

THE JUDGING CONNECTION.COM

Dedicated to cattle, swine, sheep and goat enthusiasts.



Message to Judges

By: Purdue University

Judges can contribute significantly to the positive growth and development of 4-H members through the exhibit and judging process. The judge serves as a representative of the 4-H program and of the outside world. The judge is the link between the 4-H project, the 4-H member and a standard of performance.

Judges should:

- Interact with the child whenever possible, and discuss your observations and your judging. Discuss the standards you are using, the rationale for your standards, and how the standards you are using relates to real life situations.
- Youth development should be the primary purpose.
- Note achievement and success of the child's investment no matter how small. Praise the 4-H member for completing the project.
- Judge the exhibit and the child's behavior / performance - not the child.
- Be familiar with the total 4-H project: goals, purposes, objectives, activities, and materials.
- Visit the extension educator staff member, volunteer, for persons responsible for the project your assigned to judge. Understand and be familiar with the guidelines.
- Use consistent scoring standards regarding the exhibit. Avoid personal standards or bias.
- Evaluate the efforts of the 4-H members by giving positive comments.
- Four important words for judges:
 - Fair
 - Firm
 - Friendly
 - Consistent

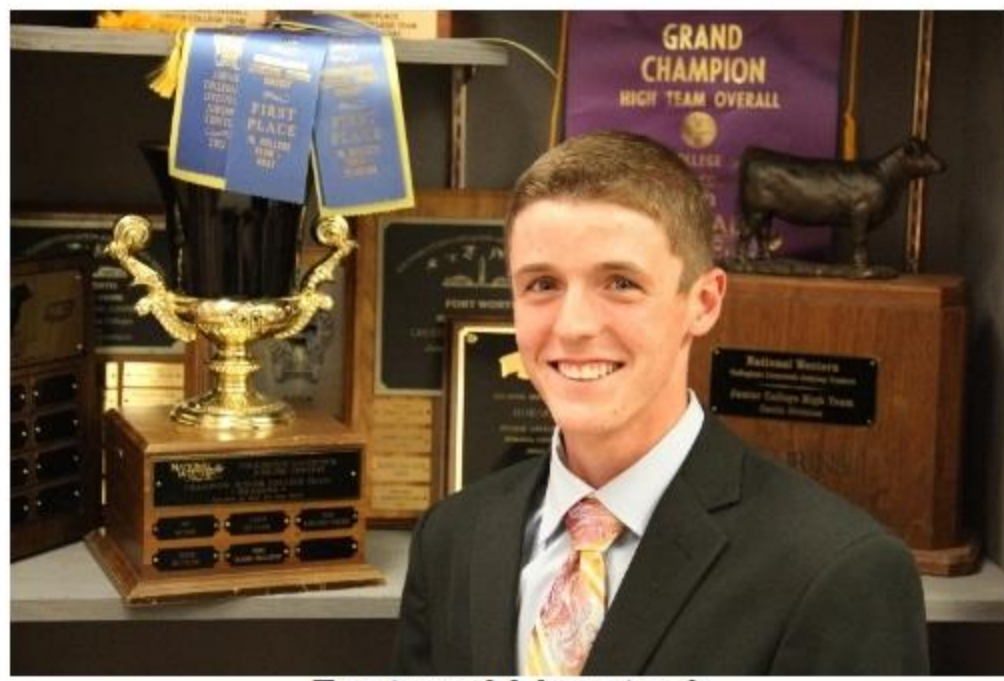
Judges should:

- look the part (well groomed, rested, good general appearance).
- have a pleasant manner.
- be tactful and concerned about his/her feelings.
- offer compliments and constructive criticism.
- list suggestions for improvements.
- give good reasons (basics only).
- keep up-to-date.
- be consistent.
- be prompt.
- make decisions quickly and firmly.
- have a sense of humor.
- be familiar with the 4-H program.



Featured Livestock Judging Team

Connors State College



Featured Livestock Judging Individual

Bryce Hauenstien
(Connors State College)



Introducing Our New Judges

Kenneth Dudensing: Somerville, TX



Behavior Basics: Getting To Know Your Show Pig.

By: Kansas State University

To work safely with your show pig, you should have a basic understanding of animal behavior in general, and the behavior patterns of swine in particular.

