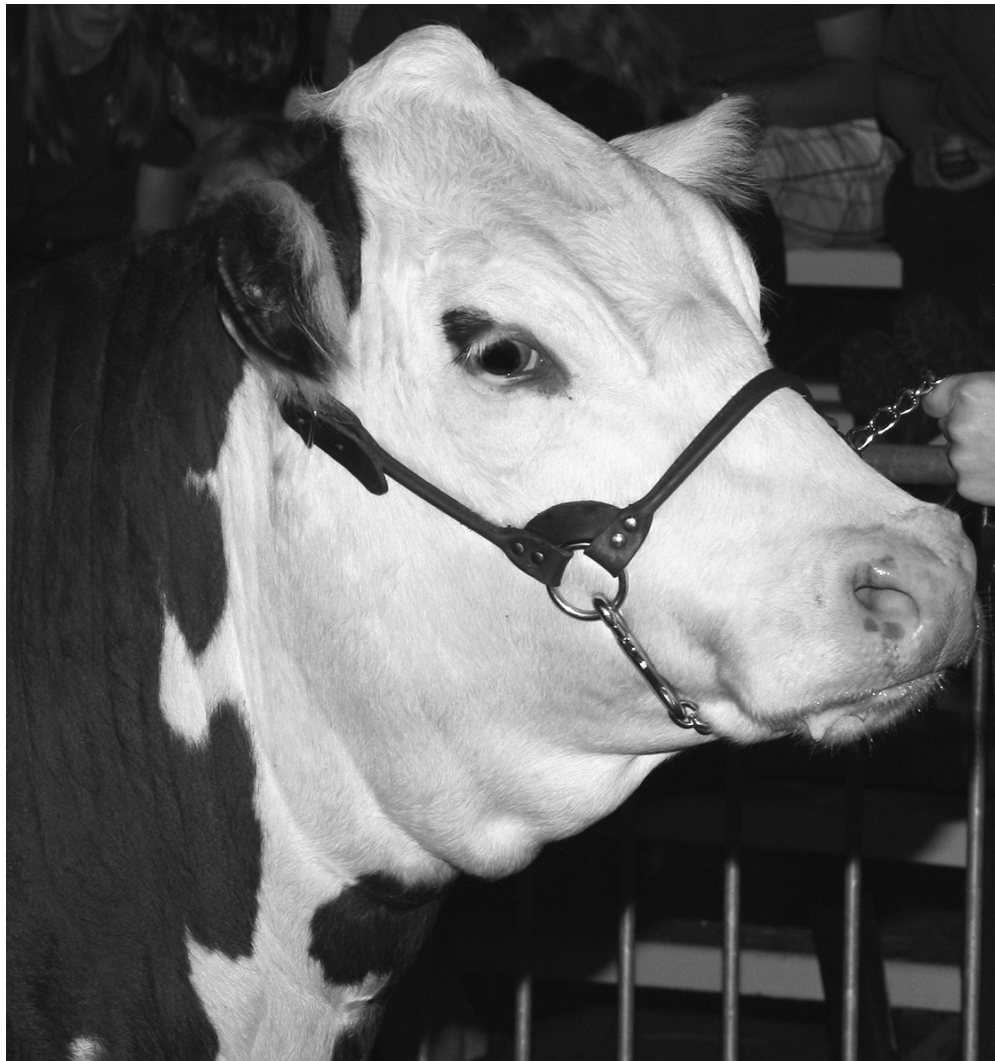




**The Canadian Junior Hereford Association
Presents:**

BEEF SHOWMANSHIP



presentation is everything!

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of showmanship is to present an animal in the best way possible to the judge. Good showmanship takes a lot of time, effort, and must be practiced repeatedly at home before the show. Always remember to try and maintain a positive attitude no matter where you place. By watching experienced show people, you will be able to pick up many tips.

HOME PREPARATION

Showmanship starts at home. The first thing you will need to do is make sure your animal is halter trained. A nylon rope halter is most often used for this purpose. It is important to have someone with experience help you if you have never halter trained an animal before. A common method involves tying the animal up for short periods every day while brushing the animal and getting it used to the halter and your presence. Do not leave the animal unattended during this initial period. After the animal is used to the rope halter, you need to train it to walk, stop, and place its feet according to your wishes. It can be useful to work with your animal with the radio playing, as this gets the animal used to different noises, and helps prevent the animal from spooking on showday.

