

# Tennessee 4-H Sheep Showmanship Score Card

## A. LAMB APPEARANCE

MAXIMUM SCORE 20

1. **Cleanliness** ..... 10
  - a. Wool should be dry and clean and free of foreign matter.
  - b. Flanks, face, nose, ears, feet and legs clean.
2. **Grooming and Trimming** ..... 10
  - a. Lambs groomed according to breed and show management guidelines.
  - b. Fleece on registered breeding ewes trimmed to an appropriate length for the breed.
  - c. The back, sides, and legs of breeding sheep may be trimmed to emphasize breed or animal merits.
  - d. Commercial ewes and market lambs should be slick shorn.
  - e. Hooves trimmed so that lamb walks and stands natural and correct.

## B. SHOWING THE SHEEP

MAXIMUM SCORE 55

1. **Posing and Changing Positions** .....35
  - a. Lamb should be correctly posed at all times, but showman should not engage in undue maneuvering.
  - b. Lamb should show evidence of training as indicated by responsiveness to handling.
  - c. When the judge is viewing lamb from the rear, lamb should be shown from the front, slightly off to the lamb's left side.
  - d. When the judge is viewing lamb from the front, exhibitor should step to the lamb's left side facing the judge while holding the head up.
  - e. Exhibitor may stand or be in a half-kneeling position, except when moving lamb to a new position.
  - f. Lamb should be led from the left side (Showmanship judges usually do not ask exhibitors to lead or maneuver lamb from right side). Lead lamb with left hand under the jaw, and the right hand behind the head or by one hand on each side of the face to maintain control. Showing with a halter, especially for younger exhibitors, is acceptable. However, exhibitor should use the halter in a safe and non-distracting (ex. short lead) manner.
  - g. Exhibitor should maintain proper distance when moving and posing lamb to allow other exhibitors to effectively show their animal. Exhibitor should be courteous to other exhibitors and their lambs at all times.
  - h. When a lamb is not visible to the judge in a particularly large class, it is permissible to let the lamb relax in position.
  - i. Exhibitor should brace the lamb when the judge handles it. The lamb's front feet **must** be on the ground when the judge is handling or closely inspecting the lamb.
2. **Cooperation With Judge** ..... 20
  - a. Exhibitor should be aware of where the judge is, and maintain that awareness.
  - b. The exhibitor should stay in position to effectively show and move the lamb. It is the exhibitor's responsibility not to obstruct the judge's view.
  - c. A judge often places lambs from the side view or head to tail position. As open spaces occur, exhibitor should move forward in line without waiting for the ringmaster's or judge's command to do so.
  - d. Lambs should be maneuvered into position as requested by the judge, smoothly without a lot of excess movement.

(Continued on back)

**C. APPEARANCE AND MERITS OF EXHIBITOR**

**MAXIMUM SCORE 25**

**1. Appearance ..... 10**

- a. Exhibitor should be well groomed and clothes clean and neat.
- b. Full length jeans/slacks in subdued, solid colors are preferred. Extremes in color and fit are not appropriate.
- c. Solid or subdued patterned, collared shirts are preferred. Official shirt provided by show management, breed association or county project group is appropriate.
- d. For safety reasons, closed toe, leather shoes are preferred.
- d. Preferred that caps or hats not be worn in class.

**2. Merits ..... 15**

- a. Brings lamb into ring promptly.
- b. Responsive to judge's and ringmaster's requests.
- c. Works quickly but not abruptly.
- d. Recognizes and corrects faults of lamb quickly.
- e. Not distracted by persons and things outside of show ring. Exhibitor should not look outside the ring for help in setting lamb.
- f. Shows animal, not self.
- g. Does not leave ring until released by ring official.
- h. Displays a courteous and sportsmanlike attitude.
- i. Prepared to give answers about their lamb and to answer questions related to the 4-H sheep project.
- j. Upon instructions of the ringmaster or judge to move the lamb to a new position, priority is to get to that position and set up the lamb.

**3. The following are unacceptable showmanship practices**

- a. Artificial coloring above the knee unless approved by show management.
- b. Lifting of front feet off the ground when bracing.
- c. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
- d. Lifting the front of lamb with a hand under the jaw causing a choking effect.
- e. Hitting or slapping a lamb to make it brace.
- f. Use of artificial substances or devices to alter lamb appearance or handling.

\*Adapted from *Official Kansas 4-H Sheep Showmanship Score Card*, (4-H 830, September, 2001), Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service by Dr. H. Dwight Loveday, Associate Professor, UT Extension 4-H Youth Development.