

# Judge's Guide



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# INTRODUCTION

If you ask yourself the question as to why you should become a judge or at least know the basic principles in the comparison of dairy cattle, Ayrshire Quebec believes that, whether you are a dairy producer or a judge, there will be at least one time in your life when you will have to compare animals in your barn or on the fairgrounds. At that time, the techniques described in this guide will help you to observe and compare the animals chosen.

If you wonder why so many people from the dairy sector love to attend exhibitions, it's because besides favoring the development of the Ayrshire breed, presentation of animals at various agricultural fairs allows dairy producers to see a great number of animals of high caliber all in one place. This allows them to establish a new genetics program according to the new trends but corresponding to their selection criteria. Furthermore, within an agricultural exhibition, the producers can observe the progeny of numerous bulls, and this, in order to verify if the qualities of the daughters of a particular bull corresponds to the criteria of their own breeding. Exhibitions also allow dairy producers to compare and evaluate their breeding ability. Finally, agricultural exhibitions are a turntable to discuss with other breeders and promote one's own herd.

**Whether you are judge, ringmaster, clipper, exhibitor or spectator, if the show is well orchestrated in its entirety by the show team, you will enjoy it!**





# Judge Judge



## **Responsibilities of the judge**

There must be a minimum of ceremonial in the course of a show in order to give credit to the event and the winners. Therefore, here are a few advices to ensure the smooth course of the show.

### **Advices for your judging task**

- Set an example as judge by dressing in a professional manner. Men should wear a suit or street clothes. Women should wear a pantsuit, or dress pants and a jacket.
- Be well rested.
- The week before the show, get the telephone number, preferably cell number, of the contact at the show in order to be able to inform him (her) should a transportation problem or delay or a complication arise. Arrive at the Exhibition at least 30 minutes before the beginning of the first class.
- Peruse the day's schedule.
- Discuss the area where the animals will be aligned with your ringmaster, while keeping in mind that the final line-up must be seen from the back by the most important audience.
- Behave with calm and vigilance, simply, without vanity. Show a sense of confidence and assurance in yourself and in your justifications.
- Realize that the cows are the star attractions; you should not try to steal the show.
- Inspect each animal attentively in each class.
- Establish a constant. The best animals of each class should show the same style.
- Judge the animal in the present, not according to your souvenirs.

## **Procedures to privilege in the show ring**

There is pre-established judging system. In fact, from the start, you should watch the animals enter the ring from the center of the ring. The ideal distance between you and the animals is from 15 to 20 feet. This view angle will allow you to see the animals from the side and to evaluate the pastern strength, how they hold





their head, the loin strength, the dept of ribs, the udder dept as well as the freedom of movement. You can also start to make comparisons between animals while they walk around the ring.

Afterwards, start in front of the cow and move around her while observing the following criteria: head character, chest length, neck length, front-end cleanliness, body dept, top line strength, loin strength, legs' curvature, pastern strength, bone quality, udder balance, strength of fore udder attachment, rump's length and width as well as the height and width of the rear udder attachment. Also, when attentively observing the rear udder, you can analyze the strength of the median and lateral suspensory ligaments. You must also pay particular attention to the shape, the size and position of the teats.

Afterwards, move to the other side of the animal and observe the fore udder again, the swaying of the udder as well as the total length of the cow.

Finally, starting from the top of the animal, verify the withers definition, the openness of the ribs and the general layout of these parts with each other.

When judging a class of calves, as for the cows, you must analyze the animal starting from the front and moving around her. For each calf, you must analyze the body depth, the loin strength, the top line strength as well as the position of feet and legs. Looking at the animal from the top, you can observe the withers definition, the loin strength, openness of ribs as well as the general layout of all parts of the body.

Once you have completed this procedure with each of the animals in the class, return to the center of the ring and study them again while they parade in front of you.

Have the animals that you wish to examine more closely pulled out of the line-up, starting by the best, and line them up. Once the animals are lined-up, observe the whole group from the back. Then, move to the front of the group to compare their forequarters.

When you're finished placing your cows for the final alignment, walk along the line-up for a final inspection. Start organizing your reasons.

Don't forget to choose the best udder if it's a milking class. To finish judging the class, you can signal the end of the competition with an arm gesture.



### **Suggested Procedure for the Championship Class:**

1. Place the first and second animal of each of the classes by increasing order of age (2 yrs - 3 yrs - etc.).
2. Pull out 2 to 5 finalists to the center of the ring (the others must remain in place out of respect for the future champion).
3. Choose with a demonstrative gesture
  - The Grand Champion
  - The Reserve Grand Champion
  - The Honorable Mention, if need be.

### ***Small reminders:***

- ⇒ Remember when choosing that the cows must correspond to the class they belong. Consequently, although a cow can be superb at 2 yrs old, she should not look like a mature cow.
- ⇒ If you miss a good animal in the final line-up and that you realize it, do not hesitate to move her and mention your reasons why you missed her in your justifications. You will be respected for having placed the class correctly.

## **JUDGING A GROUP CLASS OF PROGENY CLASS**

When judging a group class, we must first look for the group's uniformity. The uniformity is the similar qualities that we find in the whole group presented. When judging, we must lean toward uniformity in the general appearance, the mammary system, the quality of the feet and legs and dairyness.

### ***WHAT WE LOOK FOR FIRST IS THE GROUP'S HOMOGENEITY***

### **Particularity:**

- ✓ A group consisting of three (3) milking cows must be favored in comparison to a group consisting of cows and calves (mixed group). However, we can give priority to a mixed group that shows more uniformity in its qualities.



- ✓ Uniformity in stature or feet and legs of the group is not a criteria of major importance. However, animals of variable stature and wrongly placed will be at a disadvantage against another group of animals of the same height.
- ✓ For two (2) groups of equal quality, we should give preference to the more mature group.
- ✓ The color of the animals in a group is not a factor that will influence ranking either.

### **Giving Good Justifications**

“Successful” justifications **describe the placements with precision** and **compare** the animals within a class.

Your task consists in analyzing each animal, place it in the class, and explain to the exhibitors and spectators why you placed the animals this way.

You do not need to attend a Judging School to practice giving good justifications.

While avoiding *ready-made* justifications, slowly practice the vocabulary you would use for the placement of a class. Practice in front of your family and friends, and do it often.

