



Fitting for Success!

Canadian Junior Hereford Association



Introduction

Fitting is an important part of showing cattle. But the best way for you to be ready for a show is to start preparing your animal 30 to 150 days before the show, depending on the animal's physical growth, age, sex, hair condition and the temperature outside. Be sure to start preparing your animal early in order to be prepared for show day.

Nutrition

Nourishment is important for your animal's health. The amount of feed you give to your animal depends on the size, age, gender and the amount of condition the animal has. When feeding your animal, you have to consider how much time you have before the show, so you get the right condition for your animal, at the right time.

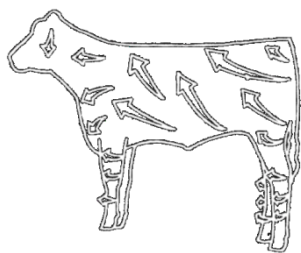
What you should feed your animal depends on what you feel is appropriate for your animal. The ration that you give your show animals should have supplemental protein and include vitamin A. Beet pulp or cottonseed hulls may be added to help give the stomach a fuller appearance. Cottonseed, in particular, helps keep oils in coat. Diets should be rounded out with minerals and salt.

Hair Care

No matter what type of hair a calf has, you can always make it the best it can be. Three or four months prior to the show season is an ideal time to clip all of the unwanted winter or dead hair off your animal, so it can grow a new healthy coat over the summer months.

Brush and rinse your calf daily. Not necessarily in this order. This promotes hair growth. Running the water over the cattle is hydro-therapy, which creates circulation and promotes stimulation. You should only wash your animal with soap once or twice a week with a mild soap that does not strip the hair of its natural oils. Washing the animal too often will dry out its hide and promote dandruff.

Remove the excess water in a downward motion with the back of your scotch comb or a rice root brush. Using the rice root brush, brush all the hair in the direction you want it to go; (forward or on a 45 degree angle toward the head). Brush the leg hair forward, and the neck and brisket on a downwards angle. After brushing, you can add a hair blooming or conditioning product to get the hair to pop and give it more body. Read product directions before use. Before you blow the animal dry, you need to make sure the product has been brushed into the hair, so that all the hair is coated. When drying the animal, go in the same direction as you brushed, for the best results.



Show Day Preparation

In order to clip the animal to look its best, know the animal's faults. Clipping allows you to create a more ideal looking animal. The easiest way to learn how to clip is to practice, practice, practice! Mistakes and gouges will happen, but the more you practice, the better you will get at it.

Before you start clipping, make sure that your animal is clean and dry. It's a good idea to put the animal in a blocking chute, assuring the animal's safety as well as your own.

When using clippers, make sure that you start with a clean and well-oiled set. To know which oil or lubricant to use for your clippers, consult the manual for your clippers. To fully clip your animal you are going to need a couple different sets. You will need a set of flat heads for the close-to-skin work and a pair of small clippers for the more delicate work.

Depending on how fast your animal grows hair, you will need to clip the head, brisket and neck about one to two weeks before the show, so it's not pink or shaggy looking. The body should be clipped before the show and/or at the show for last minute touch ups. The amount of time that it takes you to clip your animal varies with experience.

Tail/Tailhead - the tailhead area is used to create the visual effect of a level hip. Using the small set of clippers, and short strokes you can get that visual effect. Depending on the way it is clipped, it can add levelness, length and thickness.

Belly - Use the small clippers to trim the belly hairs to give it a full, uniform, rounded look that the barrel of the animal is supposed to have.

Brisket - Shave with the flatheads before the show and now blend it in well with the hairs on the neck.

Point of Shoulder - Should have been clipped when you did the head and brisket. The hair here should be short to make the shoulder blend better into the neck and be a transitioning point from the body to the head.

Under the Shoulder point - this hair with some neck hair is left longer and is used to blend the shoulder in.

Behind the shoulder - the hair here is left long to allow the shoulder and body to be blended together, so if your animal has a weak girth or heart area, this helps to fill the area in.

Neck - heifers should have their necks clipped the same time as you did the head. You should use flat heads to give them a more feminine, less bulky look.



Clipping

The best way to learn how to fit is by watching experienced fitters and by practicing when you have time. It takes a lot of time and practice.

Before you begin to fit on show day, your animal should be washed and dried one to two hours prior to the show, so it has a chance to rest. On show morning, you should feed and water your animal. If necessary, you can re-feed your animal just before the show or mid-day to keep the animal filled out. Some different show day fillers for your animal are cottonseed hulls, beet pulp, water and alfalfa. Make sure you allow time to fit before entering the show ring (approximately 30 min - 1 hour), depending on how experienced you are. Here are some fitting tips to follow;

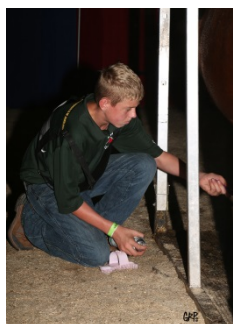
Body hair – To help keep body hair in place and to add volume, apply foam evenly over the entire body, except for the legs and head and topline. Brush in with a rubber comb or rice root brush and allow to dry. You can also mist the animal with a blooming product and or sheen product and set hair with a blower after each product application.

