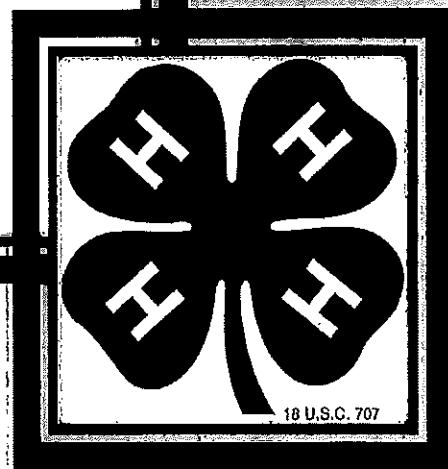
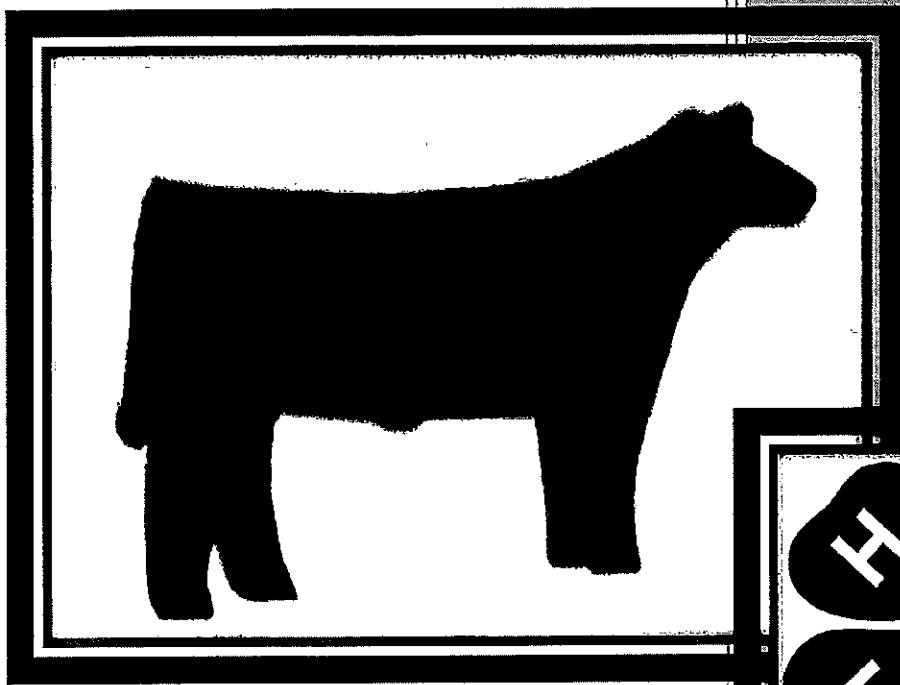
