

4-H/FFA HERDSMANSHIP DEPARTMENT

Superintendent: Chris Wood

1. **Herdsmanship judging provides an opportunity to recognize members for responsible behavior and quality work while taking care of their animals.**
2. Clay County clubs/chapters will be judged in each department in which members have exhibits. (Junior Feeders, Purebred Swine, Poultry, Halter Beef, Horse, Sheep, Market/Derby Swine, Rabbit and Meat Goats). Premiums will be awarded based on club herdsmanship ribbon placement in each department.
3. District exhibitors are expected to practice good herdsmanship.
4. Herdsmanship goals
 - a. Club/chapter cooperation and camaraderie
 - b. Ensure that all animals have a high level of care during the fair
 - c. Encourage the public to view the animals on exhibit in a positive light
5. When possible, exhibitors will be stalled with members from their 4-H Club or FFA chapter. Each 4-H Club and FFA chapter should have signage posted to identify the club or chapter exhibits.
6. 4-H/FFA members should plan to have animal chores done by 9:00am every day of fair. Herdsmanship judges will come through the barns twice a day between 9:00am - 6:00pm
7. Each day's judging results will be posted in respective barns.
8. The herdsmanship award will be based on the following score card:
 - a. **General cleanliness of barn**
 - Watering points and drains kept clean
 - Alleys swept clean, free as possible of dirt and bedding
 - Trash picked up and area free of clutter
 - b. **Cleanliness of pens and storage area**
 - Bedding adequate, dry, clean and in place
 - Manure hauled out and deposited in proper place
 - Feed trough in front of animals only at feeding time
 - c. **Arrangement of exhibits**
 - Feed pans, extra feed, and miscellaneous gear in tack area provided
 - Equipment lined up in attractive manner with a limited amount of bedding and extra feed on hand
 - d. **Appearance of animals**
 - Animals clean and brushed
 - Animals should be in stalls except when grooming, exercising, exhibiting, or at designated tie outs
9. When a member keeps food and water in front of animals (hogs, sheep, rabbits, and poultry), containers should be fastened down.
10. All exhibitors are to use fair-approved bedding only: horse, meat goats, lambs, poultry, rabbits, and swine: bags of chips; beef: bulk wood chips.
11. Appearance of animals is very important. After the show, it is recommended that the exhibitor wash their animals to clean off sprays, etc. Wash or clean animals daily.
12. The responsibility for herdsmanship rests with the 4-H/FFA member. When the member is not available to check animals periodically throughout the day, the member must make arrangements with another 4-H/FFA member, family member, or club leader to periodically check the animals throughout the day and evening.
13. Tack stalls are to be kept neat and organized (for example: dispose of garbage, organize clothing, keep chairs out of alleys when not in use, etc.).
14. Tractors will move through beef, sheep, and swine barns early each morning. Please keep all manure out of alleys except during clean out. Manure may be carted to designated areas at other times. Donated wheelbarrows will be available in each barn for 4-H & FFA members to use to remove manure.
15. Poultry and rabbit exhibitors are reminded to clean out under animal cages prior to adding new bedding.
16. Halter beef exhibitors are to remove feed and water from in front of animals by 9:00am after morning feeding and by 7:00pm in the evening.
17. Junior feeder exhibitors are encouraged to keep their stalls as clean as possible and avoid running waters over.
18. Swine Exhibitors are encouraged, but not required, to use cement water pans or water periodically and remove water pans after watering.
19. Final scores, a comment sheet, and premium will be provided to each club/chapter after the fair. Ribbon placing will be as follows: Purple ribbons (perfect score) = 3.00; Blue ribbons = 2.70-2.99; Red ribbons = 2.40-2.69; White ribbons = 0-2.39.
20. Clay County club/chapter winners of each department will be recognized. Winners of each department will get to select stalling location in the barns for next year's fair. Ties will be broken using the club with the largest number of animals exhibited.
21. Herdsmanship premiums may be withheld if 4-H/FFA members are negligent in herdsmanship duties.
22. *Herdsmanship judges are there to teach, encourage, and reward members who meet these important goals.*