



Introduction



In this chapter

- *Objectives of the Project*
 - *General Project Guidelines*
 - *Benefits to a 4-Her*
 - *Teamwork for a Common Goal*
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This handbook is designed to be used as a resource by 4-H members participating in a Beef Feeder Calf, Dairy Beef Feeder, Market Steer or Heifer, Dairy Steer, or Beef Breeding project. Younger members may need help reading this handbook. Members are encouraged to check with their 4-H Advisor or County Extension Office for a complete set of project guidelines.

The 4-H Beef projects involve the selection, feeding and caring for one or more cows, heifers, steers, or feeder calves. Youth will need to purchase and complete the appropriate project/record book for market animals, feeder calves, or breeding projects every year.



Objectives of the Project

Be sure to check with county project guidelines (if any) for additional requirements, especially if you wish to exhibit at the county fair. You do not have to participate in the fair to complete this project. However, it is one way of enhancing your project experience.



General Project Guidelines

1. Complete the project record book that corresponds to the type of project you are taking.
2. Make sure your project entry form is completed and turned in to the county office on time.

3. Contact your local veterinarian for health papers if your county requires them.
4. Be sure to review the rules outlined in your county fair premium book if you plan to participate in the county fair. Regulations may vary from county to county.
5. Keep project animals in your continual care and possession.
6. Attend or complete a quality assurance program every year you enroll in a livestock project if required by your state or county.



Additional Learning Experiences

1. Be on a livestock judging team.
2. Attend livestock project seminars.
3. Demonstrate fitting and showing.
4. Participate in a Beef Skill-a-thon.
5. Attend the state fair.
6. Visit a beef producer's operation.
7. Visit a feed mill.
8. Visit a local veterinarian.
9. Visit a packing plant.
10. Visit a grocery store to study the different ways beef is sold.

Benefits to a 4-Her

1. **Selection and judging** — From the time you select your project animal until the time you show your animal, you will learn what characteristics to look for in a modern beef animal.
2. **Record Keeping** — A requirement for a feeder calf, market beef, or beef breeding project is record keeping. By keeping records, you will learn the costs of feed and equipment, the concept of profit and loss, and hopefully will be able to start a savings account for yourself.
3. **Nutrition** — You will learn the nutritional requirements of beef cattle and how to balance a diet, one for the fastest, most economical gain.
4. **Health** — You will learn about beef diseases and parasites and their control.
5. **Quality assurance** — You will increase your awareness of the issues of animal well being, quality assurance, and show animal ethics.
6. **Competition** — You will benefit from learning to groom and show your project animal, and will learn good sportsmanship.
7. **Ownership pride** — Owning and caring for an animal gives you a feeling of pride and satisfaction of a job well-done.
8. **Professional and social development** — Having a feeder calf, dairy steer, market beef, or beef breeding project will bring you in contact with successful beef breeders and producers, project leaders, and other 4-H members.
9. **Consumer awareness** — Raising a market animal will help you better understand how meat enters our food chain.



Teamwork for a Common Goal

The purpose of all project work is to enhance the education, experience, and development of young people, a purpose that is not realized without the involvement of several people working as a team. The successful completion of a beef project depends upon the combined efforts of parents, experts, 4-H leaders, and you. Everyone has responsibilities.

To Parents

How much your child learns in his/her 4-H market beef, dairy steer, beef breeding, or feeder calf project depends on the amount of support and encouragement you give. Much of your time will be spent helping your child obtain the resources needed to complete the project. You may offer other assistance when necessary, but you should never interfere with your child's opportunity to learn by doing. Be available to listen to his/her needs and concerns, and offer praise whenever possible. Stress the value of doing one's own work and help your child realize how much he/she has learned from that work. To most children, a sense of accomplishment is usually more important than a ribbon or trophy.

It is also inappropriate for a professional to own, care for, or groom the project animal. 4-H members are to own their project animals and keep those animals under their care. Also keep in mind that most projects, especially those involving animals, will require several adjustments at home and some investments to be successful. For this project, separate pens,

a shelter, and some room for exercise will be needed. 4-H members may need to purchase special grooming and showing equipment.

Remember, your child's success in this and all 4-H projects largely depends on the encouragement and support you give.

To the 4-H Advisor

As people directly concerned with youth development, it is the responsibility of every 4-H advisor and agent to help each member who wants a beef project (and has financing and suitable facilities) to secure one. Keep in mind that people in your position have exceptional influence with youth, and your encouragement and help can not only lead to completed projects but contribute as well to the development of responsible citizens.

To the Member

After you have made the decision to take a beef project, it is important that you know what type of animal you are looking for, how to feed it, diseases it may have, management techniques, and many other important concepts.

By teaching you these concepts through information and experience, this project will make it possible for you to produce a high-quality, lean, meaty and wholesome end product that the consumer wants to buy. To have a successful project you must be willing to study and review the information contained in this handbook and apply it to your project.

The member project and record books contain activities that enhance the learning from the information contained in this resource handbook.

Getting Ready for the Show

In this chapter

- *Getting Ready for the Show*
- *A Complete Guide to the Care and Grooming of Show Animals*
- *A Lesson in Showing Cattle*
- *Final Preparations Before the Show*

Getting Ready for the Show

Too often, 4-H members involved in beef projects associate the grooming and showing of their animal with the final phase of the project. In fact, the grooming and showing of your animal begins when you purchase or begin your project. Mastering the art of grooming and showing cattle can make a difference in your show ring performance.

There is a lot of work involved in training and grooming a beef animal for show. It begins with halter breaking and leading. Then you must keep its coat clean and brushed. The animal should be washed weekly, starting several weeks before the show. Hoof trimming and clipping the hair may also need to be done in advance of the show.

A Complete Guide to the Care and Grooming of Show Animals

By *Wendy Gauld Hall*

For many 4-Hers, show cattle preparation is one of the most motivating segments of the cattle industry. The process of caring for and preparing an animal for the show ring is certainly an excellent way to learn about animal anatomy and animal behavior. Before grooming begins, it helps to evaluate the good points as well as the imperfections of your animal. Grooming can change an animal's appearance. Since all animals have different grooming needs, all are not prepared the same.

Understanding the basic conformation and then applying specific grooming practices makes an animal look its best. Most judges look for moderately-framed, clean, heavy-muscled, eye-appealing cattle. Breeding cattle must display high volume, some angularity, growthiness, muscle length and volume, and a straight-lined, eye-appealing profile. Steers need to be clean, well balanced, expressively muscled, and thick-topped. They must exhibit efficiency and show adequate external condition.

As with any trend, methods and styles change. Practice, patience, and an open-minded attitude are necessary to stay abreast of new grooming techniques. Listening and watching others and a willingness to try new ideas will help you become more skilled at grooming. New ideas can always be adapted for your specific needs. The thoughts and ideas that are offered are provided for you as a basic outline. Hopefully, these tips will encourage you to adapt these ideas to techniques that will work for you.

Showing and grooming cattle can be fun and rewarding. Honesty and integrity play a big role in grooming cattle. It is important to show your cattle to the best of your ability by being creative and honest. Going to shows gives you the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other people. Remember to listen to others for ideas, then adapt what you have learned for your own needs, and above all have fun.