- How an animal behaves is determined by genetics and experience. Some pigs are genetic carriers of a porcine stress gene that can make them more excitable and nervous and can even cause the pig to die from being overly stressed. Most breeders will be able to tell you if your show pig's sire or dam is a carrier of the stress gene.
- Pigs are smart. They learn quickly and respond well to positive reinforcement. Do your best to make your show pig's first experience in different surroundings a positive one. For example, when moving it to a new pen have a pan of feed waiting.
- Pigs are typically gentle and affectionate and become curious when put into a new situation. Most show pigs will become quite docile over the course of your project year when they are worked with often.
- A temperamental pig must be handled differently than one that naturally calm. Handling differently means you should move slowly and deliberately when driving the pig, spend more time with the pig to help it adjust to human interaction, and practice showing activities at home and again when you get to the show.
- A pig frightens easily. Even very small disturbances in its surroundings can frighten it, which can cause your show pig to be calm at home in familiar surroundings, but become nervous when taken to the county fair where there are new, strange sights, smells, and sounds. A pig will usually grunt, bark, or squeal when angry.
- A pig has wide-angle vision that allows it to see behind itself without turning its heads.
- Pigs are sensitive to sharp contrasts in light and dark. A pig may balk and be reluctant to move if it sees shadows, puddles, bright spots, a change in flooring type or texture, drains, or flapping objects. Pigs also move easier from darker to lighter environments.
- When a pig becomes distressed during handling, allow it to rest and recover before proceeding again.
- A pig will stop when faced with a solid barrier. That's why solid portable panels work well for moving and sorting pigs. These panels will likely be used at shows too.
- "Rooting" is a natural behavior for pigs. "Rooting" is when the pig tucks its head and uses its snout to push up whatever it comes in contact with. It will "root" at its food and water containers and its handler. If a pig roots under your foot it can knock you over as it rises up.
- Pigs have strong jaws and sharp teeth. Even though its sharp incisor teeth were clipped when it was a piglet, its remaining teeth are sharp and can cut you if the pig decides to "root" up your leg.
- Pigs do not sweat and are unable to cool themselves like other mammals. They wallow in mud to cool themselves. In warm weather, you may have to provide shade and possibly a water mist or drip on your show pig's pen to help it keep cool.

When you understand how your show pig might act in different situations, you can use that understanding to help make livestock shows safer for everyone – exhibitors as well as people who are watching the show. Keeping your show pig calm is a good start. Other strategies to keep in mind at the show include:

- Be aware of where others are at the show – your fellow exhibitors and the general public, especially those who may be walking around the alleys where you drive pigs.
- Move slowly to and from the show ring with your show pig. It's not a race. When you become excited or in a hurry, your show pig will sense the change in your behavior, which might scare it. Remember that fear causes an animal to run from whatever scares it.
- Get to know your show pig's behavior patterns and help it adjust to its new surroundings when you get to the show.
- Do the best you can to keep away from crowded areas while driving your show pig. Many people do not understand how easy it is to scare a show animal or how strong the animal is because show animals usually look so calm and well-behaved.
- Practice, practice, practice show day activities – at home and again when you get to the show. Practice driving the pig to the show ring; driving in the ring using your show cane, stick, or whip; driving the pig back to its pen; driving the pig through gates; and washing and clipping it. Your show pig will be much more comfortable doing activities it has practiced before and it will be less likely to be scared of the show ring if it's been in there before the show.
- To control your show pig with the show stick, gently tap the pig in its neck/shoulder area. Lightly tap on the right side to make the pig go left. Tap on the left side to make the pig go right. Tap the top of the back between the shoulder blades when the pig is walking straight. With practice your show pig will learn that a tap on the top of the shoulders means to go straight. Avoid excessive tapping and never beat or use force to strike the pig with the show stick. Aggressive actions toward the show pig will scare it and cause the pig to run away.



Featured June Judge

Alan Hanna
Custar, Ohio

Alan judges club lambs and breeding sheep.

Alan is currently involved in the market lamb industry as a breeder and attends as many shows as time allows. He is experienced in showing and judging breeding sheep. Alan considers his strongest contributions to knowing the breed standards and evaluating wool.

Special Thanks To This Months New Newsletter Subscribers

6 New Subscribers for the Month:



Featured June 2014 Prospect Ewes

Official Placing: 2-1-3-4

Cuts: 3-2-4

For more information on the June 2014 Prospect Ewes 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.

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