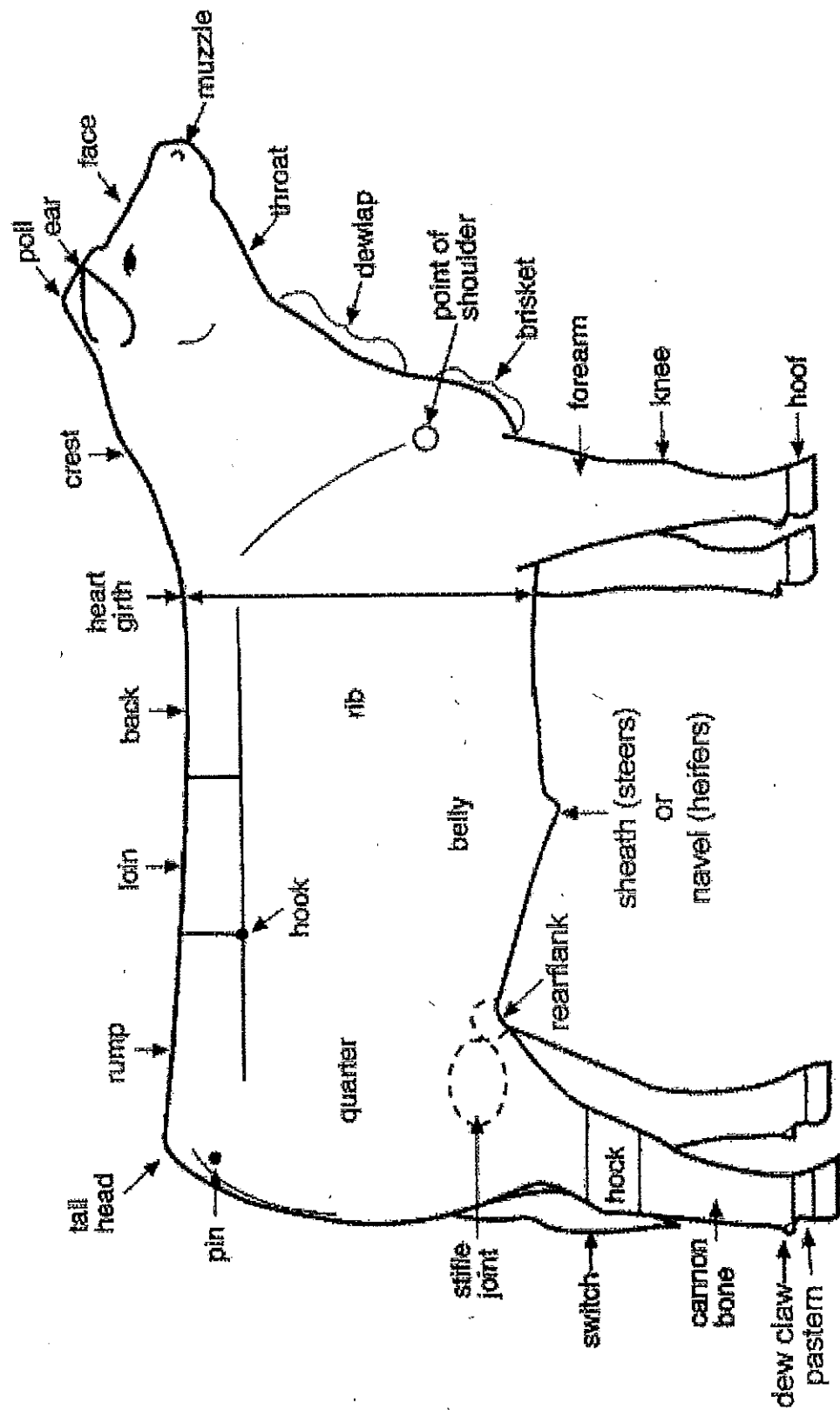


