

# Guidelines for Beef/Steer Showmanship Award

## North Florida Livestock Show & Sale

### Age Divisions:

- Junior:** 8-10 years old as of September 1<sup>st</sup> (Before Livestock Show)  
**Intermediate:** 11-13 years old as of September 1<sup>st</sup> (Before Livestock Show)  
**Senior:** 14 - 19 years old as of September 1<sup>st</sup> (before Livestock Show)

### In the Show Ring:

#### Proper Dress:

1. All exhibitors will be required to be clean and neat and dressed in dark blue or dark black jeans or slacks.
2. No caps or hats.
3. Closed-toe shoes or boots required.
4. 4-H/FFA emblem/attire must be displayed prominently.

#### Proper Equipment:

1. Exhibitors must carry a show stick and curry comb during the showmanship competition.
2. Curry comb should be in back pocket of exhibitor.
3. Must display proper use of equipment.

#### Proper Use of Show Stick and Comb:

1. There are three main purposes of the show stick in beef/steer showmanship:
  - a. Placing the feet: To move hind feet backward, push back on the halter and apply pressure with the show stick on the soft part of the animal's hoof, between the toes. However, remember not to jab too hard, for this is a tender area. To move a hind foot forward, pull forward on the halter and apply pressure with the show stick under the animals' dewclaw. If you find that the animal's hind legs are too close together, you can apply pressure with the show stick on the inside of the animal's leg, just above the hoof.
  - b. Keeping the Topline Straight: This is important for the overall appearance of your animal in the judge's eye. To straighten a topline, apply pressure to the underline or place the hook of the stick inside the rear flank and apply slight pressure.
  - c. Calming and Controlling: Occasionally stroking the animals underline as you place its feet or as it is standing still will help calm and relax the animal, especially if this technique is used during practice sessions. The show stick can also be used to keep your animal moving at a comfortable pace that is not too fast. Hold the stick in your left hand when leading and use the butt end of the show stick to tap the animal's nose when needed.
2. All exhibitors should carry a curry comb in their back pocket during the showmanship competition. The comb is used to fix the animals coat after the judge feels for body condition on an animal. However, do not correct the hair obviously in front of the judge; wait until he/she has moved on to the next animal. For safety reasons, try to turn the teeth of the comb toward your body when carrying it in your pocket. This keeps other exhibitors from being harmed by your brush if they bump into you.

#### Proper Showmanship Procedure:

**Note:** Only youth exhibitor may handle animal during showmanship competition; failure to abide by this rule disqualifies exhibitor from competition.

1. Enter the show ring, circling in a clockwise direction, with a smile on your face.
2. Keep an eye on the judge and respond quickly to any instructions.
3. When pulling into a line or stopping, leave three or four feet on both sides of your animal and at least five feet between your animal's head and the edge of the ring. This space allows for more freedom of movement both for you and the judge.
4. Always keep your animals legs set up correctly and the animal posed in a position that accentuates the animals best features.
  - a. Set the hind legs square underneath the animal's body.
  - b. Keep the animals back level and its head up.
  - c. If the animal is high in the loin, apply pressure to the loin with a fingernail.
5. When leading, hold the halter strap in your right hand, 6 to 12 inches from the animal's head and your show

stick in the left with hook down. Upon pulling into a line, switch the lead into the left hand and the show stick into right. Always use caution when maneuvering the show stick.

6. If your animal acts up and you have to pull out of line, always turn the animal away from you.
7. For close inspection by the judge, move a half step to allow the view he/she seeks. Never step in front of your animal.
8. Be courteous to other exhibitors. Do not bump, crowd or strike another exhibitor's animal. However, if an animal in front of you is reluctant to move, you may assist by gently tapping it on the rump or twisting its tail.
9. Do not overwork your animal and always remain calm.
10. Show good sportsmanship by congratulating the winner.
11. Know valuable information, such as, weight, average daily gain, age, breed, etc.

Adapted from: Florida State Fair Steer Handbook, Champion Youth Program, 1998

Prepared by Connie Day, Pat Agner, Danny Martin, and Amy McMullen

September 30, 1997 Approved October 9, 1997, Revised December 7, 2001

Revised September 2011 by the North Florida Livestock Show & Sale, Inc.