

Herdsmanship – General Information

The purpose of herdsmanship is to help 4-H members learn skills in making a favorable impression on the general public with their animal science project, as well as skills in courtesy, cooperation, ethical, and proper care of animals.

Herdsmanship is PRIDE in your 4-H animal science project and exhibit. PRIDE in your 4-H club, PRIDE in your family and PRIDE in yourself and what you have accomplished. Herdsmanship should focus on teamwork, showing pride in exhibits, learning to pick up and take care of your area, proper care and treatment of animals (feed, water, clean their pen, care of animal health, animal handling, etc.). It is vital that the 4-H program put their best foot forward and demonstrate the care that we give to our animals and the hard work that we, as the 4-H program, put into our projects as well as how we work as a team.

Things to consider:

- 4-H members should be courteous and ready to explain their exhibit to the general public- members should be courteous to each other, 4-H adults, and the fair board members/
- General appearance of the club area- animals are penned/grouped together by club and it is each club members responsibility to assist their club with feeding, watering, and general care of all club animals, cleaning of pens/walkways, store equipment neatly and safely and not in the walkways, aisles, or doorways.
- The entire area of club animals must be clean and presented in an attractive manner to spectators and the public at all times (including during shows).
- Club members should learn to work together and help each other do a better job. Experienced club members should mentor the new, younger members and families and help them to have a successful fair experience. If youth need to be absent, work with the other club members to make sure your animals are being taken care of properly.
- Animals should be clean, groomed, and properly tied or penned.
- Cleanliness of alleys, aisles, stalls, pens, and cages – bedding is dry, adequate but not excessive, and show boxes and equipment is stored neatly and out of the way. No family farm or breeder signs on display in ANY pen area.
- Manure is hauled away frequently and put in the proper area for disposal. Clean up any droppings along the way, even if not in your club area – no one wants to step in a pile!
- Animals should be fed and watered and cared for at regular times. Water is the MOST important nutrient to sustain life – animals need to be watered frequently, especially in extreme heat!
- It is the expectation that 4-H members, with the guidance and support of their parents/guardians will complete their herdsmanship responsibilities including grooming and fitting.
- We understand that 4-H members have other responsibilities during the fair. Work within your club to make sure that your animal is being taken care of properly if you need to be gone.
- Judges will go around and judge the barns and score the clubs. The points are posted in the 4-H Office. The winning club is listed on a plaque.
- Contact your species chair from the livestock committee during the fair if you are experiencing problems and/or have questions.