About one to two weeks before the show, feed your animal out of a rubber tub and water it out of a bucket instead of the normal feeding trough. This helps the animal get used to the different feeding and watering methods that will be used at the show.

SHOWRING EQUIPMENT

Besides the standard grooming equipment, feed and bedding (if necessary), you will need a few items specific to showday.

A scotch comb is necessary to reposition the animal's hair after the judge or another animal has touched your animal. The scotch comb is placed in the right back pocket with the comb's teeth facing your body.

A show harness or clip is how you will be identified in the show ring. Either clip your show number to your belt or place it in the harness. This is used so that the clerks recording the show know the correct placings.

A showstick is used to place the animals feet, keep it calm (by scratching its belly), keep the tail down, keep the topline straight, and occasionally keep your animal from walking too fast (by holding the showstick horizontally in

front of the animal's nose). You want the showstick to be long enough to reach the animal's hind feet, but not so long that it is difficult to use. There are many different kinds of showsticks available, so choose the one that feels right to you.

A leather show halter is the accepted halter for the showring. The nosepiece should be placed approximately mid way between the eyes and nose of the animal. These halters are adjustable, so practice until you find the right fit for each animal. The halter's shank should not drag on the ground or be wrapped around your hand. If you need to shorten the shank, it is acceptable to cut the shank so it dangles approximately 5-6" off the ground.

HALTER PLACEMENT



EXHIBITOR APPEARANCE

Dressing appropriately is a very important part of showmanship. You should dress neat and clean. Some shows have dress codes, so make sure you know what they are. It is a good idea to wear coveralls or a fitting jacket & pants to keep your clothes clean prior to entering the ring. Never wear a ball cap in the showring (though cowboy hats are acceptable), chew gum, or wear running shoes. Proper footwear includes cowboy boots or similar style shoe. Steel toed footwear is advisable in case you get stepped on.

BEFORE ENTERING THE RING

Take your animal for a walk, and familiarize yourself with the showring. Make sure you are lined up for your class early, as many shows will not let you enter the class if you are late. Try not to be too nervous or rushed, as animals may not cooperate if you are flustered. Make sure the animal is wearing a show halter, and you have your show number, comb, and showstick!

SHOWING!!!

You should identify the judge and ringperson for your classes in advance. When you enter the ring, the ringperson will be the one directing you where to go (this is usually in a clockwise direction for one or two circles of the ring before lining up either head to tail or side by side). The judge will generally be standing in the middle of the ring appraising your animal's movement. As you circle the ring make sure to use the entire space that is available, but leave room between your animal and the outside of the ring, and the animals in front & behind you. If an animal in front of you is not moving, twist its tail gently to help the exhibitor in front of you. Never pass other showpersons or cattle unless instructed by the judge or ringperson. If your animal is walking too fast, slowly raise your showstick horizontally in front of your animal's nose, but DO NOT hit the animal. Keep the animal's head up at all times.

A GOOD RULE OF THUMB FOR EYE CONTACT WITH THE JUDGE:

When moving, divide your time equally between the judge/ringperson, your animal and where you are moving to. When stationary, divide your time equally between the judge/ringperson and your animal.

When the ringperson advises you to stop, bring your animal to a halt in the area indicated. Try to avoid any irregular ground or holes in the ring, as this will make your animal less eye-appealing. As you stop, you will turn to face the animal, smoothly exchanging the leather show halter shank in your right hand for your showstick in your left hand. You should now be facing your animal with the halter in your left hand and your showstick in your right. Be prepared to answer any questions the judge may have about your animal. If possible, stop the animal so that the front feet are on slightly higher ground and approximately square. If the front feet are already close to being placed correctly, this will save time in setting up the animal. Remember to keep your animal's head high!