Halter Breaking

- Minimize stress of all concerned.
- Properly adjusted equipment. Using consistent and quiet techniques make it easier.
- Use a rope halter (preferably nylon, 1/2 to 5/8 inch in diameter) with a long lead. Adjust and place nose piece high up on the face and close to the eyes. This will prevent slippage and gives maximum control with minimum injury to the animal.
- Let the animal drag the halter for a few days prior to tying for the first time. The animal will learn to give to the pressure when it steps on the rope repeatedly.
- Tie the animal first in a safe, confined area where it is easily caught and can be tied to a solid fence post. Snaring the rope with a show stick makes it easier. Tie at eye level and about 12 inches from the post; higher or lower positions can create undue pressure on the spine and hind legs, causing a potential spine or muscle injury. Tie for a short duration, 15 or 20 minutes the first few times is best. As soon as the animal gives to the halter or wears out, turn it loose. Release the calf calmly and do not let it jerk the rope from your hands. Creating a situation of early respect will be rewarded later.
- Begin touching the animal as soon as possible.
- Use a show stick. It allows you to be further away and is less intimidating.
- Next, get your hands on the animal and your body as close as possible. Be firm. Very slow and deliberate movements are best. At this point, it is most important to be patient and calm. When teaching to lead, a “pull, release, and reward” method is best. Accept only a few steps as progress and reward by releasing the pressure on the halter and speaking to the animal. Voice reward is very important. Again, it’s important to **be patient and calm.**

- Take the animal to the wash rack as soon as it is controllable. Rinsing with water seems to take out the rest of the fight and prevents some possible kicking problems later.
- Following the initial halter breaking, always tie the animal's head up high to teach it to stand with its head up and its feet under it properly.
- Halter breaking can be easy, successful and fun if begun at an early age and you **remember to be patient**.

Nutrition

Successful grooming depends on an animal's well conditioned skin and haircoat. Nutrition plays an important role in the overall condition of the hair and can be used to promote hair growth. Although every animal has different requirements for its age and show schedule, the following are always necessary:

- Adequate Vitamin A, either supplemented or as part of the ration.
- Routine deworming.
- Proper energy level for development stage and weather conditions. (High energy feeds and hot weather do not promote long hair growth.)
- A balanced ration with minerals and amino acids, especially Cystine and Methionine.
- Feeding supplements high in fat and protein, such as Calf Manna, linseed meal or milk replacer, will promote hair growth and add gloss to the skin and hair.
- Don't overlook nutrition if there are problems with hair growth.
- Evaluate and select feed supplements carefully.

Care of the Hair Coat

A good hair coat is important to successful grooming. Many cattle are shown slick in the summer months, but hair care is important year round.

- External parasite control is the first step to healthy hair coat. Spraying or dipping for lice and grubs is very important. Be sure to find out what months are best to use the insecticides in your specific area. Improper use of any chemicals can result in temporary or permanent injury to the animal.
- Watch carefully for ringworm. It is a stubborn problem of young animals. It begins as a round, scaly spot that will show hair loss. It spreads rapidly on the body, to other cattle, and to people. Consult your veterinarian for appropriate methods of treatment. (*Note: The application of lard after the ringworm is inactive will help bring the hair back.*) Ringworm is mainly unsightly, but many shows do not allow animals with active ringworm to be shown.
- A healthy hair coat can only be obtained by the careful care of the skin and hair.

Washing the Hair

- Use a mild soap product such as Joy or Ivory or other inexpensive soap. Wash with soap only when it is really necessary. Rinse thoroughly. Soap residue creates dry skin and hair.
- Wash several days prior to the first clipping at home.
- Wash upon arrival to the show and after the show.
- Washing too often removes the natural hair oil necessary for shine and manageability of the hair coat. Always replace the oils with a balsam or light oil product after washing. The hair will work better.

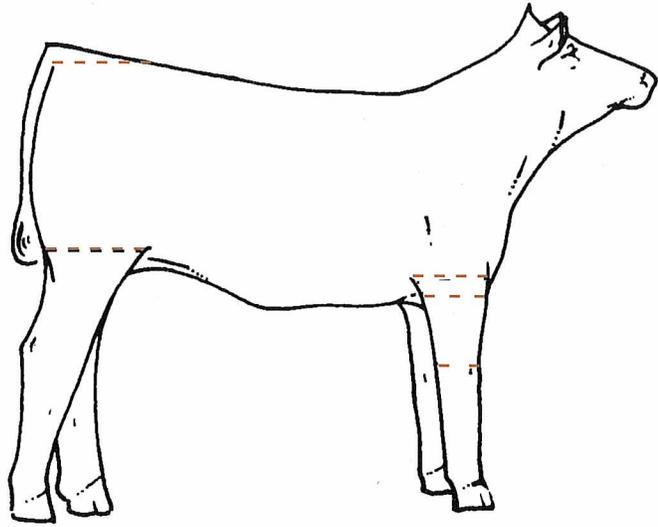
- Keeping the skin and hair moist and oil balanced is essential to a good hair coat.
- A light oil mix will do a good job of conditioning. Use this mix after the hair is partly dry; brush and blow in.
- Rinsing with a vinegar-water dip will lessen the dandruff problem as it helps to remove any soap residue.

Hair Growing Aids

A new coat will need to be grown. Calf hair is good only until it begins to thin and dry and then it should be removed to promote a new fresh hair coat.

- Body clipping 90 to 120 days prior to the show or show season in most areas promotes hair growth. With regular head clippers (84 AU blades), clip down on the animal; with plucking blades, clip up against the hair. If needed, leave some hair below the shoulder point for blending the shoulder into the neck. Usually the forearm is shaved to the knee. Leave hair on the poll, tail head, and hind legs. Sometimes the hair on the lower quarter is left, as this hair is slow to return and is necessary when grooming show animals. (Figure 9.01)
- Old hair may also be removed by brushing if clipping is not an option.
- Bedding the animal in a dark place during the day shortens day length and promotes a hair growing metabolism in the animal.
- Good circulation and movement of air is very important. A fan or humidifier and a mist system helps to promote new hair, particularly in the warmer months. Increasing the humidity is essential.

Showing Animals Quartered



Sometimes beef animals look better slick and quartered. If an animal's hair is not of the best quality over the entire body, it is probably better to do it this way. Also, if an animal is not long or trim enough, you might resort to this type of clipping method. Breeding cattle are often presented in this manner in the summer months.

Just brush the hair straight down and clip it off with the 84 AU blades usually clipping downward or using the plucking blades going up toward the topline of the animal. Leave some hair below the shoulder point blending the shoulder into the neck, and also hair can be left between the forearm and shoulder joint to promote a smooth transition between the shoulder and the front leg. Usually the forearm is shaved to the knee and then blended in around the knee, exhibiting more angular to the front end of the animal.