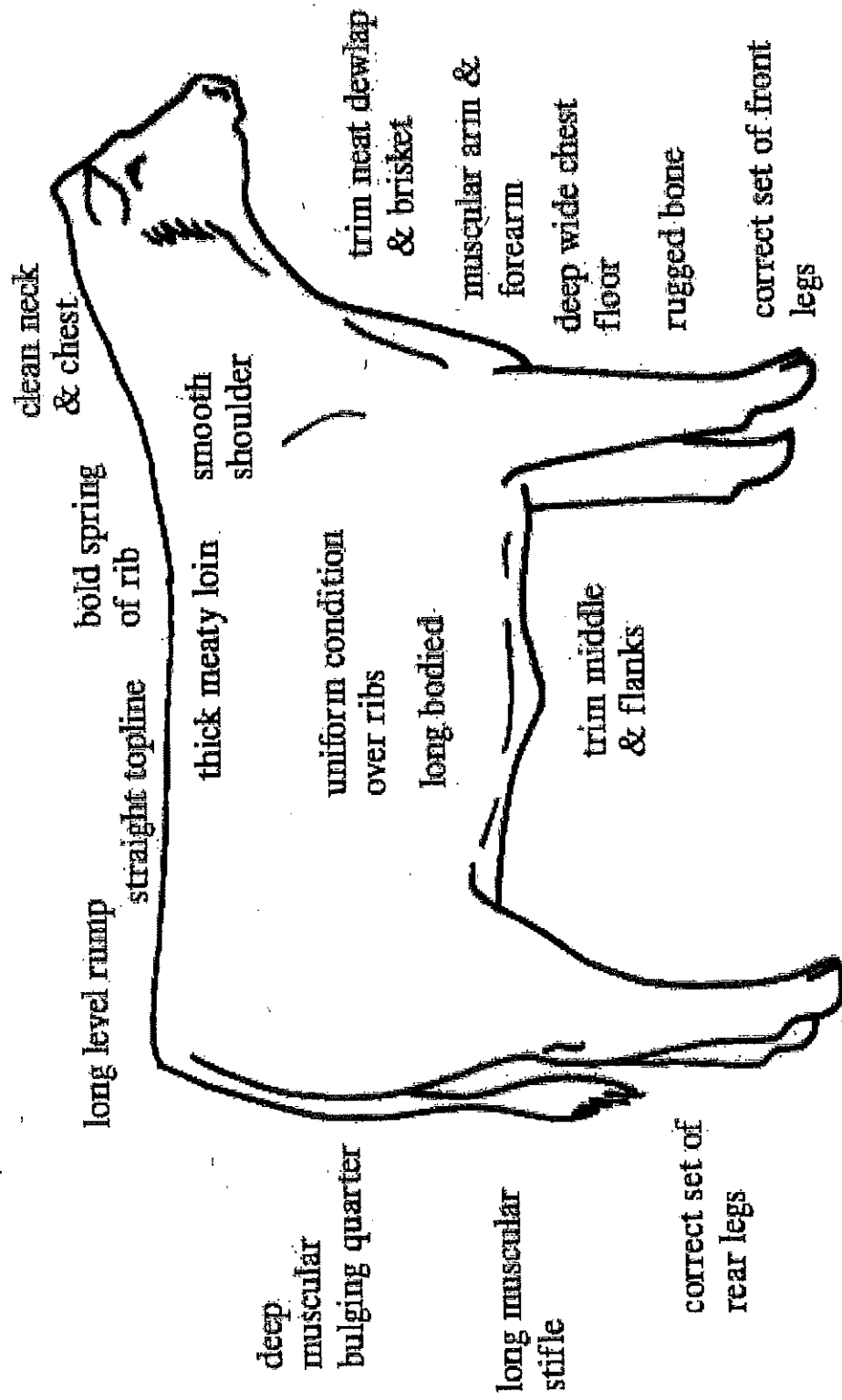
Beef Showmanship



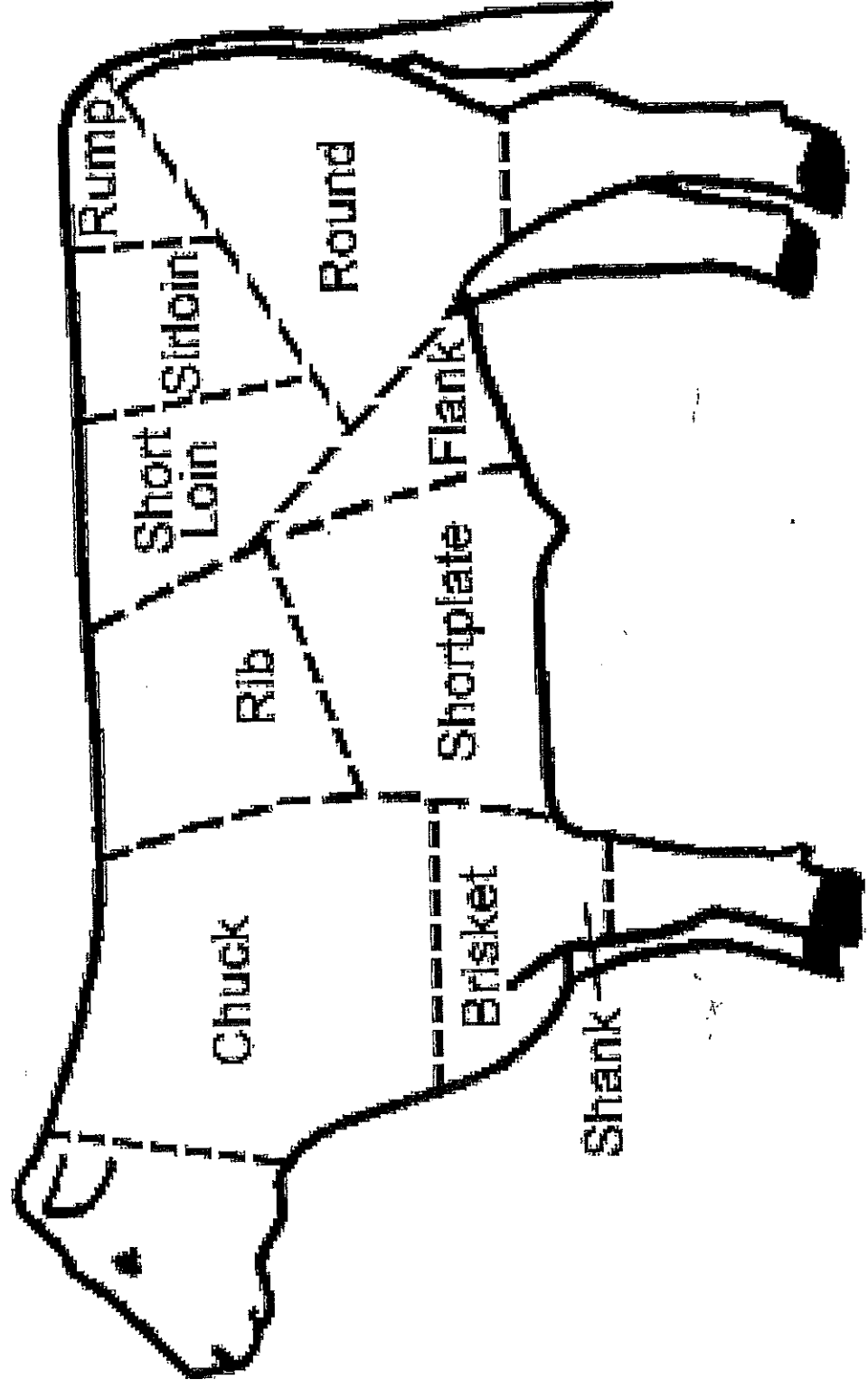
Parts of a Steer



Ideal Market Steer

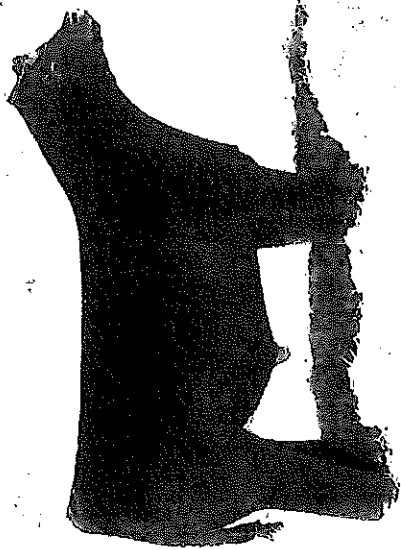


Wholesale Cuts of a Market Steer

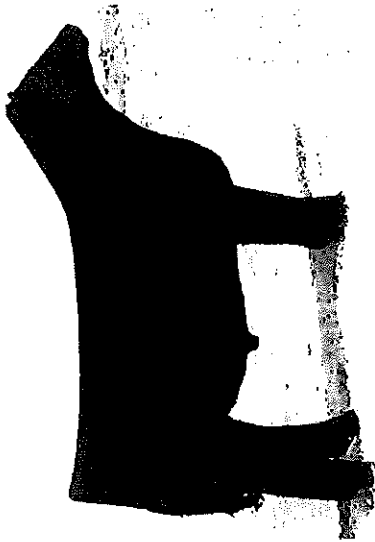


Common Cattle Breeds

Angus (English)



Maine Anjou



Charolaise



Short Horn



Hereford (English)



