Livestock Fitting and Showmanship

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Livestock Fitting
And Showmanship
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A Good Showman:

1. Is aware that the primary purpose for showing an animal is to assist the animal in making a favorable impression on the judge.

2. Makes sure that both himself and his animal are clean and well groomed.

3. Has the feet of his animal trimmed to permit him to stand and walk correctly.

4. Brings his animal into the ring promptly. He makes it his business to find out when the class is to be judged.

5. Is alert and follows instructions issued by the judge, clerk, or ringmaster explicitly.

Never stand between the judge and your animal.
6. Is courteous at all times, particularly to the judge and competing showmen.
7. Is prepared to give a prompt answer to any question pertaining to his animal.
8. Gives his animal his undivided attention while in the ring. He knows that smoking at such times is a breach of etiquette.
9. Always knows the whereabouts of the judge and has his animal in position when the judge looks in that direction. If two or more judges are working the ring, the showman knows the whereabouts of all of them.
10. Never permits his body to obstruct the view of the judge.
11. Endeavors to maneuver the animal into an improved position for the benefit of the judge's inspection prior to, not during the inspection.
12. Executes all showmanship endeavors in a nonchalant manner. The animal is made to appear to be showing himself. He knows grandstand or clown acts by the showman are very improper.
13. Looks with pride upon his animal and by his silent, confident attitude attempts to impress the judge with his animal.
14. Never points to any part of his animal with intent to draw attention to a strong feature. Rather, he makes it convenient for the judge to see such features well and frequently.
15. Never engages in any attempt at bribery or makes any comment to the

Give your animal undivided attention in the ring.
judge about his competitor or competitor's animal.
16. Avoids having his animal come in contact with a competitor or encroach upon space rightfully in possession of another.
17. Is a modest winner and gracious loser. Winners of runner-up honors always offer congratulations to first prize or championship winners.
18. Does not leave the ring until the class is placed and records completed. Retirement from the ring takes place in the order of the placing of the class.

SWINE
Getting the Pigs Ready

Trimming the Feet

Look over the feet of pigs three or four weeks before the show. Of our meat animals, swine have the smallest feet in proportion to body weight. Animals being fitted do not wear off the feet as do animals on range.

Trimming the feet can best be done a few hours after a rain or after the pigs come off pasture wet with dew. The hoof tissue is much softer then. Usually one person can hold a spring pig while another does the trimming with a hoof parer, pruning shears, or pocket knife.

Do all the trimming on the bottom of the foot by removing what might have worn off in travel over a rough, hard surface. Cut from the inside through the outer wall and work from the heel of the foot, or cushion, forward to the tip of the toe. Treat the dewclaws in the same way to give them the appearance of good proportion.

If done not too long before the show, there will be no need to repeat the trimming, and there will be no danger of lameness due to sore feet. Neglected feet increase the strain on the pasterns. Long toes break easily, causing lameness. The carriage of pigs on well-shaped feet is much more graceful.
Washing the Pig

The skin should be sound and healthy. Mange causes thickened areas on the skin, while lice may cause injuries due to the pig's severe scratching. When mangy pigs are washed, rough, reddened, sore patches show up on white skin. This is very noticeable and objectionable. A good washing is desirable two or three weeks before the show. Plus several other washings between this first washing and the show.

White and colored skins are treated differently. With white-skinned pigs, or large white areas on pigs of some breeds, vegetable or mineral oil may be used generously a day or so before washing to soften the scurf.

Vegetable oils are usually high in price; castor oil is too heavy and cottonseed oil too gummy. Mineral oils cause white hair to become yellowish, but for colored skins the mineral oils such as paraffin oil or engine oil are satisfactory. Crankcase or drain oil may be poisonous if it comes from a motor burning leaded gas.

In washing use a stiff brush and enough soap to get a good lather. In finishing, rinse well to remove all soap. Keep the pigs on a clean surface after leaving the wash rack and have clean, dry bedding in their pen to receive them. Prairie hay makes the most satisfactory bedding for it is usually clean and quite free from chaff.