Use the showstick to scratch your animal's belly a couple times to calm it, then begin placing its feet. You should try to set your animal up as quickly and smoothly as possible. Place the rear feet first, and then the front feet. If you are lined up head to tail, place the hind foot closest to the judge a little further back to make the animal appear longer.



If you are lined up side by side, place the hind feet squarely underneath the animal, like legs on a table, so that your animal appears as thick as possible through the hindquarters. To move a hind foot backwards, push back slightly on the halter and use your showstick to apply pressure between the toes of the hind foot. To move a hind foot forwards, pull forwards slightly on the halter and use the showstick to apply forward pressure underneath the dewclaw.

To place the front feet, you may either use your own feet or the showstick. The same pressures on the halter and the feet that moved the rear feet will move the front feet.

Once the animal is set up, begin scratching your animal's belly with the showstick again. This should be a slow, relaxed motion - don't try to saw your animal in half with the showstick! All that practice at home sure pays off when the animal is standing perfectly and calmly in the ring!

Make sure you keep an eye on the judge & ringperson, as either of them could be signalling you to move into your placing in the class at any time. If you miss your signal to pull into line, the judge may choose another animal to stand higher in the class than yours, so it is important to pay attention. Always make sure that your body is not blocking the judge's view of your animal. It is okay to move slightly to make sure the judge has a clear line of sight. If the judge or another animal musses your animal's hair, use the comb in your back pocket to fix it - once the judge has moved on to the next animal.



Too Close

The animal looks narrow and awkward. It appears as if there is less muscle in the hind quarters.



Proper

The animal looks natural, comfortable and muscular.



Too Wide

The animal looks uncomfortable and muscle in the hind quarters is not well shown.



Too Close

The animal looks narrow, weak and awkward.



Proper

The animal looks natural and comfortable with width and strength through the shoulders and chest.



Too Wide

The animal looks uncomfortable and front legs appear weak.

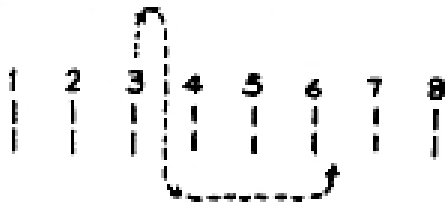
MISSION STATEMENT

"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."

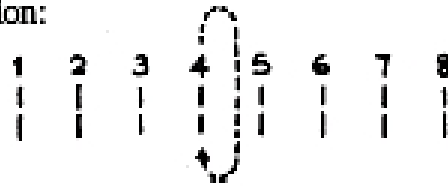
CHANGING POSITIONS DURING THE CLASS

Sometimes, once you are placed, the judge will change his mind and require you to switch places with another animal. This can also be a test during a showmanship competition. Always make clockwise turns, moving in front of your animal's nose, and try not to walk your animal between the judge and the rest of the class. If you are switching positions with another animal, the lower place animal moves out first. You can also pull your animal out of line if it is not behaving and "reset" it in your same spot. See the diagram below for examples.

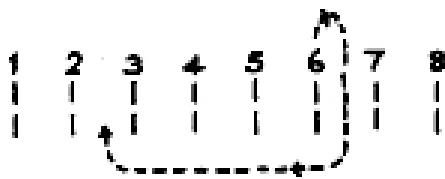
Moving from position 3 to 6:



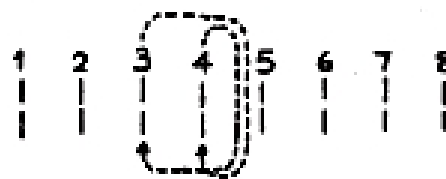
When you must set up again in the same position:



Moving from position 6 to 3:



Switching positions 3 and 4 (4 would move out first):



In a showmanship competition, you may be asked to switch animals with another junior. Before taking the halter of the new animal, try to find out basic information about the animal (such as age, weight, sire, etc). It also helps to take note of the animal's strengths and weaknesses, as the judge may ask you what you would change about the animal.

Remember to keep a positive attitude throughout your time in the class, and never give up on presenting your animal to the best of your ability - no matter where you placed in the class!!



**SHOW
HALTER**



SHOWSTICK



**SCOTCH
COMB**



**SHOW
HARNES**



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