Simmental



Showmanship Terms/Questions

Bull: an intact adult male

Steer: a male castrated prior to development of secondary sexual characteristics

Stag: a male castrated after development of secondary sexual characteristics

Cow: a female that has given birth

Heifer: a young female that has not yet given birth

Calf: a young bovine animal

Polled: a beef animal that naturally lacks horns

1. What is the feed conversion ratio for cattle?
 - a. 7 lbs. feed/1 lb. gain
2. About what % of water will a calf drink of its body weight in cold weather?
 - a. 8%...and in hot weather?
 - a. 19%
2. What is the average daily weight gain of a market steer?
 - a. 2.0 – 4 lbs./day
3. What is the approximate percent crude protein that growing cattle should be fed?
 - a. 12 – 16%
4. What is the most common concentrate in beef rations?
 - a. Corn
5. What are three examples of feed ingredients used as a protein source in a ration?
 - a. Cottonseed meal, soybean meal, distillers grain brewers grain, corn gluten meal
6. Name two forage products used in a beef cattle ration:
 - a. Alfalfa, hay, ground alfalfa, leaf meal, ground grass
7. What is the normal temperature of a cow?
 - a. 101.0°F
8. The gestation period for a cow is...?
 - a. 285 days (9 months, 7 days)
9. How many stomachs does a steer have? Name them.
 - a. 4: Rumen, Omasum, Abomasum, and Reticulum
10. Name a disease cattle may get.
 - a. Blackleg, Leptospirosis, Influenza, Pneumonia, Pink eye, Hoof rot
11. Name a parasite that may affect cattle.
 - a. Ticks, Lice, Horn Flies, Intestinal Worms, mites

12. What are the top cattle producing states?
 - a. Texas, Nebraska, Kansas, California, Oklahoma
13. The acceptable weight range of an ideal market steer should be...?
 - a. 1250 – 1350 lbs.
14. What is the average dressing percent for a market steer?
 - b. 60-65%
15. What are the more expensive cuts of a steer?
 - a. Loin, rib, round, rump
16. The grades of beef for young market animals are...?
 - a. Prime, choice, select, standard, utility
17. Define Quality Grading.
 - a. The total amount of intramuscular fat streaks inside the rib eye
18. What are 3 quality attributes to be considered in grading quality?
 - a. Maturity, marbling, firmness of the lean, texture of the lean, and lean and fat color
19. Why is marbling important to a piece of meat?
 - a. Important for flavor and it influences juiciness.
20. Define Yield Grading.
 - a. Used to evaluate the amount of red meat (cutability) in a carcass.
21. There are four measured factors used to formulate yield grades. Name them.
 - a. Fat thickness, rib eye area, carcass weight, kidney, pelvic, and heart fat
22. In order to reach the USDA Choice quality grade, the fat opposite the 12th rib should measure...?
 - a. .4 to .45 in. or $\frac{4}{10}$
23. What are body condition scores?
 - a. BCS are numbers are used to suggest the relative fatness or body composition of a cow: 1 meaning very thin, 9 meaning very fat
24. What are the names of three retail cuts of beef?
 - a. Round steak, rib eye roast, arm pot roast, T-bone steak, skirt steak, brisket, sirloin steak, short ribs, back ribs, chuck eye roast.
25. One of the best indicators of muscling in a steer may be observed in the...?
 - a. Stifle

Beef Showmanship

Using the Halter

When leading, walk on the calf's left side with the lead in your right hand. Hold your hand 6 to 12 inches from the animal's head on the lead strap (This is near the junction of the chain and leather strap).

Firmly grip the lead so your thumb is up and toward you with your little finger nearest the chain. Your wrist is stronger this way and provides better control over the animal. Measure the lead strap to be just long enough for control (about shoulder width). It must not touch the ground; if the lead can reach the ground, you or the calf may step on it, making it awkward to switch hands. To prevent injury, do not wrap the halter strap around your hand or fingers.

At Show Time

Before the show, walk over the show ring to find any low spots on the surface. This will help you avoid these areas when setting up your calf. If possible, position the calf so the front feet are placed on higher ground than the rear feet. Enter the show ring counter clockwise promptly when the class is called.

Generally, 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 merely follow the person in front of you since this usually ends in an "S" configuration. You can end up brushing against the calf that was in front of you as you pull into line. If you are third or fourth in the ring, line up even with the other calves, leaving 3 or 4 feet on both sides of your calf. This allows ample room for all exhibitors to set up. Smoothly, yet quickly, get the calf set up with its head high.

When pulling into line, check your calf a few feet before reaching your destination to slow the calf. To check the calf, lift up slightly on the halter so the calf knows you are about to stop.