Add new sentences as you gain in confidence and success.

Justifications must be a **reflection of the class** that has just been judged.

Always avoid giving an inaccurate justification or one that does not suit the class.

### **Suggested Procedure for Good Justifications**

- ✓ In a show, once a class is finished, stand behind the four to six best animals and organize your reflections.





- ✓ Start giving your first justifications of the day with a cordial statement indicating that you are happy and honored to have been invited to judge this show.
- ✓ Speak slowly in the microphone, to the point and with confidence, while the animals walk by. Stand straight, but relaxed.
- ✓ Start each series of justification by an opening statement. Use only **descriptive** terminology at the beginning or at the end of a series of justification to describe in a general manner the class or the animal in first place. For example: "We have here a superior group of mature cows, and with an undeniable winner in first place. The three best cows got my attention as soon as they entered the ring."
- ✓ Use simple words. Do not use slang language or "stylish" words that the spectators around the ring do not understand.
- ✓ **Comparative** terminology must be used to compare an animal to another placed immediately after. We must not describe an animal. Comparative terminology uses adverbs such as *more, less, as much as, etc.*
- ✓ The obvious difference should be your first preoccupation. Use a very good point, and two other points of difference for each pair of animals
- ✓ Always start with the most important reasons why an animal is placed before another. Consider only the major points of superiority. Also mention an obvious advantage of an animal of inferior rank, especially in the case of a pair closely placed.
- ✓ When two animals are very similar, give only one or two justifications for your placement.
- ✓ In a class rather average, keep your justifications shorter. Do not try to build something that is not there.
- ✓ Don't go too far either when giving good justifications for a particular class. Keep some for even better animals in the classes that follow. You can then build your championship.
- ✓ Be always positive when giving your justifications.



- ✓ Always allow your brain to work faster than your tongue or as the saying goes, think twice before speaking, and this, to be sure you're giving precise and well thought-out justifications.
- ✓ End the competition with polite remarks concerning the quality of the show, the support of the exhibitors, etc.

### **Small reminders:**

- ⇒ When you give your reasons, as well as during the show, you must always begin by the front of the animal and finish by the back.
- ⇒ When giving your reasons, speak of the first versus the second, the second versus the third and so on. You must not use the animal's number (hat or bib #) to give your justifications.

#### **A SUMMARY**

##### **Giving good justifications at the end of a class ...**

- **Begin with a descriptive statement**
- **Emphasize the main points of difference.**
- **Use comparative terminology (non descriptive) to compare an animal to another.**
- **Be specific**
- **Be positive**
- **State the obvious advantages an animal of inferior rank has in a close placement.**

## **TERMINOLOGY AND PREPARATION OF THE REASONS**

### **Preparation of the reasons**

Competence is required to judge dairy cattle and ability required to present specific reasons to a group of people are two different expertises. Judging cattle offers an excellent occasion to make logical decisions and state briefly the reasons for such decisions. Good reasons describe precisely and compare the animals in the class. The best oral reasons are not memorized but are verbal images of the



animals in questions. In order to paint a live image of the words, it is necessary to have good knowledge of the anatomy and have a good memory.

## **Organization**

Organization of ideas is the first step. The most obvious points of differences must be the first considerations of the organizational structure. After having determined the major category of differences, a logical progression of the anatomy of the cow should follow. A good technique allows the judges to remember the cows and helps the people listening to the reasons to follow a logical plan. Before going to the microphone, it is strongly suggested that the judges review their placement in their head, taking out the main reasons for it, in order to facilitate the verbal process of giving the reasons at the microphone. It is recommended that the judge present his (her) reasons slowly and clearly at the microphone, in order to be well understood by the public and the exhibitors. The judge must speak clearly, articulate well and have a good tone of voice.

## **Precision**

A judge whose judging is precise visualizes the details in his (her) head instead of memorizing a series of notes. It is essential to remember which cows are in a class, and for what reasons they obtained their placement. A series of cliché-reasons would not be enough and would be detected by competent breeders.

Cliché-reasons are invented by the judge and do not reflect the class being judged.

## **Highlighting the differences**

Another important point is to highlight the differences. The judge should always start with the most important reasons, being why a cow is placed ahead of another. After having considered the major superiority points, then go to the minor points. Do not hesitate to concede an obvious advantage to a cow that is placed lower, particularly in the cases of pairs where the placement is close.





## **Terminology:**

The terminology should be exact and appropriate to the class in particular. We will never insist enough on the fact that a judge must report the class as he (she) sees it. Comparative terminology compares an animal to the one placed after it. It does not describe the animal.

Descriptive terminology is used only at the very beginning of the reasons to describe the class and should never be used instead of comparative terminology. Superlatives such as “longer” “wider”, “deeper” etc should be used.

### **TERMINOLOGY OF A DESIRABLE HEAD:**

- Head showing more femininity and strength
- Head showing more breed traits
- Wider muzzle
- Head with more breed traits and style

### **TERMINOLOGY OF A DESIRABLE NECK:**

- Longer neck, finer and more open
- More refinement and femininity in its head and neck
- More open in the throat and neck
- More feminine in the head and neck

### **TERMINOLOGY OF DESIRABLE WITHERS:**

- More slender withers
- More refined at the withers
- Taller at the withers

### **TERMINOLOGY OF A DESIRABLE SHOULDER:**

- More refined at the shoulder point
- Better alignment of the shoulder with the body
- Strong at the shoulder point
- Better alignment of the neck with the shoulder



#### **TERMINOLOGY OF DESIRABLE CAPACITY:**

- Wider chest width
- Front ribs arched more
- Deeper and widely spaced ribs
- Body with more capacity and width
- Deeper and longer body
- Longer at the back ribs level
- Better filled behind the shoulder
- Front and back ribs arched more
- More depth and better filled at the heart girth and barrel
- Cow with more depth at the flank
- Fuller at the heart girth
- Deeper chest
- More depth and power in its forequarters
- More strength and power in its forequarters
- Deeper and better filled in its forequarters
- Deeper; wider and better filled at the heart girth

