
UNIFORM SCORECARD

for Judging Junior Dairy
Fitting & Showmanship Contests

POINTS

Appearance of Animal.....30

Cleanliness.....	10
Grooming.....	10
Clipping.....	5
Condition & Thriftiness.....	5

Appearance of Exhibitor.....10

Showing Animal in the Ring..... 60

Leading.....	25
Posing.....	15
Show Animal to Best Advantage.....	10
Poise, Alertness, Attitude.....	10

TOTAL..... 100



Purebred Dairy Cattle Association

PDCA FITTING & SHOWING SCORECARD

A. Appearance of Animal -- 30 points

1. Cleanliness -- 10 points

- a. The best fitted animals are always extremely clean. Hair and switch must be completely clean and free from stains.
- b. Hide and ears free of dirt and wax. Legs and feet clean.
- c. Must be washed early enough to be completely dry at show time.

2. Grooming -- 10 points

- a. Hair properly groomed and the hide soft and pliable. Hair dresser and powders should not be used in excess. Excessive manipulation of hair is undesirable, however toplines may be blow dried and hair spray used to straighten toplines.
- b. Hooves trimmed and shaped to enable animal to walk and stand naturally.
- c. All animals of all breeds older than six months must be dehorned.

3. Clipping -- 5 points

- a. Final clipping should be done just before the show. Clipped and unclipped areas should be smoothly blended so clipper lines do not show.
- b. Head, neck, ears, tail, udder (for cows) and elsewhere clipped as needed. Front and rear legs should be clipped to give the appearance of greater flatness of bone and to remove stains. Toplines should be trimmed to improve straightness. Withers are clipped to a sharp point to improve angularity. Body clipping is acceptable, but additional credit should not be given for professional clipping. Belly and udder not to be clipped on heifers that have not freshened and are not springing close.

4. Condition and thriftiness, showing normal growth, being neither too fat nor too thin -- 5 points

B. Appearance of Exhibitor -- 10 points

1. Clothes and person neat and clean; white costume preferred. Durable, protective shoes are recommended when large animals are exhibited. Clothing should be practical and tasteful.
2. Local regulations may include special instructions for exhibitors, e.g. banning farm names on shirts, requiring neckties or organization clothing (FFA jackets, 4-H shirts or ties, breed vests, etc.) It is the responsibility of show management to inform judges and exhibitors of special rules.

C. Showing Animal in the Ring -- 60 points

1. Leading -- 25 points

- a. Enter leading the animal at normal walk around the ring in a clockwise direction, walking opposite the head on the left side, holding a lead strap with the right hand quite close to the halter with the strap neatly, but naturally (preferably not coiled), gathered in one or both hands. Holding close to the halter or with the hand inside the halter ensures a more secure control of an animal.
- b. Animal should lead readily and respond quickly to the exhibitor. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to respond quickly with the animal to the signals given by the judge.
- c. Halter of right type for showing dairy cattle, fitting properly and placed correctly on animal. The nose band should fit across the bridge of the nose midway between the eyes and the muzzle. A leather halter with leather or chain lead is preferred.
- d. As the judge studies your animal the preferred method of leading is walking slowly facing the animal and holding the lead strap in the left hand with the remainder of it neatly, but naturally, gathered in one or both hands. At all other times walk facing forward at a quicker pace. When given the signal to pull into line, move quickly to that position in the ring.
- e. Lead at a comfortable pace with the animal's head held high enough for impressive style, attractive carriage and graceful walk. Never allow a large gap to occur between your animal and the one ahead of you. Do not crowd the exhibitor ahead of you nor lead in front of that animal so it cannot be seen by the judge.

2. Posing -- 15 points

- a. When posing and showing an animal stay on the animal's left side and stand faced at an angle to her in a position far enough away to see stance of her feet and her topline.
- b. Pose animal with feet squarely placed. The hind leg nearest the judge is posed slightly behind the other one when showing heifers or bulls. The hind leg nearest the judge should be far enough ahead to allow the judge to see both the fore and rear udder when exhibiting cows.
- c. Animal should be trained so the exhibitor can move it quickly and easily into the correct pose. The position of the rear legs should be reversed when the judge walks around to view the animal from the other side. Do not over show. When judge is observing the animal, let it stand when posed reasonably well.
- d. Face animal uphill, if possible, with her front feet on a slight incline.