Using the Show Stick

Four basic uses for the show stick include:

- Assisting in placing the feet.
- Calming and controlling the animal.
- Keeping the top level.
- For scotch-driving the animal.

When setting up your calf—

- Switch the lead strap from the right hand to your left hand quickly and smoothly.
- Switch the show stick from your left hand to your right hand.
- Slowly scratch the calf's belly a couple of times to help calm the calf.
- Set the calf's feet in the appropriate position.

Remember: You have two tools in your hands to set the feet—the lead and the show stick. Set the rear feet first. To move a rear foot back, push backward on the lead and use the show stick to press (do not jab) the soft tissue between the toes in the cleft of the hoof. To move a rear foot forward, pull on the lead and use the show stick to apply pressure under the dew claw (Figure 1).

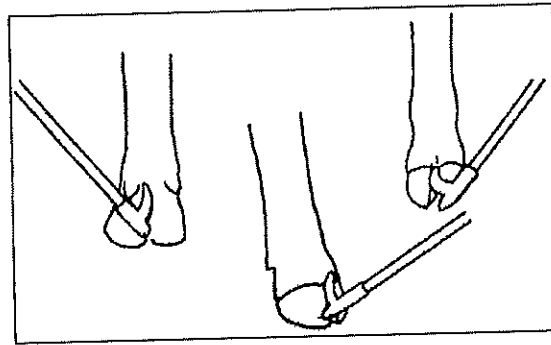


Figure 1. Proper use of the show stick in placement of the feet.

It is easier for the calf to put a foot back than move it forward. When the rear feet are too close together, apply pressure to the inside of the leg just above the hoof or at the hock, and the calf should stand wider. You can move its front feet by using your boot or show stick to apply pressure on the foot while pushing or pulling with the halter lead in the desired direction you want the foot to move. Younger, less experienced exhibitors are safer using the show stick.

Front View of the Animal		
		
Too close The animal appears narrow through the chest floor.	Just right Enhances the animal's natural volume and capacity.	Too wide Appears unnatural and unbalanced
When setting up the front feet – use your own foot as a “brake” when asking the front foot to move forward or use your own foot to push the front foot back (less distracting than trying to maneuver the show stick). With enough practice your animal will almost set themselves up!		

Placement of the feet depends on what view is desired for the judge and what makes the calf look its best. When cattle are lined up side by side in a straight line, the feet should be set on all four corners (bearing a full share of the calf's weight). On this view, the judge is looking at the rear and front of the calf.

Rear View of the Animal		
		
Too close The animal appears narrow and the stance detracts from the natural muscling. Also, the feet are not quite square, which enhances the narrowness.	Just right Enhances the animal's natural muscling and base width.	Too wide Appears unnatural and unbalanced
When setting up the rear feet – use your show stick point to push the feet back, and the hook to pull the foot forward. With enough practice your animal will almost set themselves up!		

When the cattle are lined on the profile (head to tail), set the feet as if a professional photographer is taking a picture. Stagger the rear feet so your near side foot is slightly in front of the foot closest to the judge (Figure 2). As the judge moves to the rear of the calf on profile, an

experienced exhibitor will again square the feet. As the judge moves back to the side view, profile the rear feet again.

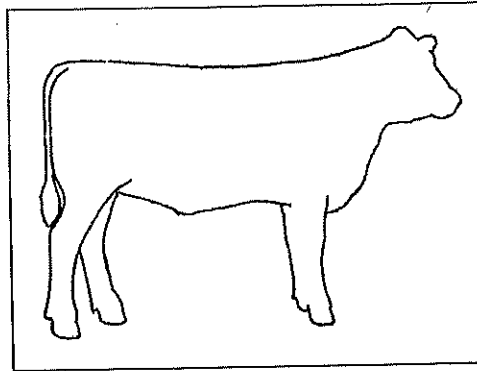
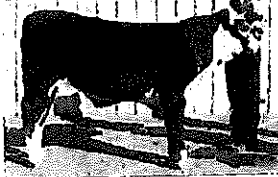
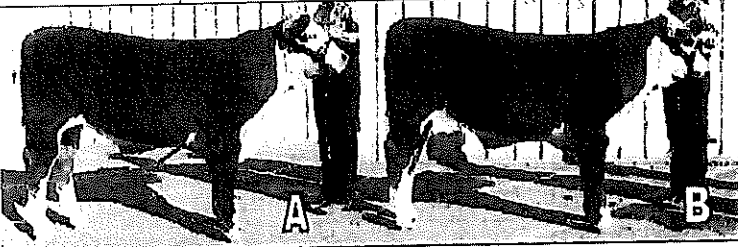