#### **TERMINOLOGY OF DESIRABLE RIBS:**

- Ribs are longer and more arched
- Flat ribs; long and wide

#### **TERMINOLOGY OF A DESIRABLE RUMP:**

- Wider at the pin bones
- Best position of the tail head
- More refined tail head
- Wider rump with more desirable incline
- More desirable incline of the thurls at the pin bones
- More desirable rump structure
- Better incline of the rump
- Wider at the thurls and pin bones
- Better placement of the thurls



#### **TERMINOLOGY OF A DESIRABLE TOP LINE:**

- Stronger and straighter top line
- Stronger at the loin level
- Straighter back
- Wider and stronger loin
- Shows more strength at the top line

#### **TERMINOLOGY OF DESIRABLE THIGHS:**

- Slimmer thighs
- More refined thighs
- Cleaner thighs
- More slender thighs

#### **TERMINOLOGY OF DESIRABLE FEET AND LEGS**

- Leg bones more defined and flat
- Cleaner bone structure
- Better placement of the hind legs
- Cleaner and more refined hock
- Better curvature of the hind legs
- More desirable hock angle
- Stronger pastern
- Deeper heel
- Moves with more ease on its feet and legs
- Moves on better feet and legs
- Better gait
- Better position of the front feet and legs

#### **TERMINOLOGY OF A DESIRABLE FORE UDDER:**

- Longer fore udder attachments and better harmonized with the body
- Fore udder better attached to the abdomen
- Better balanced fore udder
- Fore udder well aligned to the animal's body
- More firmness of the fore udder
- More harmonious layout of the fore udder
- Fore udder attachment stronger and better attached to the body
- Better balanced and filled out fore udder





#### **TERMINOLOGY OF A DESIRABLE REAR UDDER:**

- More uniformity in the width of the rear udder attachment
- Better balanced and stronger rear udder attachment
- Wider and fuller rear quarters
- Better balanced and fuller rear quarters
- Fuller at the top of the rear udder
- More development and capacity of the rear udder
- More volume of the rear udder
- More depth of the rear udder

#### **TERMINOLOGY OF A DESIRABLE MEDIAN SUSPENSORY LIGAMENT:**

- Shows stronger suspensory ligament
- Shows a better suspensory ligament
- More defined separation between the front and rear quarters
- Better support of the udder floor
- More level udder floor

#### **TERMINOLOGY OF DESIRABLE TEATS:**

- Better position of the teats under the quarters
- More uniform spacing between the teats
- More symmetric form of the teats
- Better position of the teats
- Better distance between the front and rear teats
- More desirable length of the teats
- More desirable size of the teats
- More desirable form of the teats

#### **TERMINOLOGY OF DESIRABLE MAMMARY VEINS:**

- More apparent mammary veins
- Better veined mammary system



## **CHOOSING AN ASSISTANT-JUDGE (IF NEEDED)**

- The judge needs to choose a quality assistant-judge in whom he has confidence.
- The judge and the assistant-judge must be of compatible ideology.

### **Role of the assistant-judge**

- Help with the course and procedure of the show
- Act as consultant in close placements and in order to avoid omissions.
- He (she) can give an opinion but the final decision is for the official judge
- His (her) task of inspecting animals should be done at a reasonable distance from the official judge in order to avoid all confusion for the spectators and exhibitors.
- In order to accelerate judging of large classes, the assistant-judge will be responsible for the pre placement of the second group. Afterwards, the official judge will proceed with the final placement of the second group.
- Discussions between the official judge and the assistant-judge must remain confidential.
- The official judge and the assistant-judge must show solidarity in their actions and decisions made during the show.
- The role of the assistant is important and discreet. At no time can he (she) be more important than the official judge.



## **Visit of the barn after the show**

It is important to visit the exhibitors in the barn after the show in order to maintain good relations with the exhibitors and to answer their different questions.

Divide your time equally among the exhibitors. Those who are showing for the first time deserve your attention as much as the champions. It gives them the opportunity to ask a few questions regarding what they could have done differently. You have knowledge to share.

Try to end your visit with the exhibitors who won the titles of Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor and those who won the Reserve Champion and Grand Champion.

It is perfectly acceptable to socialize and enjoy the after-show atmosphere, but remember the place you occupy and that you represent the breed.

Always behave professionally.

End your judging experience on a pleasant note.

*Canadian judges are ambassadors of the dairy industry.  
They represent the Canadian breeding philosophy  
and the efforts of their breeding colleagues from ocean to ocean.*





## Judging: the value over and above the ring

*Communication, resolving problems and making decisions are skills that are useful daily, can be developed by the function of the judge.*

Judging dairy cattle is a most rewarding experience of life. Knowledge and practical ability acquired by attentive evaluation, reasoning and making decisions reach far beyond the placement of animals. In fact, it's all about developing and applying precious abilities to numerous situations of daily living, at all ages.

If you are planning to breed dairy cattle, making management decisions in business or investing in the dairy industry, you have to have an eye for details. Judging dairy cattle involves looking at particularities and analyzing differences. Without the ability to evaluate dairy animals and make logical decisions rapidly, it would be more difficult to manage a profitable dairy business.

We are not born with a natural ability to reason in difficult situations, work under pressure or take enlightened decisions rapidly. These abilities come with experience. Having to judge for a limited period of time helps to put the finishing touch to this expertise in decision making.

The reasoning process is the same for "Which cow should I place first?" and "Should I spend \$50,000 on this equipment for my business now?" The two situations involve **resolving a problem** - a process consisting in analyzing the facts, using the information acquired in previous experiences and making a decision.

Life is full of occasions where you must explain your ideas and your decisions. Presenting your justifications verbally, in the ring or in the barn, you learn to organize, prioritize and present your reflections in a clear and concise manner. All that consists in selling yourself, in transmitting your ideas and persuading others: it's the base of **communication**.

Judging helps to develop self-confidence and brings a sense of satisfaction.

Respect and admiration you get after a job well done, whether its for a well planned activity or by a successful judging experience, brings a satisfaction that perpetuates. Lasting friendships and contacts resulting from working with people with the same interests as you remain one of the greatest advantages that we can get out of a judging experience!



# *Maître de piste Ringman*



## **TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RINGMAN**

The first basic principle to understand before assuming your tasks as well as your responsibilities as ringman is to remember that you must choreograph the presentation of the animals and not judge them yourself.

