Herdsmanship Award

All livestock and small animal exhibitors are automatically entered into the Herdsmanship contest as a club. It is vital that the 4-H program put their best foot forward and demonstrates the care that we give to our animals and the hard work that we as a 4-H program put in to our projects as well as how we work as a team. This is not an individual contest.

Judging
There will be a separate award for each barn; Cattle, Sheep/Goats, Horse, Swine, Poultry and Rabbit. A committee independent of 4-H and the fair board will be selected to judge. Those committee members will not be disclosed to the membership as an incentive to participate at all times.

Responsibility
Herdsmanship duties are the responsibility of all exhibitors and club members rather than leaders, advisors or parents. If an exhibitor is going to be gone for any reason, it is their responsibility to ask another club member to water, feed and care for their animals.

Basis of Scoring
The Herdsmanship judges will use the following scoring guide in judging herdsmanship;
- Animals are clean at all times with proper grooming, bedding and care apparent.
- Animals are to be properly tied and penned.
- Animals are to be fed and watered per rules of the barn.
- Animals in small building are to have water available at all times and feed at proper times. Feed and water dishes are to be upright and any excess spillage cleaned up at all times.
- Stalls/Pens/Cages are clean and neat. Bedding is clean and fresh. Feed/feed pans and buckets clean and in place.
- All manure cleaned out and deposited in the designated areas.
- Tack and feed area should be kept clean and neatly arranged.
- Stall cards displayed neatly and complete.
- Club signs are appropriate and neatly displayed.
- Exhibitor’s share of the alley way should be kept clean at all times and free of equipment.
- Exhibitor participated in pre-fair and post-fair clean up.

Time of Judging
Herdsmanship will be checked daily for the duration of the fair with no designated time of day each day.

Award
The Van Buren County Fair Board and the 4-H program have teamed up to give a very nice award of $100 per barn to the winning Herdsmanship Club for that barn.

A club has the ability to win from $100 to $600 in Herdsmanship Awards at the fair.

Each barn will be judged separately.

- Cattle Barn $100
- Sheep/Goat Barn $100
- Horse Barn $100
- Swine Barn $100
- Poultry Barn $100
- Rabbit Barn $100
For a Total of $600