Tail - most fitters leave the tail natural but with the switch no longer than the hock. Tails can also be "balled up" by back combing it, spraying it with adhesive and using a tail tie to wrap it up. Use this technique to give your animal an overall balanced appearance.



Poll - some fitters leave a bit of hair on the poll, and leave it natural. If desired you can spray adhesive on the poll and pull the hair up. The other way is to leave no hair on the poll and leave the head completely shaved.

Legs - adhesive is used on the legs to add the appearance of stoutness of bone and structural correctness. Once adhesive is applied, pull the hair forward with a scotch comb. In order to blend the leg hair with the body hair, do not glue the legs too high on the hind quarter. On the inside of the leg, pull the majority of the hair forward and leave about 1/8 of the hair to pull back to make the legs straighter. Use the adjustable clippers to clip the legs for the final product. You may use touch-up paint to cover up any accidental gouges made by clippers. Baby powder can also be applied to the whites of the legs for a cleaner more desirable look.



Every Day Supplies

Rice root brush	Scotch comb
Rubber comb	Sprayers
Show sheen	Zoom bloom
Blower	Rope halter
Neck tie	Feed bucket
Water bucket	Blocking chute
Fork/ Shovel	Broom
Fan	Fly repellent
Extension cords	

Washing Supplies

Soap
Brightening soap (for white markings)
Vinegar for dandruff
Hair conditioner
Scrub brush
Hose and nozzle
Wash bucket
Curry comb to remove mud etc.

Clippers

Flat Heads
Small two speed adjustable clippers
Oil

Show Day Supplies

Show box	Scotch comb
Rubber comb	Clippers
Adhesive	Show oils
Baby powder	Zoom bloom
Hocus pocus	Revive
Show fan	

Ring Side Supplies

Leather show halter	Scotch comb
Show stick	Show harness
Nose lead for bulls	

Grooming Product Glossary

Adhesive – thin to medium weight glues hold hair in place while retaining a natural look and usually allowing a comb to go through it when dry. (Examples: Sullivan's *Prime Time* ; *Weaver's Light* or *Medium Adhesive*.)

Strong Adhesive – spray adhesives with maximum holding power can be used on tail, legs and tailheads and on bodies to build hair. After using strong adhesive on legs , glued areas must be sprayed with paint to match the colour of the rest of the animal or to match the natural colour of the animal's leg. (Examples: Sullivan's *Tail Adhesive*, *Weaver's Stierwalt Strong* and *Firm Adhesive*)

Gloss/Sheen oil - light oil applied to hair coat before entering show ring to give the animal bloom. This product does not need to be washed out. (Examples: *Weaver's Stierwalt ProPolish*, Sullivan's *Final Bloom* and Sullivan's *Final Accent*.)

Paint - used to cover up areas where adhesives are applied. Promotes the appearance of thicker hair. (Paints are available from RK Animal Supplies Ltd., Sullivan Supply, and Weaver Leather Livestock. (Most MOE shows and non-aerosol shows do not allow the use of paints. And depending on the breed of animal, hair dyes used before or after a show may or may not be allowed.)

Show Sheen – used on a regular basis at home and/or at a show, this is a spray-on product mixed with water to keep hair healthy, while resisting stains and dust. (Examples: Sullivan's *Kleen Sheen*, *Weaver's Stierwalt ProSheen* and RK's *Pure Magic Sheen*.)

Adhesive Remover – removes glues and show day product. Simply apply to areas with adhesive and paint and rub in by hand or with a curry comb. To keep hair in top condition, the animal's coat should be washed out within 24 hours after use or as soon as possible. (Examples: Sullivan's *Hocus Pocus*, RK's *Pure Remove it* and *Weaver's Stierwalt ProRefit* and *ProRemover*.)

Hair Mousse/Conditioner - used to restore the hairs' natural oils and minerals. Apply to body hair where no adhesive is needed, then brush in with rubber comb or rice root brush, before blowing it in until dry to set the hair. (Examples: *Weaver's Stierwalt ProCharge* and Sullivan's *Revive* and *Revive Lite*.)

Wave Tamer / Oil - for animals with curly hair. Apply to hair using a scotch comb and then blow-dry. Use this for the days leading up to the show when clipping and preparing your animal. (Examples: Sullivan's *Wave Tamer* and Sullivan's *Pink Oil*.)

Volumizer - adds volume to hair and covers stains and faded hair. Can be used after grooming legs with adhesive. (Example: Sullivan's *Powder It*)

Hair Bloom - makes the hair pop and adds volume to body hair. Mist onto hair, then comb in and blow dry. (Example: Sullivan's *Zoom Bloom* and Sullivan's *Foam*)

For a more extensive list of products, you can visit RK Animal Supplies, Weaver Leather Livestock, and Sullivan Supply online.

Mission Statement

"Our mission is to be an open, enthusiastic and honest group dedicated to the improvement of ourselves, our group, and our industry. We exist to encourage, organize and unite all young Hereford supporters. While working towards this goal, we will work together, enjoy ourselves and one another, and put the interests of the group above our own."

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