### **The ringman's responsibilities**

- ✓ Responsibility towards the judge

As ringman, it is fundamental to be able to help the judge in his functions. To that end, you must make sure that the judge can see the animals well and can compare them to one another. Therefore, you must keep them walking and line them up correctly. It is important that you remember that good collaboration between the judge and the ringman improves the show.

- ✓ Responsibility towards the exhibitors

Your role as ringman will consist of facilitating the flow of the animals' while avoiding confusion. To this effect, you must give clear instructions to each of the handlers.

- ✓ Responsibility towards the spectators

You must make sure that the spectators can see the animals parade correctly as well as giving them a good view of the final line-up chosen by the judge for each one of the classes while listening to his reasons.

It is important that you respect the dress code for ringmen. Therefore, you must be dressed professionally. Most often, this means shirt, tie and dress pants. For larger exhibitions, a jacket is strongly recommended. Regarding footwear, it is recommended to wear shoes or leather boots. It is important never to wear sleeveless shirts, jeans, shorts, tennis shoes, work boots or sandals. For ladies, a pantsuit is appropriate.





## Ringman tasks

Regarding your tasks, here is a brief outline of what the job of being a ringman has in store for you;

⇒ You must arrive early, at least 30 minutes before the show.

- This will give you time to **meet the show personnel** (officials, announcer, marshal, princess, ring attendant, etc.) in order to discuss strategy with them.
- Then, you must **discuss the ring procedure with the judge** before the beginning of the show because each judge proceeds differently in the ring.
- Finally, before the show begins, you must **examine the ring in its entirety**. You must be able to identify the place where the majority of spectators will watch the show because this will allow you to choose the best place for the final line-up. It is important to remember that the spectators also prefer to observe the line-ups from the back. You must also know where the trophies will be presented and the photos taken so that the handlers can access these locations easily after each class.
- Be present in the ring 10 minutes before the planned beginning of the show since the animals enter the marshalling area at this time.

⇒ You must know the **number of classes and animals** in the show.

- You must enquire with the officials. Usually, they will give you an updated copy of the program indicating the withdrawals or substitutions. If not, you can ask them to indicate the changes to the program, consequently, you will have to note them. This information will reduce the wait time and you will be able to indicate to the judge when all the animals for that class have entered the ring.



⇒ As ringman, you must see that procedures in the ring are respected:

- Ask the exhibitors to lead their animal at a rapid walk until all the class has entered the ring so that the judge can see the complete class at a certain distance.
- Encourage the exhibitors to use all the space, making sure that the animals are spread out throughout the periphery of the ring and not around the judge.
- Occasionally, there may be a wide gap between animals, due to a non co-operating animal or an exhibitor who walks slowly. Walk towards the slow-moving animal and ask the handler to close the gap. You can help him by tapping the animal lightly.
- It is important to make sure that an animal does not end up in a corner where the judge would have difficulty observing it or moving it to improve its stance.
- When all the animals are in the ring, be as discreet as possible while continuing to manage the operations.
- Remain in the periphery of the ring but be ready to go quickly to the center when the judge is ready to conduct his (her) first choices after his (her) evaluation. Place the chosen animals in a straight line. It is important to keep enough space for the judge to move about easily and to make a second or third line-up.
- Once the judge has indicated his (her) preferences, ask the handlers to parade their animals in a circle. This will allow the judge to observe the class again in its entirety.
- While the judge makes his (her) final assessment, make sure the final line-up is very straight.
- Towards the end of the class, stay close to the judge so that he can signal to you the precise moment when he has finished. At that moment, if it's a class in milk, ask the judge to designate the cow with the best udder. Don't forget to tell the ribbon presenters which cow wins the Best Udder.



- During the ribbon presentation, inform the handlers of the procedure to exit the ring. Be ready to guide the handlers while controlling the exit speed and making sure that all will be done in an orderly way (single line). The handlers must bring their animal slowly, one behind the other in order to allow the judge to finish giving his (her) reasons and for the spectators to observe them well.
  - For group classes, you must align the hindquarters of the groups in the direction where the majority of spectators are sitting. Aligning the groups close to one another will allow the judge to work from the center of the ring. Once the animals are judged, line up the groups in a single line for the distribution of ribbons and the judge's reasons.
  - Before the championship, discuss the technique the judge wishes to use for the presentation of champions. Generally, the animals walk around the ring before being aligned side by side. The judge can then move the most promising animals forward. You must place the contestants one behind the other so that the majority of spectators can see them well. Once the champions are announced, you will have to get the other animals to leave the ring in an orderly way.
- ⇒ You must establish a sign with the marshal so that he informs you throughout the show, each time a class has completed its entry in the marshalling area (pre-ring). It is important to maintain a good rhythm of animal movement throughout the show.
- ⇒ You must keep an official program with you throughout the show in order to note the first and second of each class. You can therefore refer to it for the return of these animals for the championship.
- ⇒ Late arrival of animals happens sometimes. When this occurs, bring them quickly towards the place corresponding to their age, and this, along the exterior of the ring. When this happens in older cow classes (4 yr old and older) you must place the late arrivals at the end of the class.
- ⇒ Finally, introduce yourself to the ring maintenance team. You will then be able to inform them regularly by a look or a gesture of the areas that need to be cleaned. The judge, the exhibitors and the spectators appreciate a ring that is clean and well cared for.



- ⇒ If there is no pause for lunch, use opportune moments to have a bite or a drink at the officials' table. Under no circumstances should you bring food or beverages in the show ring.
- ⇒ At the end of the day, check with the officials to see that you have completed your tasks before you leave. Don't forget to congratulate the judge for his work and show gratitude for having worked with him (her).

### **Summary of the role and tasks of the ringman:**

- Be discreet but efficient;
- Always have the Show Program in hand;
- Keep the animals moving;
- Maintain order;
- Check if the class is complete and inform the judge;
- Align the animals in a straight line;
- Do not socialize with the exhibitors or the spectators during the show;
- Maintain communication between you, the judge, the announcer, the officials and the ribbon presenters in order to ensure the smooth course of the show.





