

Guidelines for Swine Showmanship Award North Florida Livestock Show & Sale

Age Divisions:

Junior: 8-12 years old as of September 1 (before Livestock Show & Sale)

Senior: 13-19 years old as of September 1 (before Livestock Show & Sale)

In the Show Ring:

Proper Dress:

1. All exhibitors will be required to be clean and neat and dressed in dark blue or dark black jeans or slacks.
2. No caps or hats.
3. Closed-toe shoes or boots are required.
4. 4-H/FFA emblem/attire must be displayed prominently.

Proper Equipment:

1. Exhibitors must carry a cane, a show stick, or a crop and brush during the showmanship competition.
2. Brush should be in back pocket of exhibitor.
3. Must display proper use of equipment.

Proper Use of Brush and Cane:

1. Use your cane, showstick, or crop only when necessary. Maneuver the pig with the hook end and hold the straight end.
2. Never hit a pig, especially on the ham or loin. These are valuable areas and can be bruised easily.
3. Never allow the cane to point outward and never run in a ring. Always point your cane toward the ground. The cane is dangerous to people and pigs when used incorrectly.
4. Carry a small brush in the ring. When your pig has dirt, sawdust, or other materials on him/her quickly brush it off. Do not spend a lot of time brushing in the ring. Brush only when the judge is not looking.
5. The cane is a directional device, not a pacifier. Do not rub or "saw" your pig.
6. Your cane should always be in the hand closest to the head.

Proper Showmanship Procedure:

1. Enter the show ring with a smile on your face. Try to be the first one to enter the ring, but do not enter with a mob of pigs.
2. Most pigs will run when they enter the ring. Don't run after your pig. Walk to your pig and begin driving whenever he/she stops running.
3. Always keep your eye on the judge. A good showman knows where the judge is in relation to his/her animal at all times. This enables the showman to follow the judge's directions and commands.
4. When given a command, complete it as quickly as possible.
5. Keep your pig in the open, away from the other pigs, so that the judge can see it.
6. Never let your pig be closer than 5 to 12 feet from the judge, unless he/she is trying to approach you.
7. Drive your pig across the open ring in front of the judge, giving him/her a side rear view, walking at natural speed.

8. Never allow your pig to stay in a group of pigs, root, run, or fight. Standing still is only necessary when in a good position.
9. Do not try to break up fighting pigs; ring men with hog hurdles are there for that purpose.
10. Never stand between your pig and the judge. Always stay to the side or rear of your pig.
11. If your pig walks between the judge and another pig, do not follow your pig. Step behind and go around the other exhibitor.
12. Do not overwork your pig.
13. Know valuable information, such as, weight, average daily gain, age, breed, etc. and be ready to answer the judge if asked to give information.

Adapted from: Florida State Fair Swine Handbook, Champion Youth Program 1998

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