Clipping

The hair from the ears and tail of a pig may be trimmed, although it is not done as much as formerly. Clip the ear inside and out, and the tail except for the switch. Some showmen start clip-
Hair of the ears and tail may be clipped.

ping about one-third of the length of the tail above the switch. Blend carefully into the body.

**Hair Dressing**

The skin of a hog is naturally dull but the hair should have a gloss, suggesting natural luxuriance. The dullness of the skin should be preserved unless hot weather makes use of the water sprinkler necessary. A soft cloth oiled just enough that oil cannot be squeezed out, is used in preparing pigs with colored skins. After all chaff has been removed by brushing, use the cloth in going over the pig, stroking with the hair to remove dust and to give the coat luster. There should never be enough oil to cause two hairs to stick together.

Alcohol may be used to thin the oil. Sometimes kerosene is used but there is some danger of blistering where the skin is thin. The old practice of putting lamp black in oil is outmoded, as lamp black comes off on everything a pig comes in contact with.

Pigs should be clean and free from surplus oil. In interbreed contests it is unfair to soil the neat appearance of another exhibit.

White skin on swine calls for different treatment. Assuming the pig is in a clean pen and clean at show time, he may be dusted with powdered soapstone or talcum powder (a very little marine blue may be added). Brush well to distribute the powder evenly, and avoid using too much powder.

**Training Pigs**

Begin by driving pigs slowly, or rather by herding them, in morning or evening before feeding. When a single pig is taken out to train, that pig should be familiar with the herdsman and have no fear of abuse. Work with the pig before feeding time. A hungry pig expects some reward for yielding—a satisfied
pig expects none. Turn the pig out on strange ground where the pig sees nothing familiar but the herdsman. Use the same methods in handling pigs that are to be used later in the show ring.

**Equipment**

Since clipping the hoof and trimming probably have been done, equipment for these jobs may be left at home when going to the fair. But plan to take panels for a feed pen, feed trough, water pail, feed pail, cane soap, brush and cloth, hair dressing and short handled fork or shovel, feed and bedding.

**Transportation**

Consider season, length of trip and roads in planning and providing transportation. Handle pigs to prevent injury. Avoid crowding. In hot weather take every precaution to avoid over-heating. Provide shade, ventilation, and wet sand for bedding.

**At the Show**

Swine pens at the fair are for exhibition of swine. Take pigs outside some distance away for feed and water. Exercise pigs morning and evening at the fair. Keep the pens well bedded, dry and clean. Feed regularly and on time so that the pigs will not squeal every time someone rattles a pail. Pigs fed and watered regularly outside, and exercised afterward, will keep their pens surprisingly clean.

**A Good Pig Showman:**

1. Makes no attempt to part or curl the hair on his pig. The hair is groomed to lie in its natural direction.
2. May remove the hair from the base to the switch of the tail and both inside and outside of the ears. (It is not necessary, however, to clip or shave the hair from either the tail or ears. Gilts, sows and barrows look more refined when clipped.)
3. Dusts white pigs with a white powder.
4. Applies just enough oil on red or black pigs to give their haircoat a glossy appearance.
5. Uses oil on the black areas and powder on the belt of Hampshire pigs.
6. Uses a light application of a transparent oil on Spotted Poland China pigs.
7. Often carries a powder can, brush, or oily rag into the ring, but keeps them in his pocket or otherwise out of sight most of the time.
8. Realizes an open area 20 feet from the judge provides a better place to show a pig than a crowded area within several feet of the judge.
9. Shows his pig at a slow walk as he looks best while on the move.
10. Brings his pig to an immediate halt if the judge indicates a desire to inspect him at a standing position.
11. Permits his pig to stand for brief moments if he remains alert and does not assume an awkward position.
12. Makes no attempt to place his pig's feet by handling them.
13. Keeps his pig within a clear view of the judge.
14. Uses a light stick or cane to direct the pig about the arena. The pig responds to light taps from or the mere sight of such a show stick.
15. Uses a small, light panel instead of a cane or stick if the ring is crowded or the pig is known to be a scrapper.
16. Uses a light whip instead of a cane or stick if the ring is large and not crowded. Some pigs show best this way.
17. Never carries both a panel and cane. One hand is left free.
18. Never forces his pig to make abrupt turns in the show ring. He doesn't permit him to walk into a spot that makes it necessary to back out.
19. Makes no effort to improve the arch of a pig's back by pushing its nose down or rump forward. Actually such tactics make the pig look worse.
BEEF