*Ayrshire, une conformation  
remarquable!*  
*Ayrshires, remarkable type*



Frank Robinson

Frank Robinson

Nels Fletcher

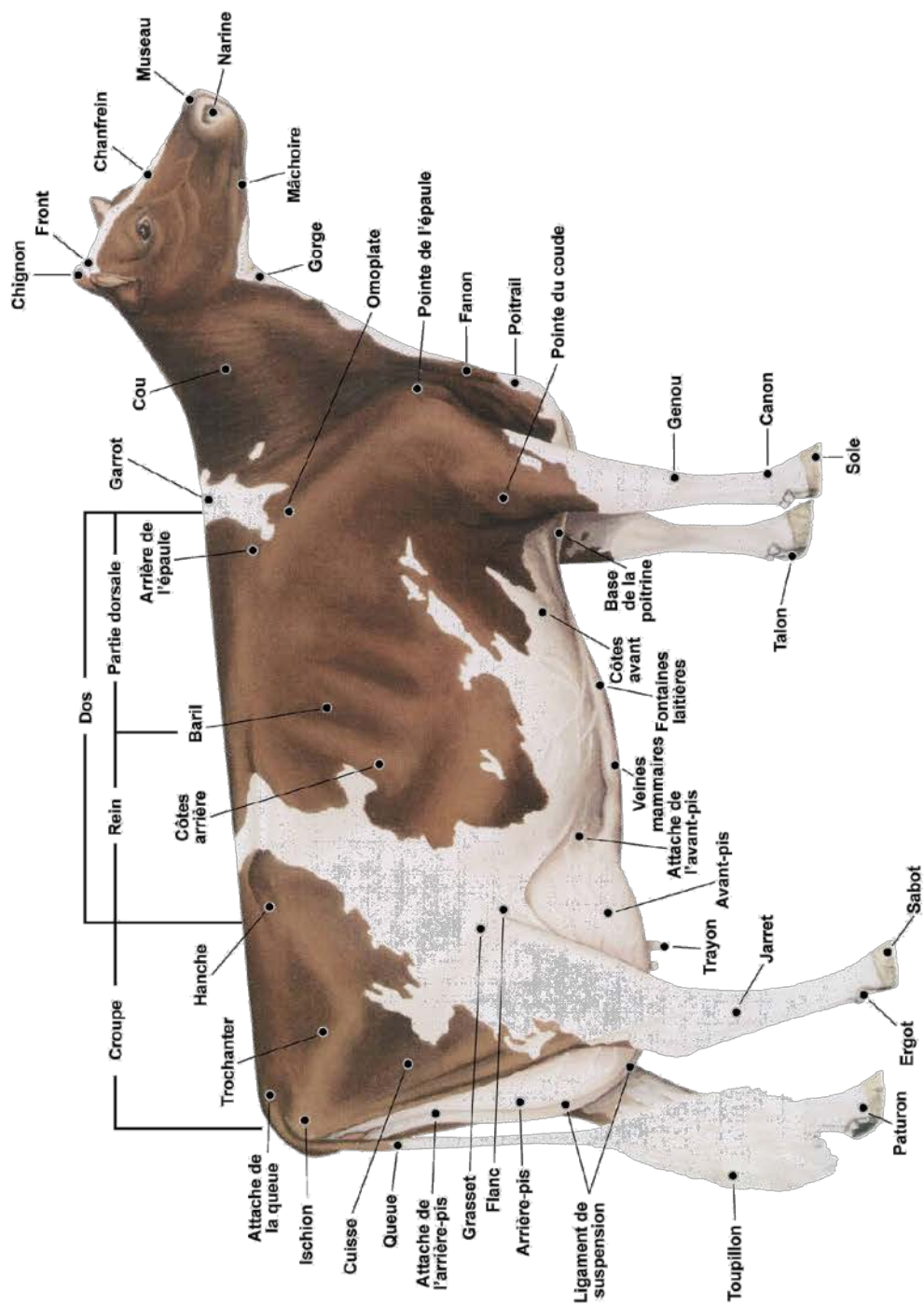
Nels Fletcher



*Ayrshire, la vache complète*  
*Ayrshire, the complete cow*



# Anatomie de la vache laitière modèle type idéal



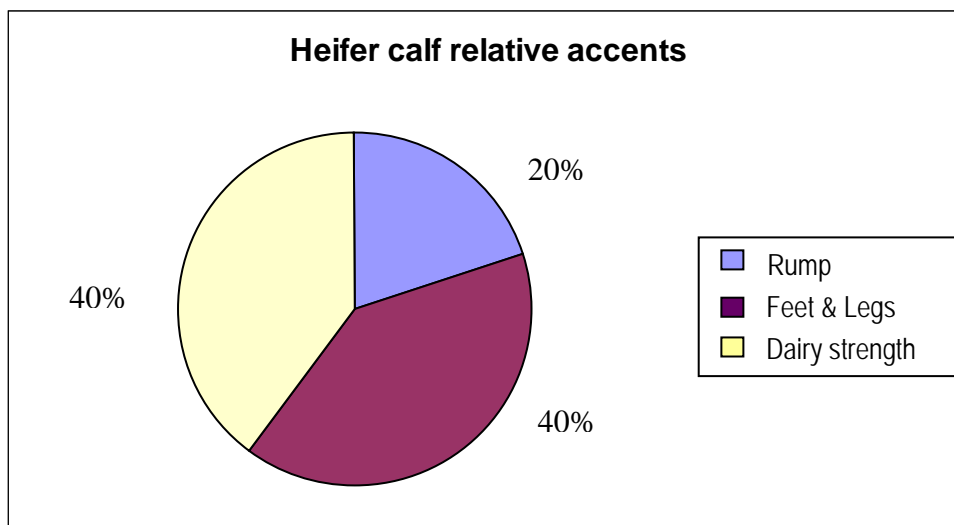
The following section will allow you to discover the sought-after criteria of the Canadian Ayrshire.

We begin with a presentation of the anatomy of the model Ayrshire cow since we believe that it's fundamental to know the anatomy of the model cow in order to be able to evaluate and compare animals

### Accent to certain parts relative to calves and cows

In Canada, both the judging and classifying program use a point card of the Ayrshire cow as guide. Although **classification** is the evaluation of each animal on an individual basis, compared to the ideal model type, **judging** is the comparison of animals to one another.

As we can see in the following graphics, a more or less important accent is placed on certain parts of the calf and the cow. Although we use them as guide, numeric points are not assigned when judging.

