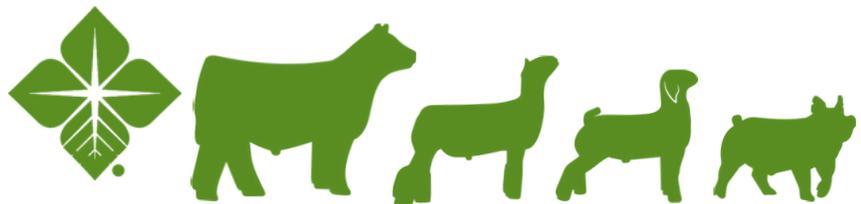




GETTING STARTED SHOWING LIVESTOCK

A Quick Guide



 FARM CREDIT
KNOWLEDGE CENTER

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GETTING STARTED:



Contact a local extension agent, ag teacher or local family showing.



Attend a local show and talk to families about how they started showing that species.



RESEARCH the species and determine which best fits your facilities, financial expectations and skill level.

PARTNERSHIPS:



Explore opportunities to partner with a family or child for a year to help them in their barn or even show one of their animals for a “test run”.



Extension and 4-H groups- attend club meetings.



Many breeders or farms have programs to help new showmen with showmanship, feeding, clipping/hair care, etc...



Attend any livestock camp you can.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO BUDGET FOR:



Cost of the animal



Facilities appropriate for the species. Dry flooring, out of the weather, air movement, access to clean, fresh water, animal safety and security, etc...



Feed- Explore local stores and what FRESH feed that you can get on a consistent basis



Grooming Supplies



Entry fees



Travel (gas, hotel, food, etc...)

EQUIPMENT CHECK SHEETS:

CATTLE	SHEEP/GOATS	HOGS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blower (dry cattle)• Show Stick• Scotch Comb• Show Halter• Grooming chute or way to contain animal while grooming• Shampoo/Soap	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blankets• Lamb grooming stand• Antifungal treatment• Gentle Shampoo/Soap• Blower	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brush• Gentle shampoo and conditioner (skin care is essential)• Waterer

EQUIPMENT FOR ALL SPECIES:

- Way to haul (trailer or box for the back of a truck)
- Feed and water pan
- Water hose and nozzle to wash animals
- Clippers (5 speed for all species) and shears for lambs
- Halter/show stick/whip

NUTRITION TIPS:

- Work with breeder, if able, to seek feedback on their preferred method of feeding animals.
- Most brands are made generally the same, research what feeds you can get FRESH and CONSISTENTLY from your local feed store.
- Avoid dusty feeds.
- Different species have different requirements.
- Species in different stages of growth have different requirements
- Access to clean, fresh water affects feed intake more than any other factor.

FEED EXPECTATIONS:

- Your breeder is your best resource because they should know the typical growth patterns of their animals.
- Work with your extension agent or ag teacher or have them help you find a reliable source or nutritionist.
- Most feed groups have sales people and nutritionists who are more than willing to help and answer questions.
- Discuss a group purchase with other exhibitors in your area. Can you purchase the same feed? Can you increase an order and lower a price by buying in volume? Can a group create a custom blend available for you show animal?

FEED RESOURCES:

- High Noon Feeds
- Kalmbach Feeds Inc (Formula of Champions)
- Kent Feeds
- Purina
- Show-Rite
- ShowTec
- Sunglo Feeds
- Umbarger Feeds

Supplements:

Supplements are available for all species and should be fed upon consultation. Without proper knowledge of supplements more harm than good can be done. Supplements are often formulated to address a single issue or fine tune a trait and are not a replacement for a balanced ration.

TIME COMMITMENTS:



FEEDING

- Must be done daily and animals grow and perform better when fed twice a day.
- Do not leave animal alone while eating, they can choke.



HANDLING

- The more you work with your animal the calmer they will be when they are shown.
- Playing with and show practice are two different things
 - Don't let them get away with bad habits to begin with. They are hard to break and be patient with developing show habits. Animals respond to a positive experience. Do not lose patience and allow frustration to result in a negative experience with your show animal.



EXERCISE

- Exercise needs will vary depending on their stage of growth, time to show and fat coverage/condition.
- Market Animals **MUST** be exercised to develop muscle definition
- Exercise also helps with joint movement.



SHOW PREPARATION

- Hair/Skin Care
 - Cattle- rinsing and training hair
 - Sheep- Hide care and Leg Shag condition
 - Goats- Hide and hair condition
 - Hogs- Skin Condition and hair growth
- Clipping

EXPECTATIONS:

- The more you are involved with your animal the better that animal will respond to you in times of stress (think show ring and show environment)
- The only thing you have complete control over is how you work with your animal at home and the research and practice you do in showing your animal in the ring

OPPORTUNITIES:



- County Fairs
- Regional Shows
- County Shows by species
- State Shows
- State Fairs
- Jackpot Circuits
- National Level shows

The best way to find out about these shows is to get on mailing lists, email lists and social media sites to find out what is available. Mentoring/Shadowing with another show family is a great way to see what is out there. There is nothing wrong with going to “check out the ropes” before you show up the next time with your own animal(s).

BENEFITS:



- Develop skills such as
 - Responsibility
 - Feed calculations
 - Budgeting
 - Communication
 - Peer interaction and social circle development
- Premiums from shows
- Sales of Livestock
- Scholarship opportunities



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