, your animal possibly could bring a problem back to your farm.

### Practical Methods of Reducing Your Biosecurity Risk

- Isolate all purchased animals for a minimum of two weeks.
- When you return from a show or other situation where there was contact with other animals, isolate your show animals for a minimum of two weeks.
- Watch your animals closely for at least two weeks after any exposure to observe any signs of developing disease. Call your veterinarian at the first sign of sickness.
- Make sure trucks and trailers used to haul your animals are clean and disinfected.
- Avoid sharing of grooming equipment and feed and water containers. Clean and disinfect your equipment when you return from shows.
- Discourage fair visitors from petting or feeding your animals.
- Wash with soap and water after handling your animals and put on clean clothes. Keep your boots and shoes clean. Wear rubber boots when working with your animals and disinfect them after each use.
- Be cautious about who has contact with your animals. Visitors to your farm should wear clean clothes that have not been in contact with other animals. Make sure their shoes and boots are clean and disinfected. Provide visitors with plastic disposable boots and coveralls for maximum protection.
- At the fair or show, be sure your animals have access to clean water and feed in containers you bring from home. Minimize nose-to-nose contact with other animals as much as possible.

Exhibiting livestock is an important part of the 4-H Livestock Education experience. By following these simple suggestions, you can help keep your livestock healthy during the show season.



## Featured Dec. 2013 Dorset Wether Class

Official Placing: 1-3-2-4

Cuts: 2-5-3

For more information on the Dec. 2013 Dorset Wether Class of the month, visit our home page. Each month The Judging Connection.com features a class of the month and a judge from our directory. The public is allowed to vote on the class of the month. The official results of the class is determined from the featured judge of the month.



## Featured December Judge

Doug Edge

Rosedale, Indiana

Doug judges Cattle, Sheep, Club Lambs and Swine.

Doug is from Rosedale, Indiana where he coaches the Riverton Parke Livestock Judging Team who represented Indiana in 2013 at the International Livestock Judging Contest in Scotland at the Royal Highland Competition. Doug has coached 6 teams since 2006 that have qualified for national contests. His teams have won 2 and been reserve once. Most recently they won the Keystone International Livestock Expo in 2013 in Harrisburg, PA.

Doug grew up raising and exhibiting Simmental Cattle winning premier exhibitor at the Indiana State Fair in 1993. He served as an officer for the National Jr. Simmental Association. In addition, Doug currently raises commercial club lambs. Dougs sons have exhibited both the Reserve Grand and Grand Barrow at the Vigo County Fair and multiple Supreme Ewes and various other champions.



## Featured Livestock Judging Individual

Lane Halfmann  
(Texas Tech)

2013 High Senior College Individual at NAILE