Feeding the Show Animal

Cattle being prepared for show must be handled and fed somewhat differently than those fed for ordinary market. The cost of feed is not given as much consideration when cattle are being prepared for show as in connection with market animals. Skillful feeding is necessary in preparing an animal for show. It is usually necessary to feed an animal longer to put him in show condition, than if he were going directly to the market.

While corn is one of the best of fattening feeds it probably should not be used quite as heavily for a show animal as for a market animal. Linseed oil meal provides a much better finish than cottonseed meal and should be used in place of it in the show animal's ration. Milk is the greatest of all feeds for put-

Steps in making eye splice.

Completed halter, A. eye splice; B. loop splice; C. crown knot; D. nose piece

Steps in making loop splice.
ting a bloom and finish on animals. However, some states have ruled against feeding milk to 4-H calves after they have become 10 months of age. Roughages such as silage and hay can be used in large amounts for market cattle but for show cattle they do not contain enough nutrients to make the high finish desired and, therefore, the animal should not be fed too heavily on these two roughages. The grain rations for show animals will have to be increased and the roughages cut down. In some cases it is necessary to add an appetizer in the form of molasses to the feed of show animals. The rations previously suggested may be used with the exception that larger amounts of grain or concentrates could be used and the animal should be fed three times daily.

Preparation and Showing

The appearance, the condition and the behavior of the baby beef being shown at the fair or stock show effectively bring out the ability of the club member as a herdsman. The animal should present an attractive appearance because of its good conformation, its finished condition, its grooming and its training. It should become accustomed to being handled by strangers and ought not become unduly nervous from strange surroundings and noises. A properly trained animal that behaves well and that stands correctly or poses has an advantage in the show and sale ring over one that is nervous, kicks or stands poorly.

In preparing the baby beefes for the show ring many different things may be done to improve their general appearance. However, such things should be within the permissible practices and one should not resort to such a thing as "plugging" an animal. The animal should be groomed frequently; this need not necessarily be done with a curry-comb but with a brush, the idea being to clean the animal and to soften the hide. If a curry-comb is used it is liable to cut the hair and pull some of it out. A good bath once every two weeks is beneficial. Use plenty of water with tar soap. Rub the hair with the hand or brush so as to loosen all the dirt particles. After the water and soap are removed a solution of dip may be applied. Some animals should be shown with hair curled while others will present the best appearance if shown smooth.

Care of Horns

The Shorthorn or Hereford beefes are more attractive if their horns are properly grown out, that is, symmetrical and nicely curved.

A plain headed individual or one with poorly shaped horns does not attract the eye of either judge or buyer. On the Shorthorn, the horns are short and they curve forward with the tips pointing slightly downward. The horns on the Hereford are of medium size, extend out at right angles from the head and curve downward and slightly forward. On some individuals it may be necessary to use horn weights or a horn trainer in order to secure symmetry and proper curvature to the horns. Do not use the weights while the horns are young and soft. Start with a light weight, one weighing a half pound, and if the horns yield too rapidly remove the weights for a period of two or three weeks, and then apply them again until the desired effect is obtained. Some stockmen use one-half or three-fourths pound weights keeping them on the horns for a week, re-
Horn weights are used to improve the symmetry and curvature of the horns.

Sandpapering the horn to secure greater smoothness.

The right horn is properly trimmed and polished. The left horn is still in the rough.