(Figure 9.01)

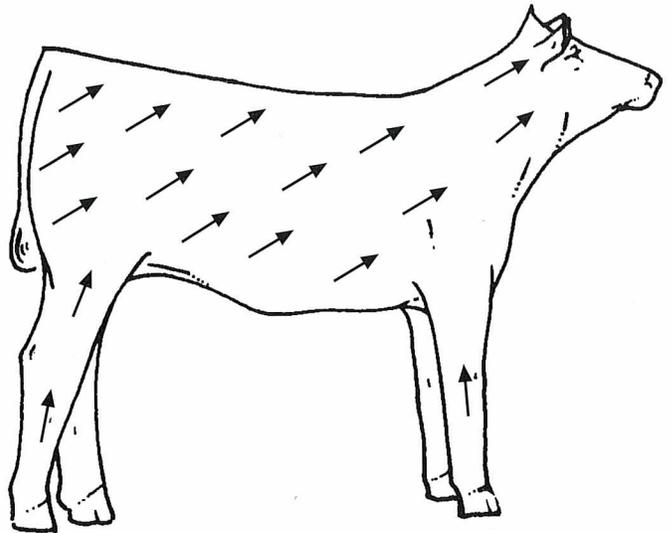
- Daily rinsing is a must. Always rinse the animal's body until it is cool to the touch, especially in the summer. Pay particular attention to the belly and neck areas. Rinse at least twice a day when it is hot. Rinsing late in the evening and turning out wet will help the hair growth substantially. Use a conditioning product on the hair each time you rinse.

- Brushing helps stimulate hair growth, aids in production of natural oils, and helps to even out rough condition (fat cover) on market steers. Use a multi-toothed rubber brush in the early growth period. A rice root brush works best late in the hair growing period and serves to remove curl and add bloom to the hair. Always brush on clean, damp, conditioned hair. Brush or pull the new and growing hair straight forward all over the body after each rinsing. Comb hair at an angle as shown in Figure 9.02.
- Leg hair growth is very important in enhancing a straight lined, heavy boned look. Brushing clean legs will promote hair growth, so keep the pen clean and free of flies.

Training the Hair to Stand Up

- Apply a light oil mix daily (not a silicone based one). Soft training products will sometimes work. Use lightly every few days as needed for 30 days. This gives weight and manageability to the hair.
- Hair training sprays are very drying. Astringent sprays such as liniment are drying but can aid in clipping hair because the undercoat will stand out straight.
- Show foam used two to three times per week can also be effective but is very drying.
- Motivation in this area is hard because progress is slow, but it is the most important part of the grooming process.
- Using a blower also provides a proven method and an important tool for training the hair.

Brushing and Combing Pattern



- A. Begin with rinsing the calf daily (at least 60 days prior to the show). Begin by brushing the new growing hair straight forward only with the rubber multi-toothed brush until adequate hair growth has occurred and the hair will remain forward after the hair has dried.***
- B. With adequate hair, begin brushing forward at about a 45 degree angle. As the hair growth progresses, increase the angle gradually until the hair is pulled up to the desired angle.***
- C. Use of a blower (from bottom to top and front to back) helps to train the hair the last 20 days. *The tip of the nozzle should rest next to the skin and be moved slowly in an ark pattern for best results.***

*This method of brushing stimulates hair growth and avoids the curls and cowlicks.

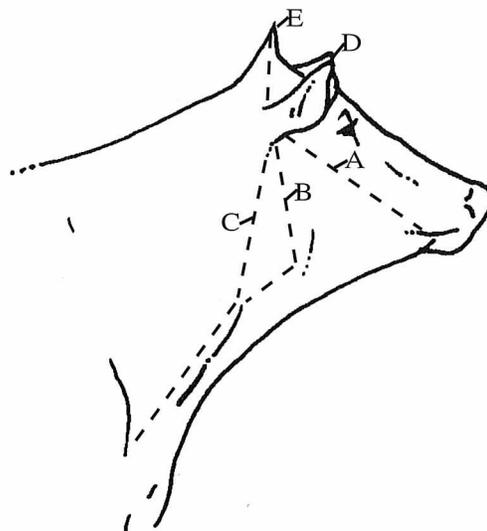
(Figure 9.02)

Clipping Essentials

Clipping is a very rewarding part of the grooming process. It is a great feeling to see the changes made in an animal by applying some specific clipping techniques. A lot of practice and patience is necessary. (Figures 9.03, 9.04, and 9.05) The key to successful clipping is knowledge of your animal's strengths and weaknesses. Enhance your animal's strong points and minimize its faults. No two animals are clipped alike. Clipping allows you to sculpt the ideal animal.

- Clean and conditioned hair is a must.
- Clippers need to be in good order. You will need: 1) a regular pair of beef clippers, 2) standard flat 84 AU blades for shaving close areas or plucking blades where you wish to leave more hair, 3) a pair of clippers with the C-type head, 4) 20 toothed goat combs, 20 TBC's pr P7112's all with 4-point cutters. Other types of blades or other brand names of clippers are available and are similar, 5) a pair of inexpensive, small animal clippers with adjustable blade settings for fine grooming jobs or for young beginners with small hands.
- Always keep the clippers well greased and the blades oiled.

Clipping the Head



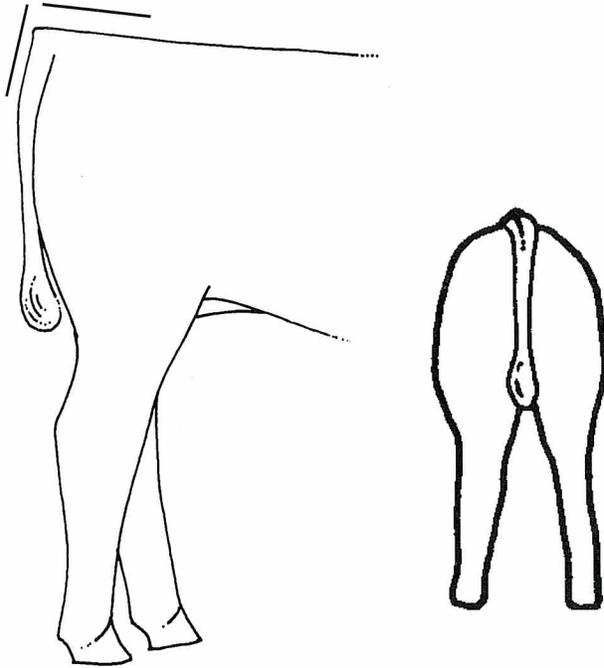
Remember to always clip against the natural direction of the hair pattern with the 84 AU blades to achieve a close, smooth job. There are several clipping patterns, three of which are illustrated.

- A. This clip helps to fill out a narrow head by leaving the cheek hair in place and blending it into the brisket area.**
- B. Conventional clip.**
- C. This clip line promotes the long neck look. The line is blended in carefully and joins the line in the brisket area.**
- D. Usually the hair is thinned on the ears promoting a more "traditional look" to the head.**
- E. The poll hair is left on and blended to a peak. *The poll hair serves to give style, length, and eye appeal to the head.**

*Check the current trend for each breed. Some breeds don't shave the heads, i.e. Polled Herefords.

