



Standing Out From The Crowd

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While judging a sheep show, I kept noticing out of the corner of my eye a showman that would wave their hand over the top of their lamb in a swooping motion. The showman kept doing it over and over. My eye was drawn to the lamb and the showman. As a judge I found this habit distracting, but it allowed the showman to stand out from the crowd.

How do you stand out from the crowd?

We have often seen younger inexperienced showmen get lost in the competitiveness of the show. Experience and hard work excels you over the competition. Yet, putting your age and level of experience aside, how can you ensure that you stand out? In the large classes at the national shows, what will it take for you to stand out from the crowd?

What will it take for you to be noticed by the judge?

We often put animals first instead of people in our livestock shows. We talk a lot about the livestock and the shows but we don't always talk about the kids, the parents or the volunteers.

What will you do as a showman that will leave a lasting impression in the minds of the spectators?

At the end of the show or the end of the day, only a few people win. Yet, at the end of the day what will you take-home from that experience? We often focus on the trophy and winning the show. However, we rarely talk about how the 4-H experience builds character and makes for more well-rounded adults. How being asked to speak to the crowd, via microphone, helped you get over public speaking fears. How learning competition at a young age allowed you to be aggressive and obtain that scholarship or that job. How the drive for competition allowed you to be the best in sales in your

territory. Whatever the take-home message might be from your competitive experiences in the show ring, may it allow you to stand out from the crowd for the right reasons.

Integrity is defined as the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. We need to let our integrity shine everyday of our lives and we will already stand out from the crowd.

Getting back to the sheep showman when I was judging, did the showman have the best lamb or win showmanship? The answer was no, but the exhibitor had integrity. I simply asked the exhibitor why they kept waiving their hand over the top of the lamb while showing. The showman told me, "I didn't realize I was doing it." He said "Sir, was that a good or bad thing I was doing?" The young man's honesty and morals shined through as I explained the good and the bad of what he was doing.

Remember to believe in yourself and your abilities when no one else will. Look for the bright side of things when they may not pan out the way you expected. Strive to stand out from the crowd in a positive manner, while at the same time preserving your integrity and values.



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