Horns of medium size, properly shaped and neatly polished are attractive and an indication of quality in the animal. In polishing the horns follow the practice outlined in the illustrations. Smooth off the rough surfaces with a sharp knife, then with a rasp or horn scraper, and rub smooth with a fine emery paper. The horns may then be polished with a woolen cloth moistened with linseed oil or sweet oil, applying plenty of "elbow grease" in so doing. The horns will then present a clean waxy appearance.
Clipping and Curling

What clipping is necessary should be done a week or 10 days before showing. The heads of the Aberdeen-Angus and Red Polled are clipped in front of a line around the neck about three inches back of the ears. Do not clip the hair on the inside of the ears, the eyelashes or the hair about the muzzle. The polled Hereford head is also sometimes clipped but the heads of the horned cattle are not. The tails of all beef breeds except Galloway are clipped. Care should be taken to leave a good switch. Starting a little above the switch or at the lower end of the twist, clip the tail up to the head, being careful to have the clipping blend smoothly at the tail head.

For two weeks prior to showing be sure to brush the animal thoroughly each day. The final brushing on short haired animals (Aberdeen-Angus and Red Polled) is made in the same direction as the hair following the brush with the bare hand each time as this draws the oil to the top of the hair. Short haired animals are shown with the hair smooth and if it does not have the desired glossy appearance apply a little separator oil (any mineral oil) to a woolen cloth and rub the hair down following with the hand to give it the proper gloss.

The final brushing for the long haired animals (Shorthorn, Hereford and Galloway) is made against the direction of the hair so as to make it more fluffy. Herefords are generally shown with the hair curled while Shorthorns may or may not be. It is well for the club member with a Hereford or Shorthorn animal to practice this curling beforehand so that by the time the animal is to be shown the curling can be done quickly and properly. Angus are shown with the hair curled over the thigh and rough over the shoulder and neck with a smooth side and back.

An hour before the animal is to be shown moisten the hair with a weak solution of dip, being careful not to get the hair too wet. The hair over the back from in front of the shoulder to the tail should be parted along the backbone and, with a coarse comb, combed out to the edge of the flat part of the back on each side of and at right angles to the backbone. An ordinary straight lined eight-rowed curry comb with every other row of teeth flattened down makes a good marking comb for lining the hair. Line the hair from in front of the

![Photo courtesy U. of Nebraska](image-url)

Allow the calf to become familiar with the sensation before starting to clip. (Right) This polled and dehorned head has been neatly clipped. The ears are not clipped.
shoulders to the back of the round, starting the first line slightly below the outer edge of the flat portion of the back; when the hair is later brushed up the end of the hair along this first line will curl up even with the level part of the back and thus give it a wider appearance. Make the lines parallel. After the hair has been lined, it may be brushed up with a stiff brush or a Scotch comb, leaving it in distinct wavy lines as desired.

Brush up the hair on the flanks or any defective places so as to make them appear fuller. Often times the hair on the Hereford is curled or marcelled. A round spring curry comb is used, the outer two rows or springs being bent to a point. The wavy effect is made by a zig-zagging pull on the comb starting from the level of the top line and continuing downward to the level of the underline. The tips of the hair may or may not be brushed up following this procedure.

**Care of the Feet**

Do not neglect the feet of the animal to be shown; unless the feet are properly trimmed it may be difficult for it to stand squarely. When trimming the feet tie the animal in a stall or alongside a board fence. A heavy rope is passed horizontally along the animal's body, the ends tied securely to the fence or stall so as to hold the animal in place. If a de-horning chute is available for this work all the better. If preferred, the animal may be thrown and tied in order to trim the feet.

In trimming the feet use a hoof knife or a heavy pocket knife and a rasp. In using the knife trim the lower edge of
The curl with the round comb.

The tail is kept well clipped.

Wave made with a curry comb for short hair.
Making the curl with parallel lines.

the outer wall of the hoof so it is about level with the sole always cutting toward the toe. When the hoof has grown rather long it may be necessary to first use a hoof pinchers. In trimming down the toe with a pinchers place the dull or blunt side of the pinchers on the outside wall of the toe. Be careful not to cut the hoof too short so as to cause soreness and lameness, for an animal that walks lame is at a disadvantage. After trimming down the toe sufficiently, level the sole of the foot with the rasp. The hoofs may then be scraped or smoothed off with sandpaper and polish with oil such as linseed oil.