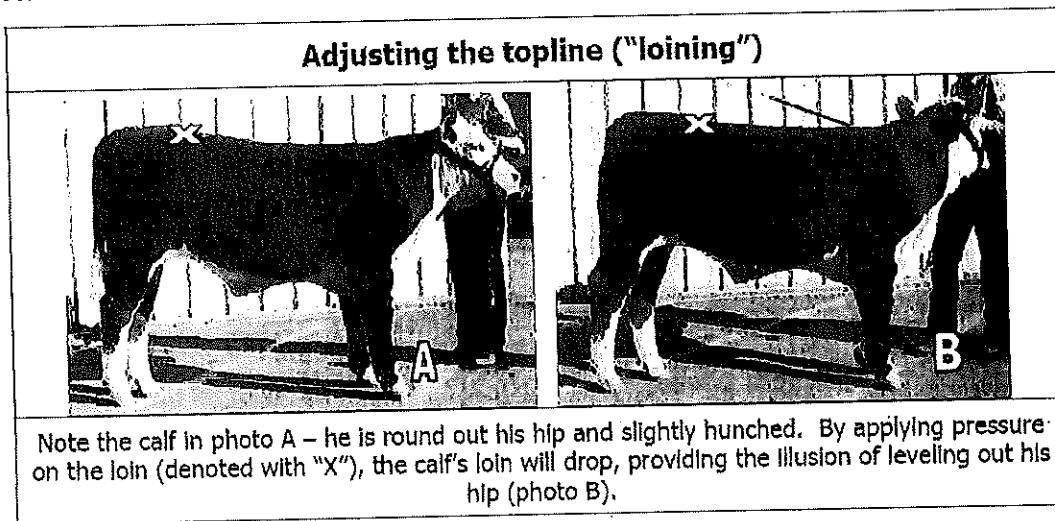
Figure 2. Set up when viewed on the profile

A heel-to-toe relationship works best when profiling. The heel of one foot is parallel with the toe of the other foot. The front feet are set squared or staggered less than the rear feet. The toe of the front foot away from the judge should be set back half the width of the hoof on the judge's side. By setting the feet in this manner, you give the judge a perception of depth and thickness. It also makes it easier to correct a top line and rump structure.

Side View of the Animal		
		
Too close The animal appears short sided and structurally incorrect.	Just right Enhances the animal's balance and eye appeal.	Stretched Appears unnatural and unbalanced, can cause the animal to appear weak down its top.
		
When setting your animal up on a side view (or profile), you may either offset the hind legs slightly (A) or set the animal up square (B). If you offset the hind legs, make sure the side closest to the judge is slightly back and the side furthest from the judge is slightly forward. By offsetting the legs, some animals will appear more level down their top and out their hip.		

When using the show stick to correct a top line—

- Apply pressure at the navel or flank with the hook of the show stick if the top is weak and needs to be raised.
- If the rump is steep and the loin is high, apply pressure to this area to bring it down; continue to scratch the calf's belly to keep it calm.



While showing, always keep the point of the show stick down for safety and professional appearance. Keep the stick in your left hand at the handle or about one-third of the way down when walking. This allows its use as an additional control tool if needed. If the calf is moving too fast, hold the portion of the stick between your left hand and tip or hook end in front of the calf's nose.

To scotch-drive: push forward on the halter with your right hand, and touch the calf with the show stick on its side or rump. This makes the calf think someone is behind it, and it should start to walk. Scotch-driving is needed when the calf will not lead or walk and no one is around to help you get started.

Using the Comb or Cloth

With haired cattle, carry a scotch comb in your right back pocket or in a comb sheath, with the teeth toward you for safety. Use the scotch comb to groom the hair that becomes messed up from the judge's handling your calf or from another animal bumping into your calf. You can use the corner of the comb to level the loin. If showing American breeds with short

hair, carry a wipe cloth (bandana). You can use the cloth in the same manner as the scotch comb to groom the hair while in the showing.

