



**Why showing livestock matters!**

*BLOG post from Darcy at sexsoncharlolais.com (Oregon).*

Fair season is about over. Tie outs have been pitched out, stalls have been torn down and the trailers are headed for home. Market animals have been sold, and breeding stock are ready to be turned out to pasture. Tack boxes are soon to be emptied, trailers will be unhitched and the ribbons & trophies will be displayed. And as the show sticks, halters and grooming products are put away for a few months before the next season, one thing remains.

**Youth who matter.**

I wish I could describe the feeling of entering a show ring. Or the competitiveness that opens up when you grab the halter of a show heifer. The intensity that takes over as the gate to the ring is opened, and you drive your hog in. What the heft of a lamb bracing against your leg feels like. Or the fluidness of a goat who walks with you in the ring as you lightly lead them by their chain.

*It's a fair question.*

Showing livestock doesn't come with a cheap price tag.

First you have to purchase the animal and feed it. Then there's the nights in a motel, the meals on the go, and the snacks & beverages that filled the coolers. The diesel bill and how it probably rivals the Sullivan's bill... The entry fees, the registration fees and the health check fees.

*But can you put a price on the life skills a child gains while showing livestock?*

The child who forges friendships that span species and states. The way parents can let little kids run around the barn, knowing a community of friends are watching over their well being? The trust that is developed between a youth & their animal.

Showing livestock is more than just a great feeling or a number in the budget.

**Showing livestock is a matter of teaching children life long skills.**

- Multi-tasking.
- Competitiveness.
- Responsibility.
- Hard work.
- Honest ethics.
- Flexibility.
- A willing attitude.

We ask a lot of kids who show animals.

**Think about how much is asked on just show day alone:**

- We ask them to show up to a ring on time.
- To multi-task getting an animal ready with preparing themselves and mentally staying in the game.
- To balance leading or driving an animal with paying attention to the judge and others in the ring.
- We ask them to win humbly, and lose with grace.

All of these things that we ask of a kid who shows livestock; eventually we expect from adults.

Teaching it now in the show ring prepares youth to practice those skills that will be required and desired when they're grown.

That in itself can explain right there why showing livestock matters and why it's worth it.

The ability of a child to balance all that is asked in & out of the show ring?

You can't put a price on that.

And that's why the cost of showing livestock in the long run is worth it....because it creates youth and future adults that matter.

And we need people that matter.

**Showing livestock.....it matters.**

It really, truly does.

*See you next season...*



**Featured Livestock Judging Team**

West Virginia University



**Featured Livestock Judging Individual**

Annaliese Henderson  
(West Virginia University)



**Introducing Our New Judges**

**Lynn Davis:** Ashburn, GA  
(Cattle, Sheep, Swine, Goats)

**Ed Hewlett:** Independence, KS  
(Cattle, Sheep, Goats) far left of the photo

**Nathan Cooley:** Tupelo, MS (Cattle) 2nd in left side of photo

**Whitney Smith:** Stewart, OH (Swine) middle of photo

**Michael Barry:** McMinnville, TN (Sheep, Cattle, Goats) 2nd from right of the photo

**Christian Stoner:** Churubusco, IN (Sheep, Swine) far right of photo

**Garrett Hamby:** Williamsport, MD (Swine)

**Zach Bangert:** Davenport, IA (Swine)

**Special Thanks To This Months New Newsletter Subscribers**

6 New Subscribers for the Month of August:  
4 New Subscribers for the Month of July:



**Sportsmanship Expectations for Youth Participants**

*by Ohio Cooperative Extension Service*

The development of sportsmanship is an important part of growing up. To become contributing, competent, caring, capable adults, youth must develop sportsmanship.

It is important for people to be fair and generous competitors, good losers, and graceful winners. All participants in 4-H and other youth programs are expected to demonstrate each of the following elements of sportsmanship before, during and after their participation.

**1. Conduct:** Demonstrate and maintain high standards of personal behavior and conduct which become you as an individual and as a representative of your family, your club, your community, and the 4-H program or other youth program in which you are involved.

**2. Fairness:** Learn and follow the rules. Do not cheat. Be objective, honest, and just in evaluating yourself and others.

**3. Honest:** Be truthful, fair, and straightforward in everything you say and do. Show integrity. Do not lie or deceive. Do your own work. Do not underestimate or overstate your abilities, skills, or accomplishments.

**4. Competition:** Accept that the nature of competition is seeking to get what others are seeking to get, involves rivalry between contestants to earn rewards, and results in both winners and losers.

**5. Courtesy:** Be well-mannered in your conduct. Be respectful, thoughtful, considerate, cooperative, friendly, and cheerful in your attitude and your behavior regardless of whether you do well or not, or whether you win or lose.

Do not argue with the judges or program organizers. When you have concerns, questions, or suggestions, be polite in expressing them.

Be pleasant and nice toward other participants, spectators, program officials, judges, the media, your advisors, parents, and others. Give others the benefit of the doubt. Treat people, animals, and things kindly.

Hide ill humor, and keep your emotions under control.

**6. Graceful Acceptance of Results:** Accept judges' suggestions and results with positive attitude.

If you are not selected as a winner or if you receive a lower evaluation than you expect, do not gripe, complain, whine, pout, make excuses, or say you didn't feel well.

Congratulate those who do win and who performed better than you did. Recognize, appreciate, and try to learn from the accomplishments and admirable traits of others. Recognize, learn from, and try to improve your own shortcomings. Do not protest or make accusations unless you have proof and are willing to personally face the person(s) you are accusing.

If you are selected as a winner or receive a higher evaluation than you expect, graciously thank the people who congratulate you. Be happy, but do not gloat, brag, act conceited, or downplay your accomplishments.

Finally, regardless of the outcome, thank your parents, advisors, program organizers, sponsors, judges, and other who helped you.



**Featured July Judge**

**Clint Bain**  
Culleoka, TN

Clint judges Cattle, Sheep, Club lambs and Swine.

Clint was a member of the University of Tennessee at Martin Livestock Judging Team. While on the team he won several top ten honors in livestock judging.

Since graduating college, Clint has coached several successful 4-H and FFA livestock judging teams. Two of those teams earned opportunities to compete at the National Western Stock Show 4-H Livestock Judging and another team earned the opportunity to compete at the Keystone International Livestock Judging Contest in Harrisburg, PA.

Clint judges numerous 4-H/FFA county, district and state shows across the Southeastern United States.



**Featured Aug. Judge**

**JD Sexton**  
Craig, CO

JD judges Cattle, Sheep, Club lambs, Swine and Meat Goats.

JD attended Northeastern Junior College in He also attended the University of Wyoming where he won numerous individual and team awards. After college graduation, JD began coaching the livestock judging team at Eastern Wyoming College at the colligate level.



**Aug. 2014 Market Steers**

**Featured Aug. 2014 Market Steers**

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

For more information on the August 2014 Market Steers 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.