(Figure 9.03)

Clipping the Tail



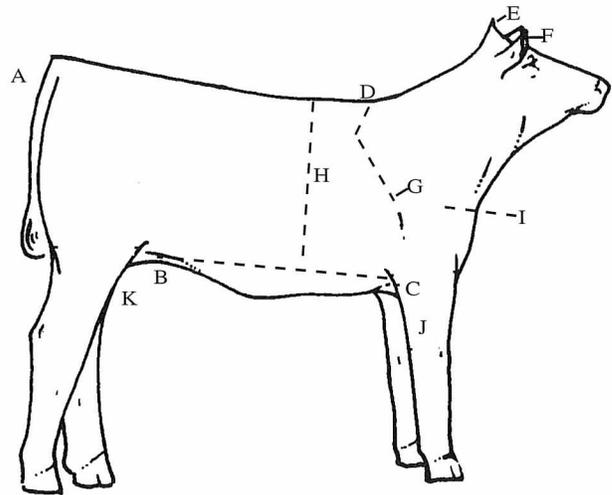
Whenever possible, extend the hair at the end of the tailhead so it has the appearance of a corner. The hair down the middle of the tail is to be clipped into a short "V". This method gives the appearance of more width between the pins. *A tailhead with a slight upswing on the end will help to level out the hip.

*The tailhead hair may be held in place with spray glue and then trimmed to the desired shape.

(Figure 9.04)



Guidelines for Clipping Close Areas



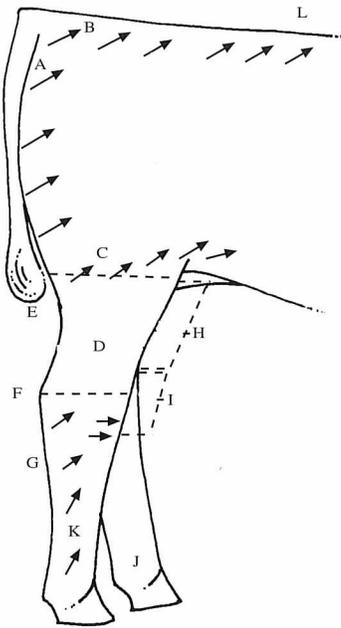
- A. **Tail and tailhead** - The tailhead area is used to enhance the visual effect of the level hip. It can add body length and thickness by the way it is clipped.
- B. **Rear flank** - Used as a guide for beginning the belly-line. This line can be used to create an illusion of more volume or less volume. By lowering the line from the standard clip and leaving long hair naval area back, greater volume is achieved.
- C. **Point of elbow** - Used as a guide for ending the belly-line.
- D. **Top of shoulder joining neck** - Hair should be utilized in this area to give the appearance of smooth joining of those two parts.
- E. **Poll** - Leave this hair on the head to give added length and youthfulness.
- F. **Ear** - Leave most of the hair on the ear, thinning is acceptable.
- G. **Point of the shoulder** - Shoulder should be trimmed very short in this area to reduce prominence and then blend into the neck.
- H. **Behind the shoulder** - The hair is left in this area as long as possible to insure proper blending of the shoulder joint. >>>Very important<<<
- I. **Under the shoulder point** - This hair and the neck hair is left long and is used to blend in a prominent shoulder.
- J. **Front legs** - Usually clipped flat to enhance angularity in breeding cattle. Steers need to be clipped to show a muscular forearm.
- K. **Front of rear legs** - Clipped tight to help give the appearance of a straighter hind leg.

(Figure 9.05)

Clipping the Body

- This is where the actual sculpting comes in. If you are a beginner, use two hands, one to steady the clippers and one to hold them. Use the animal's body shape as a guide for your guiding hand.
- The hair is usually trimmed in an upward and forward motion. (Figures 9.06 and 9.07)
- Work one area at a time (shoulder, top line, etc.).
- Evaluate carefully and trim off the hair accordingly. If the animal needs to exhibit a muscular appearance, then use a full and rounded shape. If the animal is to appear flat and angular, the shapes will be flatter and more angular.
- Draw a picture in your mind of the effect you wish to achieve.
- Mistakes will happen and serve as a good learning tool. Don't panic. You can only learn by doing it yourself.
- There are distinct differences between clipping breeding cattle and market steers. In breeding cattle, flatter, deeper-tying muscles, angularity, and volume are the most important traits. When clipping market cattle or club calves, try to enhance thickness, muscle definition, eye appeal, and condition.
- Be patient and practice often, allow plenty of time for success.

Clipping the Hindquarter and Blocking the Hind Leg



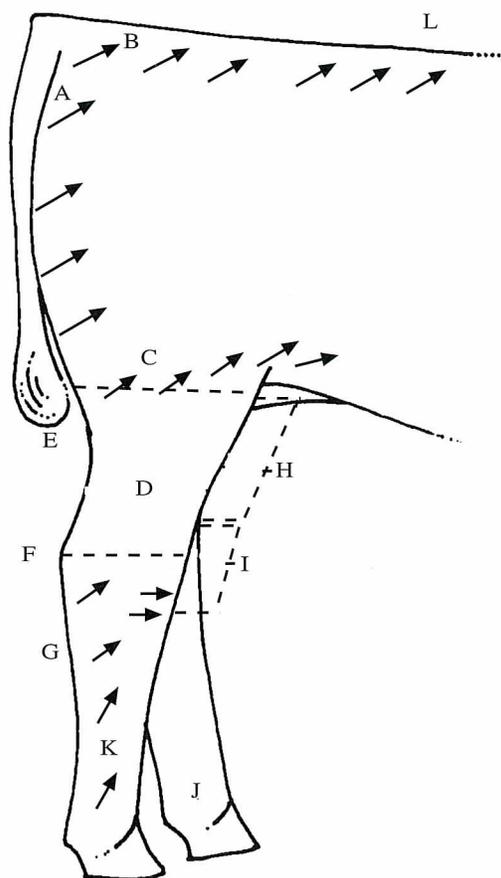
Clipping the animal's hindquarter and hind leg are two of the most important aspects of grooming. The correct clip can give the appearance of muscularity, muscle shape, structural correctness, balance, and eye appeal to the animal. Steers are clipped to show expression of muscle, where breeding cattle are in most cases clipped to show muscle design. It takes a lot of time, patience, and practice to be proficient at clipping this area of the animal.

- A. Hair in this area should be brushed around the hindquarter to add dimension when viewing the animal from the rear.**
- B. Hair in this area is used to fill in the hip to make it appear more level from the hooks to pins.**
- C. Hair is pulled up and out and held in place to add muscularity.**
- D. This area is trimmed very short on steers and left longer haired on breeding cattle.**
- E. Hair is always left in this area above the hock to reduce hock prominence.**
- F. This ball of the hock is shaved to the skin in about a 3-inch long area to reduce hock prominence.**

(Figure 9.06 continued on next page)

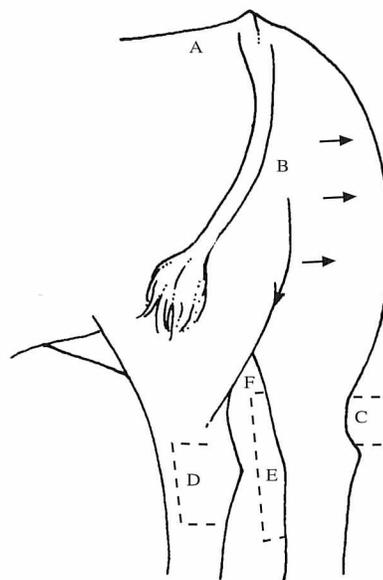
Clipping the Hindquarter and Blocking the Hind Leg continued

- G. The long hairs only are trimmed after boning the leg to give the appearance of a straighter leg.
- H. Shave or trim this area close to the skin beginning right above the hock area to straighten the leg. >>>Very important<<<
- I. Leave all of the long hair here to fill in the hock joint area and straighten the leg. >>>Very important<<<
- J. Trim this area and around the entire leg to give a straight symmetrical appearance.
- K. The hair on the inside and outside cannon bone is pulled slightly forward to help add hair length to the front of the leg.
- L. The loin area in steers should be clipped flat on top and all of the hair left on the loin edge. On heifers this area is clipped angular with most hair remaining down the top line from the tail to shoulder.