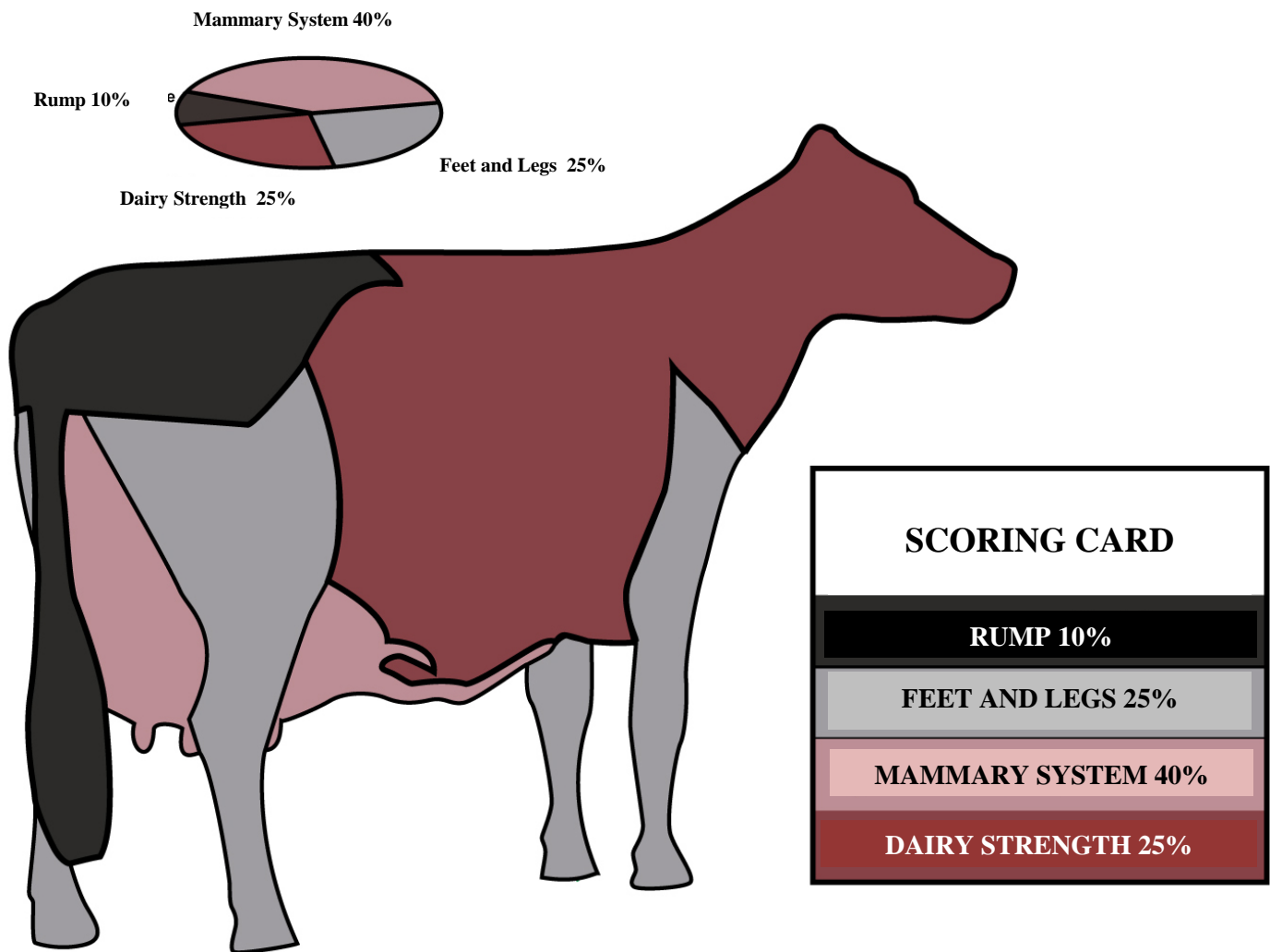


Regarding calves, the relative accent differs from that of the cows. The main accent is placed on the feet and legs, dairy strength and rump.

Although the judges expect to see females at a year old and more to be dairy and angular, a certain flesh condition should be accepted in view of calving.



## Cow relative accents



You will find the details regarding points to look for in the accents relative to the Ayrshire cow in the detailed points card on the following pages.



## POINT CARD OF THE CANADIAN AYRSHIRE COW

### 1. DAIRY STRENGTH

25 POINTS

*Attractive form, showing vigor, strong constitution, good stature, powerful, open with harmony in repartition of her parts.*

**Head** - wide muzzle with large and open nostrils, well set jaw; strong lower jaw, wide forehead, wide and bright eyes, ears held high, corresponding to the ideal head of the breed.

**Shoulder blades** - well located, linking well with the withers and the chest, well harmonized with the torso

**Chest** - large base, allowing lots of fullness between the front limbs

**Body dept** - large and deep; well filled at the point of elbow with arched ribs, well linked with the shoulders

**Back of shoulder** - well filled

**Back** - solid and straight with distinct vertebrae

**Loin** - wide and slightly arched, distinct vertebrae, attachment to hip points high and wide.

**Median section** - long ribs and very arched, dept and width with tendency to accentuate towards the back

**Neck** - long and muscular, well linked to the the shoulder, without engorgement at the throat, the dewlap or the chest

**Withers** - well defined, slender with the vertebrae slightly exceeding the shoulder blades.

**Ribs** - well spaced, the rib bones must be wide, flat and long

**Flank** - deep and refined

**Thighs** - well curved, flat sides, well spread from back view to leave room for the rear udder and rear suspensory ligament.

**Udder** – supple and flexible, hair fine and soft

**Skin** – supple and flexible;

**Bone structure** – flat, solid, well defined.

### 2. RUMP

10 POINTS

*Long, wide, well defined and well harmonized with the loin*

**Hips** - wide, not prominent, slightly higher than the pin bones

**Pin bones** - well distanced and exempt of excess flesh

**Thurls** - high, well spaced, taking into consideration the stage of lactation

**Tail head** - refined, at the same level as the top line and slightly higher than the pin bones.

**Tail** - long and fine

### 3. FEET AND LEGS

25 POINTS

*The feet and legs must be well proportioned in order to show a good gait.*

**Feet** - short and well rounded, deep heel, toes slightly spaced.

**Legs** - strong pasterns, medium length and flexible

- front legs straight, well spaced and perpendicular

- back legs almost perpendicular to the hock and pasterns from side view and spread out seen from the back

- clean and strong bone structure with well defined tendons.