Training to Lead

Train the animal to lead and to stand; it should be properly fitted with a halter and led a little each day. Cattle are always led from the left side. Pose the animal frequently as if it were being shown and it will soon learn to stand in this pose. Teach the animal to stand squarely on all four feet; don't permit it to stand stretched out as this makes a sagging back. Its head should not be held higher than natural for the animal. If the animal is well trained beforehand to lead and stand, this will be made easier. A long, light stick is carried in showing beef cattle and by slightly pressing an
end of this stick between the toes or on the top of the hoof of the animal its feet can usually be placed correctly. The club member should always be on the alert to have his animal present the best possible appearance to the judge.

**In the Show Ring**

If the animal is well finished and fitted and properly trained, there is not much more for the showman to do except keep a watchful eye on his animal. In moving the animal to the fair or show be careful not to overheat it or unduly excite it. Cut down on the amount of feed at the last feeding and just prior to moving it. Upon arriving at the fair, do not feed it heavily but first of all give it plenty of water, if it is not too hot, and a little hay. After a rest of an hour or two it may be given a feed of grain, and try to follow the same regular schedule of feeding as was practiced at home.

While at the fair give the animal plenty of exercise each day; this can best be done early each morning. If the animal refuses its feed, let it miss a feed or two; the chances are its appetite will come back strong.

When your class is called for the show ring, have your animal well fitted and be ready to enter the ring when the last call is made. Regardless of how well an animal has been fitted it will seldom win in the show ring if carelessly shown. Often a good showman with a somewhat inferior individual will win over a better individual poorly shown. Stay on the left side of your animal when you lead it, hold it or show it. When in the show ring face the inside of the ring, holding the animal with your left hand. Watch your animal and watch the judge.

A blanket for the baby beef.
After standing in the show ring for some time an animal will often become tired and restless. This may be overcome by leading the animal around and bringing it back into position when it is not being examined by the judge. However, when the judge is examining the animal or whenever there is a possibility that he may be about ready to do so, the animal should be in place and standing properly.

When in the show ring be a good sport. Remember you are a stockman and a gentleman. Don't criticize the judge's decision; he has had an opportunity to carefully pass on all the animals in the ring and his judgement is final. Thank the person who hands you a ribbon and demonstrate that it was the animal that won it and not you by putting the ribbon on the animal instead of on yourself.
A lack of understanding as to how to fit sheep for the show or sale ring is oftentimes the cause of disappointment and failure on the part of the owner. Fitting alone no matter how carefully performed, can never make a good individual out of an inferior one. Good conformation is the result of intelligent breeding; the efficient feeding of the animal helps to bring its owner the best market price and the most net returns; and the proper fitting of the animals has them looking at their best when exhibited. The animals to be shown must be in a thrifty and healthy condition.

**Nutrition Important**

Good pasture is essential in developing a well fitted sheep. The run of a pasture at night during the summer is recommended.

Oats, four pounds; corn, two pounds; wheat bran, two pounds, and linseed meal or some other protein supplement one pound is a good mixture for lambs. The corn should be coarsely ground or cracked. Feed the oats whole.

Succulent feeds such as stock beets, cabbage, turnips, carrots and rutabagas are an excellent conditioner for sheep. Exercise in the early morning is usually necessary to bring about proper condition. Good clean alfalfa hay is the best dry roughage to use when fitting.

Good livestock sense displayed by the person fitting will determine how much grain to feed. A good grain ration for starting lambs is a mixture of 12 pounds of cracked shelled corn, three pounds of linseed meal or similar feeds, and two pounds of bran. This ration can usually be cheapened after three to four weeks by gradually working up to a mixture of one-half cracked corn and one-half crushed oats. After about six weeks of creep feeding the lambs will take whole corn and whole oats. At this time, the proportion of corn may be increased, because it is more fattening and usually cheaper.

A mixture of 20 pounds cracked yellow corn, 20 pounds oats crushed or whole, 10 pounds wheat bran, and 10 pounds of either soybean, linseed, or cottonseed meal is very useful in lamb feeding. It is doubtful whether the mixture is as important as the judgement needed to decide the amount of the mixture for each feeding.