(Figure 9.06)

Clipping the Hindquarter (Rear View)



The rear view of an animal is perhaps the most important view when evaluating cattle. It shows muscularity, muscle design, cleanness, condition, height, and structural correctness in the animal. This diagram indicates the proper clipping methods on the hindquarter and hind leg as viewed from the rear.

- A. The hip hair is very important to give the animal a level hip. It is left long and blended into the hip and hind quarter.
- B. This area close to the tail is trimmed very short and outward, leaving the most hair on the hindquarter edge. This adds thickness and dimension.
- C. This area is trimmed very short on steers to add muscle shape and is left longer to give a flat appearance on breeding cattle. Blend from hock into lower stifle.
- D. The outside hock area is trimmed very short. This adds to the straightness of the leg and gives the animal the appearance of being taller and thicker quartered.
- E. The inside hock area and twist can be shaved or trimmed very short to add height to the animal.
- F. The twist area can be shaved if a flatter muscle design is desired, or the hair can be shaped to give the appearance of more muscle and a deeper, fuller quarter when viewing from the rear.

(Figure 9.07)

Trimming Feet

- Trimming feet should be done on an as needed basis. Allow plenty of time for trimming prior to a show.
- Proper trimming can correct structural problems and help the animal to move more freely.
- Trimming should be done by someone with experience. Permanent injury or movement disorder can be caused by inexperience.

Show Schedule Hints

- Before you leave home - Are your tattoos legible and are all your registration and health papers in order?
- Are your animals halter broke and do they work with a stick? Practice at home makes for a successful day at the show.
- Arrive at the show in plenty of time.
 - Check-in with the office, give them your paperwork, and find your tie area.
 - Unload the cattle into pre-made tie-outs if available - let them rest. Usually wait to feed and water unless it's hot.
 - Prepare the stall - try to elevate the front of the bed a little.
 - Put up signs, arrange boxes, and equipment.
 - Wash, dry, and condition cattle.
 - Tie in stall with neckties and let cattle relax.
 - Feeding
 - Try to feed the same time each day - usually when everyone around you does.
 - Water either before or after feeding grain - monitor water intake carefully.
 - Feed long hay after the grain pan has been removed in the stall in the AM, and in the tie out in the PM.

- Brush the animals when they are up and keep bedding clean.

Grooming and showing are really fun if you are prepared and have practiced at home. Enjoy the time you spend with your animal. Especially value the time you spend meeting other people and always continue learning.

Exercise

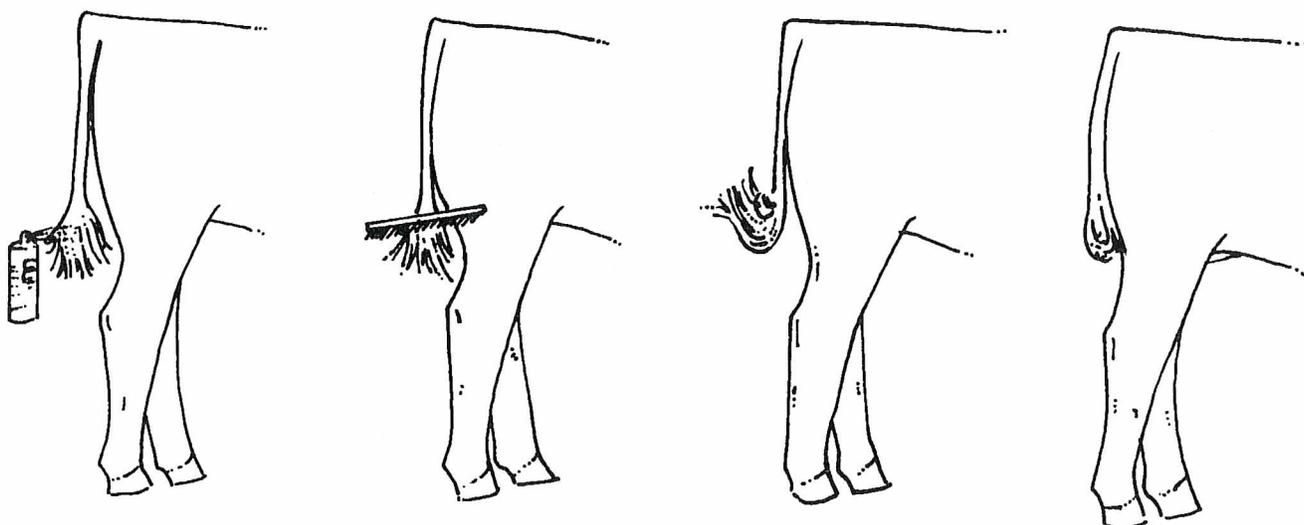
- Exercise is necessary. It serves to add muscle tone, increase appetite, and firms over-conditioned animals. Use in moderation.

Show Day Preparation

This is the day all the hard work, long hours, and patience pay off.

- Allow plenty of time to prepare, about 45 minutes per animal. Rinse and blow dry prior to this time or use an alcohol and water or vinegar spray rinse.
- Work the hair.
- Apply an oil mix and brush and blow in.
- Apply show foam over the entire body. Brush it in and blow it completely dry. The foam holds the hair and brings up the under coat.
- Spray on a product such as Base Coat/Clean Sheen or Zoom Bloom and blow the hair.
- Any sticky substances such as hair sprays or adhesives should be applied near the end of the preparation period.
- Putting up the tail. Some steers are shown with their tails bobbed, this is OK if the tail bone is short enough. Cows with calves are usually shown with the tail switch long and full, not tied up. (Figure 9.08)

Putting Up a Tail



1. **Comb out the tail and then rat a small part of the hair near the base of the tail and spray with glue.**
2. **Put tail tie through the knot of glued hair.**
3. **Turn tail up towards you to the tail shaft at the proper heights. Trim off excess tie.**
4. **Rat the tail hair completely and form a symmetrical ball using glue as needed. The hair can be pulled to one side or up around the tail bone. Spray the entire switch with glue, (no paint) and bag with a plastic bag (until ready for show).**
5. **The completed tail should be in a position to add balance to the animal. A tail too high will make the animal look heavy fronted and too low will make him/her look older and light-muscled.** (Guideline - the bottom of the switch should be level with the bottom of the brisket.)

(Figure 9.08)

Leg Preparation

Boning and clipping the legs promotes straightness and eye appeal.