When it is time to walk the cattle—

- Move as the judge or ring steward instructs. Most likely you will pull the cattle up to the rail, turn left, go three-fourths of a circle, and walk right behind the tail of the other cattle in the side-by-side line.
- Assist the exhibitor in front of you in moving a calf if he or she is having trouble. Tap the calf's rump with your stick, or, preferably, put your show stick in your right hand and twist the tail of the calf in front of you with your left.
- Let your calf walk out freely. Move at an easy pace, not too slow or too fast.

When it is time to stop on the profile—

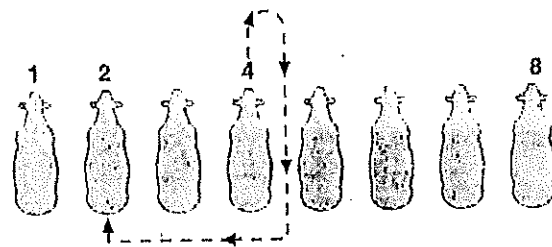
- Stop in a straight line head to tail. Remember to check the calf and then stop by lifting its head. Allow 4 to 6 feet between your calf and the one in front. This allows the judge space to move freely around the cattle and helps to prevent calves from mounting or disturbing others in the line.
- Position the feet as discussed earlier; keep the top line level and the calf's head up.
- Locate the judge and wait calmly. Do not "saw" your calf in half with rapid stick movement while waiting for the judge. Use slow, deliberate strokes with the show stick. Do not make noises or rattle the chain of the halter.

Remember to allow proper distance between calves, and set the calf up at its best. As the judge pulls cattle from the profile line, empty spaces occur. As spaces between cattle become empty, move forward in the line. By moving forward and filling the empty spaces, it becomes easier for the judge to make comparisons. Once pulled into a side by side line, you are nearing the end of the class. Stay alert and set the calf up as positions may continue to be switched.

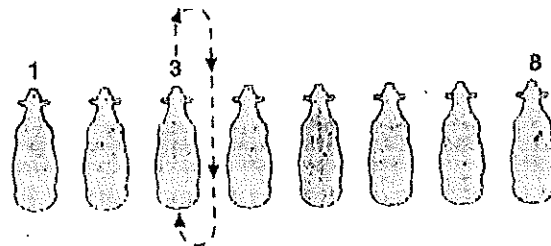
When turning an animal, always turn to the right (clockwise) unless the ring steward gives other instructions. Pushing the calf's head away from you prevents the possibility of the calf stepping on your foot, causing harm to you or the calf.

Certain situations may occur in changing placings (Figure 3). Note that you pass back through the same hole you left, then to the proper position. If positioned up to a rail, do not turn around in the line. Back the calf out by pushing back on the halter with your left hand and applying pressure with your right at the point of the shoulder. Pull into the line at the instructed position.

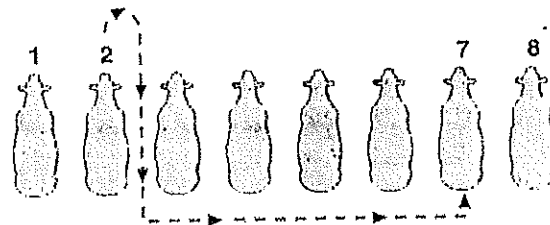
Figure 3: Switching positions



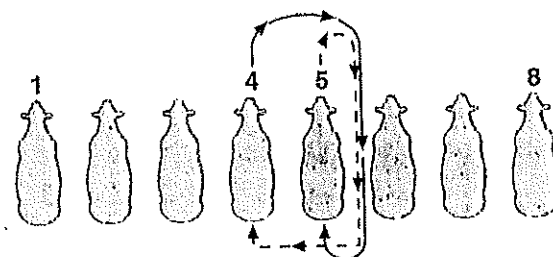
1. How to switch from position 4 to position 2.



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



3. How to go from position 2 to position 7.



4. How to switch positions 4 and 5. Position 5 would move out first.

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