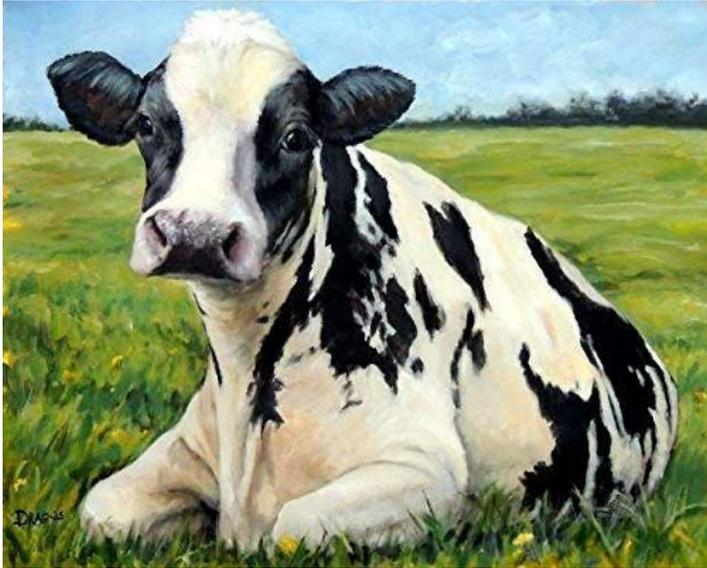


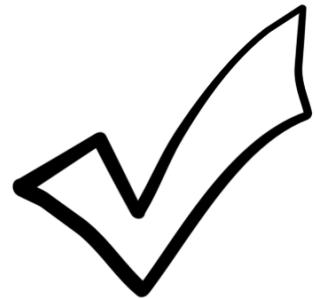
Dairy 101



Shelby County
Junior Fairboard

Check - In - Day

- Since Dairy Cattle are not physically sold at fair, check in is very simple.
 - There is no weigh in
 - There is no tagging
- All you need to bring/know are the subclasses (Junior calf, Summer Yearling, etc.) of your cattle
- If you have any scratches that you did not or were not able to notify the Junior Fairboard about, this is the time where you let them know



What You Need for the Show

- A leather halter that fits you animal
- Hair spray and brushes to do the topline (spike the hair on the animal's back to make it look taller and straight)
- What you wear
 - All white (shirt & pants)
 - Work boots/cowboy boots/ closed toe shoes (not tennis shoes)



How to Show Dairy Cattle

- When you first get your calf out to lead, it will, most likely, be jumping and running around. Once it gets use to being in a different environment, I simply walk it around and let it follow me until it is calmer
- Next, I turn around so my face is facing the calf and I place my left hand on the circle of the halter (by the calf's face)
- I begin to walk slowly backwards once you feel you have good control of your calf.
- After this step, you should walk your calves at least once or twice a day, so you and your animal can get use to walking together. Don't forget to hold your cow's head up nice and high



Tack and Supplies

- Bedding
 - My family usually uses two items to bed our animals in. We use sawdust or wood chippings first in order to soak up yerin and feces . Then we put the straw on top of the sawdust/ wood chippings, so the cows have something soft to lay on. Be sure to bring extra so you can rebed throughout the week.
- Washing supplies
 - A wash pail
 - Liquid soap (can get from local farm supply store)
 - Scrubbing brushes
 - Hoof scrapers
 - Hose
 - Nosal (optional)
- Other Items
 - Fan
 - Halters (rope and leather)
 - Pitchfork and Wheelbarrow
 - Gates (to separate your animals from others)



Grooming Needs

- It is important to keep your cattle clean, especially when your country fair is around the corner.
- I personally, do not wash my cattle everyday because it would be physically impossible.
- Once it is summer, I try to wash the cattle I am bringing to fair at least three times a week, so they can get use to being washed.
- How to was a cow
 - Get the cow wet
 - Add the soap
 - Scrub the cow well
 - Rinse the cow off
 - Scrape their hooves and Dewclaws



Feed and Water

- Cows spend most of their day eating and drinking water
- You should always have fresh water that is accessible to your cow at home and on the fairgrounds (especially when it is hot).
- All cattle eat a mixture of cracked corn, mineral supplements, soybean meal, along with grass/hay.
- It is important to feeds your cattle the same amount of food everyday, so they do not get bloated.



Exercise

- It is important that your cattle have enough room to walk and run around in the shelter that they live in.
- If your cattle do not have enough room to exercise, then you should get it out and walk it once a day.



Housing

- The standard amount of space for a dairy cow is 30-50 square feet pure cow.
- Obviously, the amount of space does not have to be exactly between those numbers, but dairy cattle should have a lot of room to walk around.
- If the animal does not have enough room to turn around in, the space is extremely small. Your animal should have plenty of room to turn around, laydown, and stand up comfortably.



How the Show Runs

- First, the show will begin with the color breed show (alphabetical order)
- Next, the show begins with showmanship
 - Order: Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Showman of Showman
 - This allows the younger exhibitors to watch the older exhibitors and take notes
- Third, the Holstein Show will begin after showmanship
- Lastly, the Dairy Judging Contest will take place
- For each type of breed, the beginning class will be the Junior Heifer Class and will end with the cow classes- some classes will be skipped if there are no entries, so it is important to listen to what class needs to be ringside.
- Once all the classes have been judged, the final drive will begin.
 - All cattle that was placed first or second in their class will show in the ring for the last time. The judge will then choose the Grand Champion, Reserve Champion, and Honorable Mention by shaking their hands respectively.

Additional Tips

- Be patient with your animal. Your cattle are learning just like you are. They will not behave perfectly the first time you walk or wash your animal.
- While you are in showmanship, be sure to keep your eye on the judge at all times and never be between your animal and the judge. You should have to reposition yourself multiple times during the show.
- Be sure to study the parts of the your animal before entering showmanship. The judge will usually ask you where body parts are or what kind of food your animal eats.
- Be sure to ask questions! If you do not know how to do something, do not be afraid to ask an older 4-H member.