



Dress To Impress
By: Ryan Harrell

On a regular basis, I am addressed with the lack of professionalism by younger judges. Judges are no longer dressing up to judge events. Several judges are wearing jeans to judge and the exhibitors are usually dressed better than the judge. Several shows are considering a judge contract that states the dress code for a judge. Parents are complaining the judge is not "dressed to impress" or doesn't appear to be a role model for the kids. As a show committee, I would encourage you to openly discuss with the judge the dress attire or problems you may have encountered in the past. A binding contract is something to consider when hiring a judge and state what is expected.

A significant part of a hiring decision is based on nonverbal elements in an interview—handshake, eye contact, body language, posture, listening skills, clothing, grooming and accessories. Don't overlook the power of a good first impression. People make amazing assumptions about your professional credibility and potential performance based upon your appearance during a first meeting. It's very difficult to overcome a poor first impression, regardless of your knowledge or expertise. When attending the show, what is the first thing you notice? Who is the judge and you look at what they are probably wearing. Depending on your impression of the person, if they are older and well known, you may look past the unprofessional attire. With younger judges, you would first say: who is this young guy or gal? Then you would start forming an opinion based on their dress attire. Your next opinion would be how they talk on the microphone, judge the classes and work with the kids. It is human nature to evaluate a person based on their appearance and it is typical in livestock shows and judging.

In college, we had to wear a suit coat and tie at judging events. Some national shows still require dress codes similar. As a younger judge, consider the size of the show and evaluate what you should wear. If you do not know, you can always ask the person who contacted you to judge. It isn't out of line to do so and can show your professionalism if presented correctly.

The role of judge does vary but ultimately it is to be a positive influence on the youth your trying to teach. A role model is defined as a person whose behavior, example, or success is or can be emulated by others, especially by younger people. In the photo above, the judge wasn't expecting his hand shake to turn into a hug. But the judge can make a difference in the exhibitors life, even if they are unaware. In the summer of 2013, I judged a show and the crowd was loud. I was filled with frustration as I did my best for the kids to still learn with a loud crowd and soft PA system. At the conclusion of the show, I felt I wasted my time, because the kids couldn't hear my reasons. To my surprise, a few weeks later the young lady I selected to win the show, her parents sent me an email. Thanking me for making a difference in their daughters life. Apparently she was shy, not social among her peers and had some potential medical issues. Once, she won the show, apparently she became more confident in herself and became more social among her peers. I didn't realize I was being a positive role model for this young lady but as a judge I did.

Understand your role as a judge and understand how to dress for the job. Professionalism should be presented from the beginning with your appearance and continue with how your handle yourself at the show. Always present professionalism and be a positive role model!



Does The Show Cattle Industry Need A Wake-Up Call?
By: Amanda Radke

One of my favorite hobbies is showing the cattle we raise. Since I was five years old, I've been helping my dad break bulls for consignment sales and prepare my 4-H steers and heifers for summer shows. I learned a lot from showing cattle. As a kid, they were my responsibility. I washed them each day, which allowed me to really bond with these calves and helped me to fall in love with the beef cattle industry.

Over the years, I've felt the sting of last place and the glory of a championship. Even though I disliked the taste of losing, my parents always reminded me that win or lose, at the end of the day, showing cattle was much more than a place in a class line-up.

As I grew older, I became aware of some of the short cuts other showmen took to gain an edge in the show ring. Again, my parents stressed to me that if you can't win honestly, what is the point? I needed to be proud of the cattle I raised and the honest work I put in to get them ready for the show.

If you're around the show circuit, I'm sure you know of a few competitors who don't always follow the rules. This isn't unique to just the show ring; anytime you have a competitive sport, someone is going to try to gain an edge, honest or otherwise. That doesn't mean it's right.

This past summer, the show industry was put in the spotlight when the "fluffy cows" trend hit mainstream media. Everyone wanted to know about those pretty show steers and how they got so much "pretty hair." It was a chance for the industry to showcase the bright kids, high-quality cattle, and family-bonding that make up cattle shows.

However, a recent article appearing on MSN online titled, "U.S. Farm Kids Lavish Shampoo, Drugs On Prize Cattle," is less than flattering to the show cattle industry.

Lisa Baertlein and P.J. Huffstutter write, "While performance-boosting drugs are banned in most human competitions, they are generally allowed on the livestock-show circuit. Many also get muscle-building livestock drugs added into animal feed. While performance-boosting drugs are banned today in most human sports competitions, Zilmax and other drugs of a type called beta-agonists are federally approved and generally allowed on the livestock-show circuit. For many contestants, the secret weapon of choice is Zilmax, a controversial feed additive sold by Merck & Co. Zilmax-based feeds can give show kids an edge in the headline competition for market-ready steers and heifers, say show sponsors and competitors."

While there are some inaccuracies in the article, the tone doesn't bode well for the beef industry. Of course, it was meant to be sensational. Zilmax, which was recently voluntarily pulled from the U.S. and Canada market while it undergoes additional study, is an FDA-approved product. This mainstream media outlet is taking some liberties in demonizing a legal product. It is not known why some cattle developed lameness when fed Zilmax in the last stage of finishing, and most did not, but the matter is under study while the product is under a voluntary recall by its maker.



Featured Livestock Judging Team

Oklahoma State University
High Senior College Team at the 2014 National Western Stock Show



Featured Feb. 2014 Hereford Heifer Class

Levi Richards Official Placing: 2-4-1-3
Cuts: 2-2-4

For more information on the Feb. 2014 Hereford Heifer 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.



Introducing Our New Judges

Garrit Sproull: Uhrichsville, Ohio (Swine Judge)
Amanda Tresslar: Franklin, Indiana (Cattle and Meat Goat Judge)



Featured February Judge

Levi Richards
Douglas, Ohio

Levi judges Cattle, Starter Calves and Club Lambs

Levi has been active in the cattle and sheep industry for over 12 years. During his show career he showed cattle and/or sheep at every major show in Ohio as well as NAILE and The American Royal, and other shows in Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Nebraska. He showed champions at every level. Levi was a member of the livestock judging while attending Ohio State ATI and was a student under Dr. Michael Borger and Mr. Joe Litt.

Last year Levi judged: OH- Open Beef Show, Showmanship Blue and Gold Showdown, WV- Prospect Steers and Heifers, Showmanship Ohio Beef Expo-Regional Miniature Hereford Show, Canadian Royal, Junior Simmental Association- Memorial Day Classic, Featured Market Lamb Speaker Luckey Farmers Summer Showdown and Lamb Showmanship Teacher St. Joseph County.



Featured Livestock Judging Individual

Ashley Judge
(Oklahoma State University)

[forward to a friend

Copyright © 2014 The Judging Connection.com, All rights reserved.

www.thejudgingconnection.com

Email: info@thejudgingconnection.com

unsubscribe from this list | update subscription preferences