- A. Use a leg adhesive product that can look natural to hold the leg hair in place. Use products that are translucent and have no color.
 1. Spray one area of the leg at a time and pull through or pick out with the scotch comb, pull up, and a little forward.
 2. Be conservative – you can always add more glue and comb through again. Too much glue looks fake.
 3. Don't bone the legs too high on the hindquarter. The hindquarter and leg must join as smoothly as possible.
 4. Keep your scotch comb free of hair and glue to do a smooth job. Clean with hot water or spray oil.
- B. Clip the legs. (Figures 9.06 and 9.07)

Take your time and leave as much hair as you can where needed to give the appearance of more bone.

 1. Four areas of the leg will be short: the back of the hock bone, the front of the hind leg below the flank, the inside of the hock, and the front of the pastern or knuckle.
 2. The leg should appear straight and functional. Be careful not to clip them too straight.
 3. Front legs are clipped to reduce knee prominence and to blend into the shoulder smoothly.
 4. Put on final coat of glue and repair any areas which need to be pulled up again.

Final Preparation

- A. Apply any adhesive or hair spray on hard to hold areas of the body, and put on a final oil shine such as Final Touch and blow in. If glue has been sprayed in the wrong area, Lanolin Spray or alcohol will remove it without creating an oily spot.
- B. Put on the show halter and adjust it up near the eyes of the animal. This is very important.
- C. Check the animal's fill (stomach). A proper fill is important. Some long stem hay and/or water will help fill an animal. Fill gives an animal the appearance of having volume and condition.
- D. Take the animal out of the chute and walk him around if time allows. Check for any last minute touch ups.

Product removal after the show

Wash your animal thoroughly with soap because skin irritation will likely occur. The following products make this project easier:

- spray mix of Purple Oil and alcohol
- Mineral Oil
- Final Touch
- Commercial removal product

Table 9.01 gives a list of equipment and supplies you may need when grooming your animal for a show.

Equipment Supply List

Grooming Supplies

Rice root brush
Soft brush
Multi-toothed brush
Scotch comb
Tail comb
Spray bottle
Hoof brush
Blower
Light oil mix
Tail adhesive
Body adhesive
Leg adhesive
Final mist
Tail ties
Show foam
Hair spray
Scissors
Lanolin spray
Alcohol
Purple oil
Rag oil
Oil rag

Washing Supplies

Soap
Vinegar dip
Balsam
Scrub brush
Hose and nozzle
Extra halter

Show Ring Supplies

Show halter
Clean scotch comb
Show stick
Nose lead (for bulls)

Other Supplies

Feed pans
Buckets
Extension cords
Clippers
Blades
Broom, fork, pliers
Neck ropes
Blocking chute

Table 9.01



A Lesson in Showing Cattle

Showmanship is the one area of exhibiting beef cattle over which you have the most control. In showmanship, you are judged on your ability to control and present your steer or heifer in order to bring out its best characteristics. Advanced planning and hard work are the keys to being a good showperson. Beef cattle showmanship not only generates enthusiasm and competition in the show ring, but also teaches valuable lessons which can be used everyday. These lessons include responsibility, perseverance, learning about hard work and determination to reach a goal, and sportsmanship.

Start early

Success in beef cattle showmanship starts at home and begins with halter breaking your animal. Properly put a rope halter on the calf and allow the lead rope to drag around on the ground for two to three days. This makes your animal aware of the halter. Next, tie the animal for a half hour, working up to two to three hours a day. During this time brush your animal and keep it calm. In time, your animal will respond to your hand movements with a halter and showstick. Training your animal to walk, stop, and set up easily will take time and patience. First, try to lead it to and from water and feed. Then begin leading the animal around the barnyard. Practice in several short segments, not long drawn out sessions. After the animal is used to being walked and set up, practice having another person move close to and handle the animal with you at the halter. This will allow it to remain calm under a judge's close inspection.

Using The Halter

The halter should be properly placed on the animal's head with the lead strap on its left side. The halter cross strap which crosses over the muzzle or nose of the animal should be two to three inches from the eye. Rope halters and show halters can be adjusted for proper fit. Do not have the halter so big that the nose cross piece is down by the mouth.

When leading...

- you should be on the calf's left side with the halter in your right hand.
- your hand should be six to 12 inches from the animal's head. With show halters, this is usually at the junction of the chain and leather strap.
- you should firmly grab over the strap so your thumb is closest to you, not under the strap. Your wrist is stronger this way, and gives you more control over the animal.
- the strap length should be long enough for control, but not long enough to touch the ground. If the strap of the show halter can touch the ground you or the calf might step on it and it becomes awkward to switch hands. If the strap is long, holding the extra length in your left hand is preferred. If the calf is spooked, you will have two hands on the strap.
- do not wrap the halter strap around your hand or fingers as this is harder to let go if you need to, in order to prevent injury.

Using the showstick

There are five basic uses for the showstick.

- to assist in placing the feet
- calm the animal
- control the animal
- keep the top straight
- scotch-driving

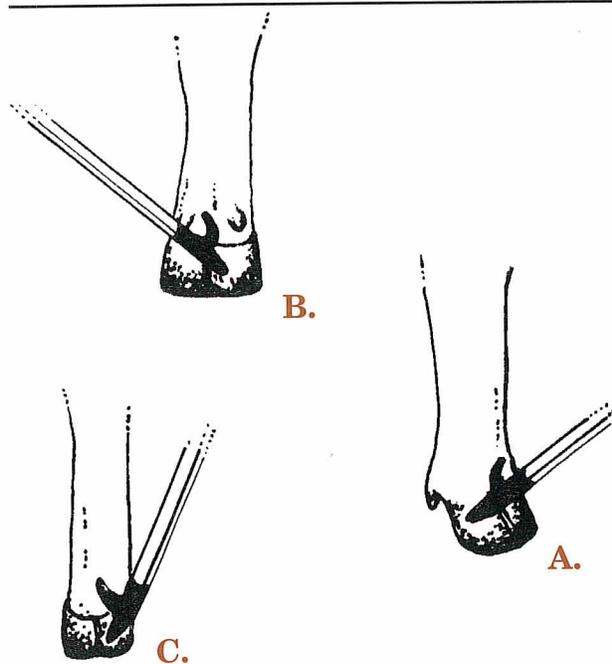
When setting up your calf...

- smoothly switch the lead strap from your right hand to your left hand.
- at the same time, switch your showstick from your left hand to your right hand.
- slowly scratch your calf's belly a couple of times to help calm your animal.
- set the feet in the appropriate position. Remember, you have two tools in your hands to set the feet. One is the halter, the other is your showstick. If you want a rear foot to be moved back, push backward on the halter and press (do not jab) the soft tissue where the hoof is split with your showstick (Figure 9.09 A.). If you want a rear foot to move forward, pull forward on the halter and apply pressure with your showstick under the dew claw (Figure 9.09 B.).

Remember it is easier for the animal to put a foot back than forward. When the rear feet are too close together apply pressure to the inside of a leg just above the hoof (Figure 9.09 C.) and they should stand wider. Front feet can be moved by using your boot or showstick to apply pressure in the previously mentioned areas while pushing or pulling with the halter in the desired direction you want the foot to move. Younger, less experienced showpersons will be safer if they use the showstick. Placement of the feet depends on what view you are providing to the judge and what makes the animal look the best.