Except for the first week or 10 days when the lambs are learning to eat grain, there should be no grain left in the trough after 20 minutes. If the lambs do not clean up the grain in 20 minutes the quantity should be reduced for the next feeding. Refused grain should be removed immediately and given to the ewes. A wise feeder tries to feed almost as much grain as the lambs will clean up. This takes a “master’s eye”, developed by keen observation and a love for livestock. The best “telltale” of a poor lamb feeding job is to find grain in the trough and the lambs not eating.

From weaning time on it is possible to overfeed lambs. When they overeat they become so-called “hot-lambs”. The back will become arched or humped over the loin. While the lamb is standing the hind legs will quiver. The weight is frequently shifted from one leg to the other. The lamb will not
Livestock Fitting and Showmanship

stand up long at one time. In some cases the lamb will go to the feed and eat while sitting like a dog. There is no cure. The lamb may live if the grain is cut to half or less. Shear the lamb but watch for cut places and keep them covered with a fly repellent. Special repellents for this job are sold at supply stores.

When hot days arrive there is more danger of producing the so-called “hot-lambs”. Reduce the grain allowance and leave the lambs a little more hungry during hot spells. Feed them earlier in the morning and later in the evening when it is cooler. Allow plenty of cross ventilation at the floor level. Make the sheep clean up their allowance, never overfeed. A moderate gain will produce a better fitted animal than a rapid, short-time gain.

Training

A well fattened and fitted sheep may sometimes lose a prize because it is not properly shown. The proper training of the animals should start well in advance of the time they are shown.

First of all one should know how to properly catch a sheep, lead it and show it. Never catch or hold a sheep by his wool. It may be caught by grasping the right rear Bank and then placing the left hand underneath its neck. When leading it keep the left hand underneath the jaw and place the right hand over the dock, thus guiding with the left and pushing with the right hand. The sheep to be shown should be trained to stand quietly. The exhibitor stands or kneels at the left side of the sheep, holding the left hand under the sheep’s jaws and when necessary to quiet it the right hand may be placed on top of the animal’s head or on its dock. Stand the animal squarely on all four legs; the correct position of the legs may be arranged with the right hand. Keep the body in position, with a level top line and with head up.

Equipment Needed

The following list of materials and equipment is necessary for fitting sheep or lambs for the show ring:
- Small rope halter
- Pail of water
- Stiff fiber brush
- Curry comb
- Wool card
- Double hone (medium for fine surfaces)
- Sheep Sheers
- Pocket knife

Trimming the Feet

The feet of any sheep or lambs that are to be shown should be examined every few weeks. The outside horny part of the hoof often grows irregularly, and if the feet are not kept trimmed, crooked and broken down pasterns may result. One or two trimmings during the year is usually sufficient for the general flock, but frequent leveling of the edges of the hoof to keep it level with the sole of the foot is desirable with all show animals. The foot and horny part should be trimmed down until it is level with the sole of the foot, so that the foot will stand straight when placed on the ground. Be careful not to cut the hoof too short so as to cause soreness and lameness.

Blocking

The uniform and pleasing outlines of sheep and lambs exhibited by experienced showmen are the result of experience and hours of careful work. It is more desirable for the beginner if the
process of trimming may be done at two or three different times at intervals of several weeks, rather than doing the whole job just before starting for the fair or just before exhibiting the animal. Should the fleece on the underline, over the twist or on the legs be vary badly cotted or taggy, it should be washed to remove the dirt and filth and allowed to dry before starting the trimming. Soft water to which has been added sheep dip (2 tablespoonfuls dip to a gallon of water) may be used for washing although it may sometimes be necessary to use soap on the badly stained fleece. Whatever washing is necessary should be done at least two months before exhibiting the animals, as this will give sufficient time for the oil or yoke to come back into the fleece. If not too badly cotted the wool may preferably be combed out with the curry comb rather than washed.