### 4. MAMMARY SYSTEM

40 POINTS

*Well attached udder, well balanced, level and showing a good texture*

**Udder** - symmetrical, wide and deep, showing the quarters slightly seen from the back

**Median suspensory ligament** - long and showing definite separation between the two parts of the udder

**Udder texture** - flexible, elastic, becoming supple after milking

**Fore udder** - solidly attached and well linked to the abdomen, of moderate length, quarters equally balanced.

**Rear udder** - attached high, wide, solid, slightly rounded; uniform width from top to bottom; quarters equally balanced.

**Teats** - uniform in size, length and medium diameter, cylindrical, perpendicular

- seen from the side, the teats must be in the center of each quarter.

- seen from the back, the teats must be slightly closer to the center of the udder.

**Mammary veins** - long and ramified. A veined udder is desirable.





**EVALUATION OF FAULTS**

On a fairground a disqualification means the animal is not eligible to win a prize. A disqualified animal is not eligible to participate in a group class. The seriousness of a fault, light, medium or severe is determined by the judge.

**EYES:**

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| ▪ Total blindness      | Disqualification     |
| ▪ Blindness in one eye | Light discrimination |
| ▪ Crooked eyes         | Light discrimination |

**FACIAL DISTORSION:**

Light to severe discrimination

**ABNORMAL JAW:**

- |                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| ▪ Lower jaw too short | Light to severe discrimination |
| ▪ Prominent lower jaw | Light to severe discrimination |

**SHOULDERS:**

- |          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| ▪ Opened | Light to severe discrimination |
|----------|--------------------------------|

**TAIL HEAD:**

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| ▪ Twisted tail, tail head too high or other tail abnormality | Light discrimination |
|--|----------------------|

**ANUS:**

- |              |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| ▪ Protruding | Severe discrimination |
|--------------|-----------------------|

**FEET AND LEGS:**

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| ▪ Handicaped  |                       |
| a) Apparently permanent and affecting the normal gait | Severe discrimination |
| b) Apparently temporary and                           |                       |



not affecting normal gait

Light discrimination

- Knee bursitis Light to severe discrimination
- Evidence of arthritis, stiffness of a rear leg Severe discrimination
- Evidence of fluid in the hock Light discrimination
- Hip not prominent (if it does not affect the gait) Light discrimination
- Twisted front leg Light discrimination
- Open toes Light discrimination

## **MAMMARY SYSTEM**

- Non productive quarter Severe discrimination
- Abnormal milk Severe discrimination
- Perforated side of teat Severe discrimination
- Injured teat affecting production Light to severe discrimination
- Persistent oedema Light discrimination
- One or more unbalanced quarters Light to severe discrimination
- Palmed teat Light to severe discrimination

**LACK OF WEIGHT:**

Light to severe discrimination

**OVERWEIGHT:**

Light discrimination

**TEMPORARY OR MINOR INJURIES:**

- Faults or temporary injuries that will not, affect the animal permanently Light discrimination

**EVIDENCE OF FRAUD:**

- Cover up signs of surgery on the animal in view of hiding faults of conformation and improve the animal's appearance Severe discrimination





# Concours de présentation Showmanship



# DAIRY CALVES SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST

Showmanship Contest rules that were studied by representatives of most dairy breeds associations in collaboration with the AJRQ.

## **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Judging a Showmanship Contest and judging an animals' conformation (animal's type) are two different contests and must take place separately.

To judge a Showmanship Class, it is preferable for the conformation class to have taken place first.

If there are a large number of animals exhibited at the show, it is preferable to have a different judge for each of these two contests.

Suggested ages for classes (taking into account the participant's age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year) are:

- 12 and younger
- 13 to 16 yrs
- 17 to 21 yrs

Note: Certain shows choose to add a class for younger children (8 yrs and younger) and to add one older group (22 to 25 yrs).

## **GOALS OF THE SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST:**

- ✓ To teach youths to present animals to their best advantage.
- ✓ To allow youths to demonstrate their skills in leading an animal.
- ✓ To teach youths to develop personal discipline and sportsmanship.





## **HANDLER'S PERFORMANCE:**

### **Presentation at the Contest:**

- ✓ The handler must be clean, dressed in white (have no identification on his shirt). It is preferable to wear work boots or shoes with rigid soles. (Rubber boots are not acceptable. He (she) should not be dressed in such a way as to distract the judge to the animal's detriment. The handler cannot smoke or chew gum.
- ✓ The animal must be clean, well prepared and well trained. The expression "well prepared" means a recent clipping, clean hoofs, etc. the expression "well trained" means able to stop, go and walk at the judge's request.
- ✓ The animal's halter must be of the right size, clean and well fitted. A large cord halter should not be used. Normally, a well-adjusted halter will have the horizontal strap centered from the muzzle.

### **Handler's Attitude**

- ✓ Be alert, polite and courteous towards the judge and other handlers.
- ✓ Be rested, in control of his (her) emotions and show interest until the end of the class, no matter where he (she) was placed by the judge. Accept the judge's decision with a good sportsmanship attitude. Remember that the contest is not over until the judge has rendered his final decision.
- ✓ Keep control of the animal at all times and observe the judge frequently to be aware of his instructions.
- ✓ Be ready to answer the judge's questions i.e. When was your calf born?





- ✓ Be ready to handle any animal that the judge designates.
- ✓ Be punctual when entering the ring and do not cause delays by paying attention to spectators or other handlers.