- set the feet at all four corners under the animal bearing their full share of the animal's weight, when the cattle are lined up side by side, in a straight line (Figure 9.10a). At this view, the judge is looking at the rear and front of the animal.

Proper use of the showstick in placement of the feet

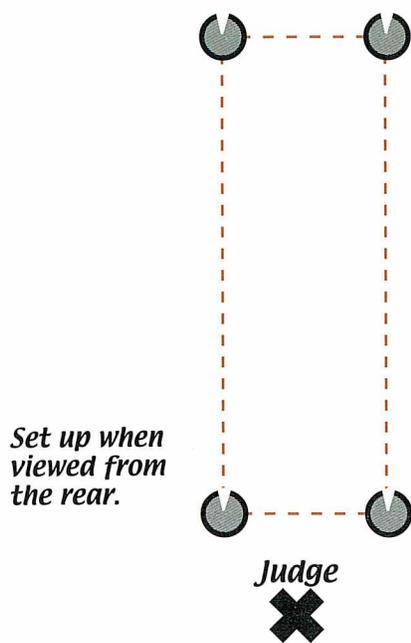


(Figure 9.09)

- set the feet as if a professional photographer is taking a picture when the cattle are lined up on the profile. The rear feet should be staggered so the far side foot is slightly in front of the foot closest to the judge. Usually, a heel to toe relationship works the best (Figure 9.10b). That means the heel of one foot is parallel with the toe of the other foot. The front feet should be set square or staggered less than the rear feet. The toe of the front foot away from the judge should be set back half the distance of the hoof on the judges side. By setting the feet in this manner, you provide the judge a sense or perception of depth and thickness. It also makes it easier to correct a topline and rump structure.

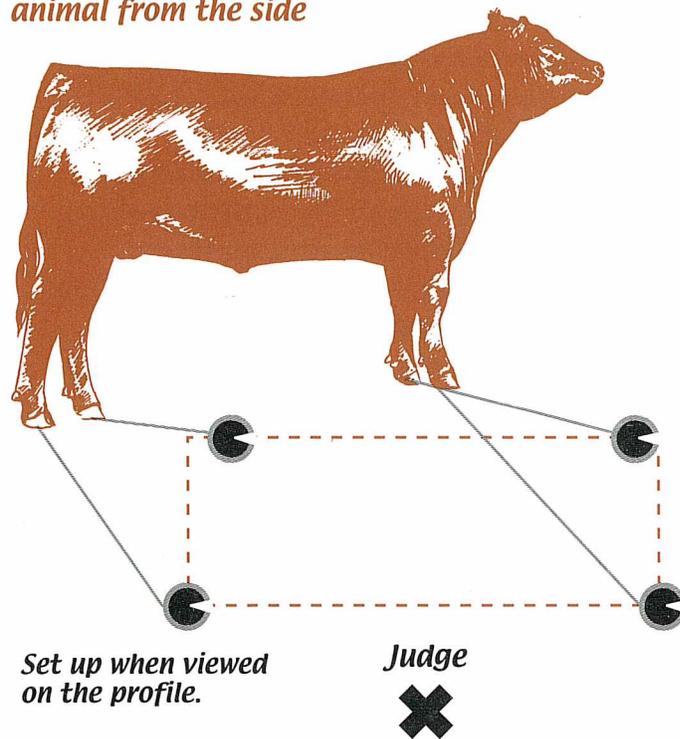
Setting up your beef animal for judging

Correct feet placement when judge is viewing animal from behind



(Figure 9.10a)

Correct feet placement when judge is viewing animal from the side



(Figure 9.10b)

When using the showstick to correct a topline...

- simply apply pressure at the naval or flank with the hook of the showstick if the top is weak and needs to be raised.
- if the rump is steep and the loin is high, apply pressure to the loin area to bring it down. Then continue to scratch the animal's belly to keep it calm.

While using the showstick to control your calf...

- always keep the point of the showstick down, for safety reasons.
- the showstick is in your left hand at the handle or about one-third of the way down when walking. This will allow you to use the showstick as an

additional control tool if needed. If the animal is moving too fast, simply use the portion of the stick between your left hand and top of the stick for tapping the nose. Never hit or beat, merely tap on the nose.

While using the showstick to scotch-drive your calf...

(Scotch-driving is when your calf will not lead or walk and no one is around to help you get started. *Not recommended while in the showing.*)

- simply push forward on the halter with your right hand and tap the animal with the showstick on its side or rump. This will make the animal think someone is behind it and it should start to walk.

Using the scotch comb

The scotch comb should be carried in your back pocket, or in a scotch comb sheath (if you do not have back pockets) with the teeth toward you. This is for safety and courtesy reasons as you would not want someone else to get injured due to your equipment. The scotch comb is to fix and groom the hair which may become messed up from the judge or another person handling your calf or another animal bumping into your animal. The corner of the scotch comb may also be used to apply pressure to the loin or top to bring the topline straight, like the showstick.

At showtime

Prior to the show, walk over the show ring to find any high and low spots of the show ring surface. This will help you avoid these areas and assist you in setting up your calf going uphill and not in a hole.

Dress neatly and look like a livestock person. Leather boots should be worn for safety and appearance reasons. If the calf steps on your foot, the calf's foot will slip off a leather boot much easier than a tennis shoe, and your foot will not hurt as much. Wear nice jeans or slacks. Faded jeans look less professional and should not be worn.

Wear a nice button-down or polo shirt which is pleasing to the eye. No camouflage shirts or T-shirts should be worn. Also, tuck your shirt into your pants and wear a belt for neatness. Leave hats back at the grooming area. Hats may distract the judge's concentration. Your planning and neat appearance will help you to gain success.

When entering the show ring...

- be prompt and have the proper equipment. Be sure to have the proper exhibitor number, showstick, and scotch comb. It is helpful, if you are not in the first class, to watch a class or two so you will know where to line up and how the classes will move through the show ring.
- cattle are lined up side by side to start a class. When pulling into line, look where you will be and head into that position. Do not simply follow the person in front of you as this usually ends up in an "S" configuration, and you can end up brushing against the calf which was in front of you as you pull into the line.
- check your animal a few feet before you reach your destination to slow the animal down when pulling into line. To check your animal, simply lift up slightly on the halter so the animal knows you are about to stop.
- line up where the ring person indicates. If you are third or fourth in the ring, line up your calf even with the other animals and leave three or four feet on both sides of your animal. This allows ample room for you and others to set up the calves.
- get your calf set up as discussed earlier with the head held high. Be alert, keep a close eye on your calf, keep the feet set square, and know where the judge is located. If your calf is not set square and the judge is nearby, set your calf up. Most judges will wait for you, and you want to present your calf the best you can. Always allow the judge to see the view he or she is seeking. Try not to be between the judge and the animal.

When walking cattle...