The amount of blocking of the fleece depends upon the type of sheep to be shown. The fleece of fine wool sheep
Livestock Fitting and Showmanship

should not be washed, but should be kept as clean as possible. The fleece is not blocked but is smoothed off to give the animal the characteristic round body lines. The fleece on the long wool type sheep is left in a more natural condition; it is never carded, the tag ends may be trimmed off to give it a neater appearance and the dock may be slightly squared up. The fleece should be kept as clean as possible. Length of fleece is important in the long wool breeders and the Lincoln and Cotswold should be shown with long full foretops.

There are five important rules to bear in mind in blocking the fleece on the medium wool breeds:

1. Maintain a fine cutting edge on the shears.
2. Keep the animal standing squarely when blocking.
3. Hold the shears flat when trimming.
4. Always trim at right angles to the backbone when blocking.
5. Constantly stroke up the fleece while trimming and keep its surface moistened.

Stand the animal to be trimmed squarely on its feet on slightly rising ground with the head turned uphill. It is most desirable to have it held in position by an assistant, but this if is impossible, tie the animal to a post or fence. The back and underline should be straight and level, and if the animal is not standing squarely, the back may be so trimmed that afterwards it will be slanting off to one side or the other.

The fleece is combed out with the curry comb so as to separate any cotted fibers and to straighten up any uneven growth; this combing also partially removes any dirt or foreign material. Dam pen the outside of the fleece with the wet brush and then fluff it up with the card; the fuzz thus produced is brushed or rubbed so that the uneven ends are sticking up. Trim the back square, making it as broad as possible and straight and strong in its outline. To do this hold the shears flat to the back, start at the high place in the topline, which is usually the shoulder, and clip crosswise of the back, working towards the rump. The clipping should be done at right angles to the backbone as a cut in any other direction results in a jagged appearance. While trimming, continually rub the fleece up with the brush or the flat of the shears, so that any uneven tags may be exposed and trimmed off.

After the back has been trimmed to one's satisfaction trim the sides, clipping either up or down the same process of combing, wetting, fluffing and rubbing the fleece as described in trimming the back, being careful to retain the natural slightly rounding contour of the body. The space over the body, between the side and back trim should be rounded, trimming as little as possible so that the greatest possible width and blockiness may be maintained. The rump is trimmed to carry back rectangularly; the dock is squared to show width and plumpness; and the leg of mutton...
Trimming the fleece on the sheep's back is done at right angles to the backbone trimmed to give a plump full appearance. Sometimes the fleece over the thigh is fluffed to increase the full appearance of the leg of mutton. The trimming over the belly is done to remove any low hanging hags. The shoulder vein, brisket and neck are left plump and full, only the outer fibres being evened. If increased width is desired, the brisket is slightly fattened. If the animal has a long neck, the shoulder is oftentimes trimmed a little more forward.

The trimming of the fleece over the head depends upon the breed, but all animals are trimmed squarely between the ears to show all the width possible. The cheeks and forehead of the Shropshire and Hampshire should be round and full. The fleece on the head of the Southdown is trimmed and blocked to give a finishing touch to that compact tidy appearance.
After completing the blocking, the fleece may be given a smoother, denser appearance by lightly patting it with the back of the wool card or with a short smooth board. On breeding sheep the length of the wool over the loin ought to be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, while for market sheep it could be slightly less. It is advisable to blanket the sheep whose fleeces have been blocked for the show, as it keeps the fleece cleaner. Suitable blankets can be made from burlap bags or from unbleached muslin; they should be made large enough so as not to bind in any manner. If a burlap bag is used, the seam may be opened down the side, a hole of sufficient size cut in the lower corner of the bag opposite the seam that has been opened, to permit the bag being slipped over the animal's head. The blanket is then held in place on the sheep by making a tie between the hind legs at the flank for each of the rear corners of the blanket.

**In the Show Ring**

When in the show ring be alert, yet calm and courteous. Give the judge every opportunity to see the animal you are exhibiting, and bear in mind that it is your animal and not you that the judge wants to examine. Set the animal up properly and continue to show it every minute you are in the show ring. When requested to move your animal, move into the new position from behind the line and then continue showing your animal. It may not be possible for every entry in the class to win a premium so remember to be a good loser as well as a cheerful winner.