## **Animal Handling Techniques**

- ✓ Follow the judge's instructions.
- ✓ Do not bend down, lean or squat. These actions are faults that are severely penalized.
- ✓ Lead the animal clockwise with a graceful gait. Head held high to show an impressive style is an attractive posture. The handler who persists in making his animals walk too slowly could be seriously penalized.
- ✓ Hold the halter and the strap in the same hand. If the strap is too long, make two circles or loops in the hand. The handler's hand must be inside the halter while keeping very good control of the animal. Don't let the excess strap hang or drag. Certain animals behave better when the strap is short. The halter must be well adjusted at all times.
- ✓ Walk backwards holding the halter with the left hand during the show. When entering the ring and when the judge designates a specific area, it is preferable to walk forward a bit faster, holding the halter with the right hand or the left hand if it is necessary to raise the neck with the right hand.
- ✓ Handle from the animal's left side. Do not bother (play with) the animal when she is well placed. Do not adjust the back legs with the feet but do it by putting pressure on the halter while touching the animal's shoulder with the fingers of the right hand.
- ✓ When the judge asks to stop; place the animal at its best advantage (the front legs must be even). The back leg facing the judge must be slightly further back than the other.



- ✓ When the judge designates a spot on the stop line: anticipate where the front legs are located and, ideally walk towards that spot. If the animal goes over by 30 to 60 cm (1 foot or 2) move the animal according to the method indicated in the following sketch...



- ✓ Make sure the animal is at its best from its entrance in the ring to its departure. Leave a reasonable distance between the animals to give a good show.

### **BASIC TECHNIQUES TO BE MASTERED BY THE HANDLER:**

- ✓ Move in a clockwise direction.
- ✓ Turn the animal's head towards the judge when he examines the thickness of the skin. If the judge examines the ribs' width with his fingers, turn the animal's head in the opposite direction of the ribs observed.
- ✓ Stop and place the animal at its best advantage. Use the floor's slope so that the front feet are at the same level or higher than the back feet (be careful not to place the animal too far out of line from the other animals' position). Know the animal's conformation faults and show her in a way to conceal the said faults.
- ✓ Use your free hand to control and place the animal at its best.
- ✓ Advance to the center of the ring at the judge's request.
- ✓ Lead the animal correctly clockwise. The handler must always walk around the animal, and not vice versa.



- ✓ Know how to move the animal from one position to the next as illustrated in the sketch below:

- Example of moving towards a superior position:



- Example of moving towards an inferior position:



- Example of moving from A: only case where the handler must turn counterclockwise:



- ✓ Give sufficient room to a colleague who must move ahead of you in the show.
- ✓ Know how to handle a change of calf. Should this situation occur, you must study the new animal's conformation quickly and precisely in order to show her at her best. If the handler lets the halter slip during the exchange, place the calf at her best before readjusting the halter correctly.



## **THE JUDGE'S RESPONSIBILITY:**

- ✓ Be familiar with the general signals given to handlers and, when possible, follow these directives.
- ✓ Give appreciably the same time (judging value) to each of the 3 items that constitute the art of showmanship: presentation of the animal, handler's attitudes and mastering handling techniques.
- ✓ Stand at the center of the ring (to be seen by the handlers) and remain in position until all the participants have entered the ring.
- ✓ Observe the general behavior of each handler: agility, politeness and courteousness towards the colleagues. The general behavior should be watched throughout the show even though it's easier to observe at the handler's entrance in the ring and during the first rounds.
- ✓ Expect each handler to control his (her) animal while looking at the judge often.
- ✓ Use standard signs for each class of animals. Give only relevant instructions to the handlers. Do not exaggerate (do not parade around) when signaling instructions; the handlers are the center of attraction and not the judge.
- ✓ Judge each class separately. The judge should not change the animals (give another animal to a handler) unless 2 handlers are showing almost equivalent performances.
- ✓ Always check if the contest must be judged on a group basis. If this is the case, the participants must be placed in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> group, afterwards the judge will determine the individual placements within each group beginning with the first one.
- ✓ Be ready to give the reasons to support your choices if requested by the organizers of the show.



- ✓ Appreciate a well-clipped animal without this quality becoming the cause for a revision of the placings and this particularly with young members (many handlers do not clip their own animals). However, do not neglect the importance of the clipping, the care of hooves, etc.
- ✓ Conformation must not influence a Showmanship Contest.
- ✓ A Showmanship Contest must not be extended uselessly.

### **STANDARD SIGNS USED BY THE JUDGES:**

- ✓ A circular gesture of the arm and the hand indicates that the contestants must advance. A faster gesture indicates a faster walk.
- ✓ A hand up, hands up or fingers spread indicates a stop.
- ✓ A gesture of the hand and arm of the judge towards himself means the participant's selection. The judge must clearly specify the participant's new position.
- ✓ The judge must, unequivocally, indicate his choice to the participants in order to avoid any possible confusion.

### **RESPONSABILITY OF THE RINGMAN**

#### **Showmanship classes**

Judging a Showmanship Class is different from judging a show. As ringman, your tasks and responsibilities are modified. In fact, it will be essential for you to remain neutral and aside so that the judge can judge the participants according to their real skills.

First, you must stand at the entrance to inform the participants that they must lead their animals quickly into the ring.



Once all the contestants are in the ring, your role will be to stand aside until the judge is ready to place his (her) first choices in the center of the ring.

At that time, you must start the line-up indicating the spot indicated by the judge to the first one. Once this participant is in place, you must once again stand aside, because the art of Showmanship consists in part in knowing how to keep the lines straight and well spaced. The judge himself will give instructions concerning the moves necessary for the smooth course of the show.

Once the judge has decided on his final choice, you must go to the chosen spot by the judge to indicate to the participants where the first place animal must stand. Once this animal is placed, you will not give any more instructions before the judge has given his (her) reasons.

Finally, direct the exit of the class from the ring in a single file.

When there are numerous eliminations in a Showmanship Class, the judge will determine the number of contestants he will have in the final group. Your task will consist of informing the officials or in forming a sufficiently large space between the two groups in order to indicate clearly which participants will return for the final heat.

## **Conformation Classes**

The ringman will direct each class as in an official show. However, it is important to remember that it's a show of young people and for some it will be their first experience. Therefore, they can be nervous or have animals which refuse to cooperate. Consequently, if a calf causes a problem, go assist the contestant rapidly. You must reassure and encourage them when they show frustration or discouragement. Sometimes, a simple smile from you will give them confidence.





# NOTES

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal black lines across its entire width, providing a guide for handwriting or typing. The background is a solid off-white color.

# I ♥ J' AYRSHIRES

[www.ayrshire-canada.com](http://www.ayrshire-canada.com)

[info@ayrshire-canada.com](mailto:info@ayrshire-canada.com)

Tel: 450-778-3535 Fax: 450-778-3531