- move as the judge or ring person instructs, either left or right. Most likely, you will pull the cattle up to the rail and turn to your left, three-fourths of a circle, and walk right behind the other cattle in the side by side line.
- help out the exhibitor in front of you if they are having trouble. Tap the animal's rump with the showstick or preferably put your showstick in your right hand and twist the tail of the calf in front of you with your left hand. Being courteous to others is a must.
- let the animal walk out freely.
- stop in a straight line head to tail (profile).
- remember to check your calf and then stop by lifting the head. Allow four to six feet between your calf and the calf in front of you. This will allow the judge space to move freely around the cattle and help to prevent your calf from mounting the other calf.
- position the feet as discussed earlier for the profile and keep the topline straight with the calf's head up.
- locate the judge and calmly wait. Do not saw your animal in half with rapid stick movement while waiting for the judge. Use slow deliberate strokes with the showstick. The judge may handle the cattle and ask you a few questions. Do not make noises or rattle the chain of the halter. As the judge moves around your animal, move a half step back to allow the judge the full view he or she seeks. Be prepared to answer questions about your animal: weight, birth date, sire, dam, pregnancy status of your heifer, feeding program, parts of the animal, yield grade, quality grade, and where retail cuts of meat come from.
- use the scotch comb to fix the hair which has been messed up.

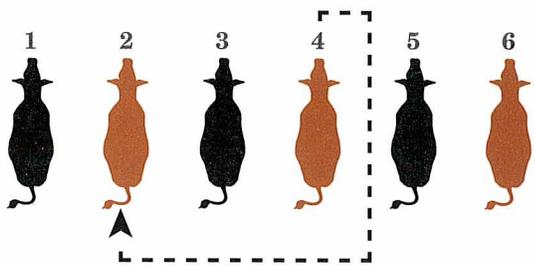
If your animal has moved and the judge has gone on to the next animal...

- pull your animal out in a clockwise circle in the ring and move the animal back into line. Set the animal up first and then fix the hair. It is more important to have the animal set correctly and looking its best first as the hair may be minor compared to how the animal is standing.
- look for a sign or motion to be pulled into a line for the placing. This may be another profile line or side by side. As the judge pulls the cattle from the profile line, empty spaces will occur. If two or more spaces between cattle become empty, move forward in the line. Remember your spacing and set your calf up at its best. By moving forward and filling the empty spaces, you help the judge make it easier to make comparisons. Once pulled into a side by side line, you are nearing the end of the class but be aware the class is not over. Pull into the side by side line as discussed earlier, stay alert and set the animal up.

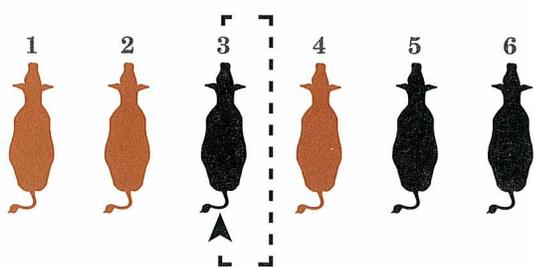
Sometimes positions may be switched. Shown are some situations that may occur (Figure 9.11). Please note you pass back through the same hole that you left and to the proper position. If you are positioned up to a rail, do not turn around in a line. Back your animal out by pushing back on the halter with your left hand and applying pressure with your right hand at the point of the shoulder. Then pull into the line at the instructed position. When the judge starts his reasons, the class is over, but your job is not. You should continue to work hard and display good sportsmanship. Leave the ring in an orderly manner as instructed by the ringperson and pick up your awards.

Switching positions

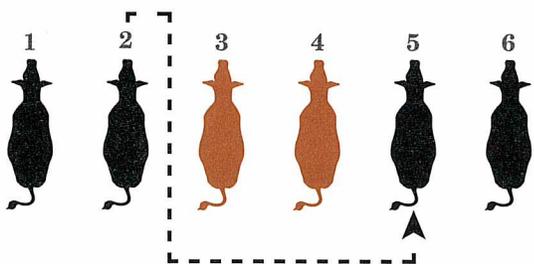
1. How to switch from position 4 to position 2.



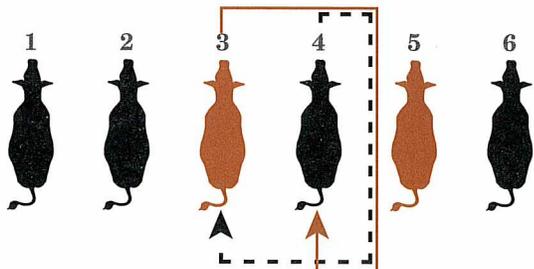
2. How to reset in the same position using position 3.



3. How to switch from position 2 to position 5.



4. How to switch positions 3 and 4. Position 4 would move out first.



(Figure 9.11)

Exhibitor Courtesy and Sportsmanship

Remember to keep straight lines so the judge can compare all the animals. If you are blocking the view of another animal and have space, move so the judge can see all the animals. However, if you are the one hidden, it is your responsibility to be where your animal can be seen. Do not rely on the other exhibitor as he or she may not have room to move. Pull back in line even at the end if this is where space is available on the profile.

Avoid bumping, crowding, or hitting other animals. If your animal becomes nervous or unruly, act like a professional. Be patient, remain calm, and never get discouraged or lose your temper. Finally, congratulate the class winners and those who stood ahead of you. Remember, this is a learning experience. Leave the ring with your head held high, knowing you have given this project your best effort. Learn from your mistakes, watch other showpersons and improve your skills for the next show.



Final Preparation Before the Show

Here are some tips on things to do to make your trip to the show ring or county fair a more enjoyable experience:

- If you have a feeder calf project, make sure you wean your calf three to four weeks before the fair if it is still nursing the cow.
- Two weeks before the show, start feeding and watering your animal with the same buckets you will use at the fair. The first time it is used, place the pan in the animal's creep feeder. After three or four feedings, feed with the pan on the ground where the animal is tied.
- Teach the animal to drink from a bucket. Take away all water sources, except the bucket. Put a fresh bucket of water in the pen after each feeding.

The water your animal is used to may taste different than what is at the fair because of changes in mineral content. Your animal may refuse to drink water away from home. This can affect how your animal will look in the show ring. To prevent a problem, add flavoring to your water to cover up the natural taste. For example, about two weeks before the show, begin adding molasses or brown sugar (about one teaspoon per gallon) to the water. Your animal will get used to this flavor. This can be used while you are at the show.

- Anticipate changes. Your animal will be affected by the changes in its environment and water between home and the fairgrounds.

- Moderate the stress from the change in the environment by playing a radio near your calf for a week before you go to the fair. Transport your calf early in the morning or late in the afternoon to avoid the extreme summer heat.
- Before you leave for the show or fair, check your show equipment and supplies and pack them in a show box. Make a list of what you have. This will help you keep track of your equipment.
- Make sure you have the correct health papers required by the officials of the show.

At the fair or show

- Find your stall quickly and bed it with straw to protect your animal from the hard surface. (If you are planning to use an alternative bedding check with the Beef Department Superintendent. Some fair boards have regulations concerning bedding other than straw). Plan to take two bales of straw per animal. This will keep your animal's area well bedded and clean at all times.
- Tie the animal in the stall, give it some hay and a small amount of water. Allow it to rest for several hours before feeding.
- Use the same routine at the fair as you do at home. Feed at the same time, using fresh feed each time. After 30 minutes, remove any feed that the animal has not eaten. Remember, your animal will usually only eat half as much at the fair as it does at home.