- e. Always move quickly into line when given the signal by a judge. Neither crowd the exhibitor next to you nor leave enough space for another animal when you lead into a side-by-side position.
- f. Animal may be backed out of line when judge requests that her placing be changed. Move animal back by exerting pressure on the shoulder point with the thumb and finger of the right hand while pushing back with the halter. Many prefer to lead animal forward and around the end of the line or back through the line. Do not lead animal between the judge and an animal being observed. To move the animal ahead, pull gently on the lead strap.
- g. Do most of the showing with the halter lead strap and avoid stepping on animal's hind feet to move them.
- h. Be natural. Overshowing, undue fussing and maneuvering are objectionable.

3. Show animal to best advantage -- 10 points

- a. Quickly recognize the conformation faults of the animal you are leading and show to overcome them. You may be asked to exchange with another and show a different animal.
- b. For the judge to evaluate the animal properly it is vital that the exhibitor know basic information such as birth date, fresh date, breeding date and due date. Knowledge of this information will help show the animal to best advantage.

4. Poise, alertness and attitude -- 10 points

- a. Keep an eye on your animal and be aware of the position of the judge at all times. Do not be distracted by people or activities outside the ring.
- b. Show animal at all times and not yourself.
- c. Respond rapidly to requests from the judge and officials.
- d. Be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times.
- e. Keep showing until the entire class has been placed and the judge has given the reasons.

PDCA Showmanship Evaluation Card

It is important that participants in showmanship ensure that their animal is in proper body condition and growth based on the age of the animal. Horns are to be removed at an appropriate age to provide a safer environment for the leadsperson. Feet should be properly trimmed to promote ease of movement for the animal. These practices will show good husbandry skills of the participant as well as a positive image for the dairy industry.

PDCA recommends the following levels of discrimination in the judging of showmanship competitions.

Slight Discriminations

Exhibitor

- Inappropriate halter.
- Lead strap tightly looped
- Walks slowly backward into the ring
- Sidesteps when leading calf
- Has stiff outstretched arm
- Has poor posture – either overly stiff or slumped, sloppy
- Improper head carriage, animal's nose is too high
- Calf's head is not turned slightly toward judge when hide is felt
- Stepping on or kicking at the animal's front feet. (Note that a slight touch to move animal's front feet is allowed and should not be discriminated against)
- Inappropriate size of calf for competitor

Animal

- Minor instances of animal not handling well
- Is not alert
- Muzzle is not wiped clean
- Switch is not brushed and fluffed
- Clipping lines not properly blended*

Moderate Discriminations

Exhibitor

- Not wearing white clothing or show-approved professional attire
- Inappropriate or unprofessional attire that draws attention to the exhibitor
- Wearing clothing with farm or commercial advertising/logos
- Does not know birth date, fresh date, breeding date, due date
- Unable to recognize type faults of the animal*
- Halter not fitting or put together properly
- Holding the lead strap too far from the halter
- Has fingers in ring of the halter
- Failure to hold throat when needed
- Improper head carriage, animal's head held too low
- Unable to show animal to best advantage
- Slow response to judge or ring official
- Inattentiveness
- Watching the judge too intently
- Over-showing
- Leading too slowly
- Has elbow or hands up

- Is too far to outside or inside of ring
- Incorrect spacing to the animal in front when on parade
- Failure to switch rear legs when the judge moves around the animal (heifers, rear leg nearest the judge back; milking and dry cows, rear leg nearest the judge forward)
- Doesn't walk quickly into line
- Crowding or bumping other animals when pulled in line
- Leaving extra space in line
- Failure to maintain a straight lineup
- Moves excessively in line
- Unable to back up animal
- Legs incorrectly posed
- Does not keep animal straight from head to tail
- Chewing gum

Animal

- Legs not clipped
- Dirt/dust in hair coat
- Dirt/wax in ears
- Feet not cleaned
- Excessive use of hair sprays, powder and other fitting products
- Clipping too early; hair appears too long
- Incomplete clipping
- Excessive clipping

Serious Discriminations

Exhibitor

- Lead strap looped & fastened
- Striking the animal
- Positioning animal's rear legs by stepping on rear feet
- Fusses with or moves calf to the extreme
- Minor instances of unsportsmanlike conduct
- Is late to class
- Wearing inappropriate shoes
- Chewing tobacco
- Carries or talks on a cell phone

Animal

- Animal causing disturbances to others

Disqualification

- Violations of PDCA Show Ring Code of Ethics
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Repeated striking of the animal

Recommendation for the evaluation of topline:

- Topline is groomed, doesn't distract from the animal's overall appearance, conforms to the guidelines of the PDCA Showing Code of Ethics.*

*Expectations should be age appropriate and at some shows, these fitting criteria may be significantly downplayed at the discretion of show management and with appropriate communication to exhibitors.