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## Fundamentals of Running Youth Livestock Shows...

### *Requirement Checklist*

#### **Facility Requirements:**

- Bleachers/Seating space available
- PA/Announcement system tested and working properly
- PA that is capable of reaching the barn areas to announce classes or a system to notify exhibitors of classes if no PA is available
- Holding area for livestock to be lined up for classes
- Appropriate lighting for evening shows or supplemental lighting for darkened arenas
- Designated manure handling areas
- When manure handling areas are full, they are compressed or moved to an additional location to keep things clean for the general public
- Emergency plan for facility that addresses general livestock safety and any overheating participants and/or livestock
- Signage that informs the public to wash their hands after touching animals
- Hand washing or hand sanitizing stations
- Adequate power for running numerous blowers, fans, clippers, etc.

#### **Show Ring Requirements:**

- Show ring perimeter (gating) appropriate for the size of animal being shown
- Secured areas to and from the show ring (alleyways)
- Ring has been properly graded
- Large holes have been filled in and large rocks have been removed
- Manure is removed from showing area during the shows
- Functioning fans/cooling system for show ring area

#### **Volunteer Requirements:**

- Have at least one ring person in the ring to help move animals and assist exhibitors if needed
- Have at least one person lining up animals so that the next class is ready
- Have someone announcing the class and the placings
- Have someone recording the results of each class
- If needed, have a volunteer at the enter/exit gate to open and close the gate
- If needed, have someone passing out ribbons/awards

#### **General Requirements:**

- Do not have more youth in a class than you have ribbons (if you give ribbons out)
- Ribbons/awards have been sorted ahead of time for easy dispersal
- For sponsored items, include the donor name and mailing address on the item so participant can write a thank you note
- Announce show/award sponsors
- Make sure the judge and volunteers have access to water or other beverages
- Have a photo backdrop available that is clean and well maintained

- Signage for champion animals and other special awards
- Provide signage options for participants to thank past and current buyers
- Check-in procedures for each specie that evaluate animal health and track animal identification
- Separate market classes based on weight
- Post classes at least two hours before the show is scheduled to begin (the day before is preferred)

**Additional Beef Requirements:**

- If the beef show is after the swine show, remove all placings pens to ensure animal and participant safety
- Breeding stock are shown by breed and then by age

**Additional Sheep Requirements:**

- Breeding stock are shown by breed and then by age

**Additional Swine Requirements:**

- Make sure the maximum number of animals in a market class does not exceed the number of placing pens available
- At least two volunteers (can be youth) with hurdle boards in the ring to help prevent hog fighting, and to help participants pen hogs when asked to by the judge

**Additional Dairy Requirements:**

- Milker available for cows

## *Livestock Related Suggestions and Ideas*

### **Suggestions for working with judges:**

1. In communications, inform the judge where they are supposed to meet you, and approximate time
2. Once you have met the judge, explain any special situations they may encounter. These items may include, but are not limited to:
  1. Special needs of participants including any hearing difficulties. If necessary, have a translator or signor available
  2. Special awards that require additional judging or special circumstance
  3. Ring help that will be available and names of those volunteers
  4. General procedures (rules) for classes to be judged (if not already mailed to the judge)
3. Do not expect the judge to enforce the rules, it is the fair's responsibility
4. If the show is large, consider:
  1. Dividing the show ring and adding a second judge
  2. Dividing the show ring and have the next class lined up in the second ring while the judge is discussing the current class
  3. Breaking apart the show to be separate for showmanship, market and/or breeding based on needs

### **Other ideas:**

- Visit other county and community fairs to observe how they run their shows and fairs
- Champions row (or special pens for the champions)
- Designated times that animals need to be fed by in the morning/evening other than show day
- Consider creating a tie-out area for beef cattle to be able to sleep outside in the evening
- Signage stating show in progress (consider not allowing the general public in the animal building during the specific show depending on building set-up)
- Barn awards or herdsmanship may help participants keep the barn cleaner
- Consider providing bedding for all animals if able to be donated
- If county fitting rules exist, have a plan in place to enforce them
- Designated fitting areas for beef cattle and possibly sheep
- Program for the show with class order and participants names
- Signage explaining to the public what is happening during the show and why