

Fitting & Showing

Fitting and showing is the main activity for many 4-H dairy clubs. The “Preparing to Lead” and “Leading to Win” booklets printed by Holstein Canada have become the standard documents to learn information about training, fitting and showing your 4-H project (or any other show animal). They are included in this section for your reference in learning these skills.

Fitting and Showing Clinics

Instead of demonstrating fitting and showing at a regular 4-H meeting when time is limited, it may be advantageous to organize a fitting and showing clinic to give members time for hands on practice.

A sample schedule for a clinic is as follows:

When: Saturday, 9:30am to 3:00pm

Where: local farm

What: A day to practice calf preparation and showing skills

What to bring: Bring yourself, plus: white show clothes, lunch, a show halter with your name on it, brushes, cattle clippers

Agenda:

- 9:30 Registration
- 9:45 Welcome, overview of the day & begin washing calves
- 10:30 Hoof trimming demonstration
- 10:45 Clipping demonstration
- 11:00 Start clipping
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:00 Finish Clipping
- 1:30 Show preparation and ethics discussion
- 2:00 Showmanship demonstration
- 2:30 Practice showing
- 3:00 Safe trip home

Selecting Dairy Show Animals

Whether you are selecting a 4-H project animal or an entire show string for your herd, there are several things to consider.

- **Conformation** – analyzing the conformation of potential show animals is an important part of showing. It is hard to be successful if you don't pick the most correct animals to show! Refer to the judging scorecard to help you assess your potential show animals and make the selection to the best of your ability. Remember that conformation is not everything – once you have selected your animal, it is up to you to feed and care for it properly so that it is in the best possible condition to show.
- **Size** – select an animal that is adequate for your size and is also well grown for its age. In showmanship, you will have a more awkward appearance showing an animal that is too small for you; but, you might have trouble controlling an animal that is too large for you to handle.
- **Registered or Grade** – while it is not necessary for 4-H project animals to be registered at the local level, many shows require animals to be registered at a specific percentage of purity. Purebred animals also have higher values for sale or breeding.
- **Temperament** – You can't expect an untrained animal to lead perfectly after practicing once or twice, but animals with a gentler disposition will be easier to work with than animals that are less docile. Handling animals from a young age will help ensure that they are quiet and easier to work with as they get older.

Show Preparation Schedule

Preparing animals to show is a big job – not something that can be done in two days before the big event.

Here is a sample timeline to help you keep on track when getting animals ready to show:

<i>Right Away</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure the calf has the proper vaccinations. Consult a vet. • Train the calf • Wash and clip the calf • Arrange for transportation of the calf if you are unsure about how to do this
<i>Four to six weeks before the show</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trim the hooves
<i>Three weeks before the show</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy or borrow equipment and put your name on it • Double-check the time you need to be at the show
<i>One or two days before the show</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the final clipping
<i>Day of the show</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash the calf for the last time before showing • Prepare the calf for the show ring



Insert Preparing to Lead pdf from Holstein Canada



Dairy Showmanship

Preparing your calf for the show is just one component of dairy showmanship. Your personal poise, alertness and neatness are also important in the show ring. Keep an eye on your animal and be aware of the position of the judge at all times. Don't be distracted in the ring. Respond quickly to requests from the judge. Be courteous and a good sport at all times. Show the animal, not yourself. Keep showing until the entire class is placed, reasons are given and the entire class is out of the ring.

The judge follows the Dairy Showmanship Scorecard:

Showmanship Scorecard	
Appearance of animal	40%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Condition, ideal weight• Grooming, clipping• Cleanliness	
Appearance of exhibitor	10%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clothes and person, neat and clean• White pants and shirt (no logos worn for 4-H shows)• Hard soled boots or shoes	
Showing the animal in the ring	50%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leading• Standing• Showing animal to its best advantage• Poise, alertness and attitude	
Total	100%



Insert Leading to Win document from Holstein Canada



Show Ring Ethics

Dairy cattle shows have been happening since the late 1800s – they provide opportunities for exhibitors to compare their cattle to those of others, market their animals, network and develop relationships with other dairy exhibitors. However, many people find it difficult to participate because of the unethical show preparation procedures of some individuals.

Competing to win is healthy - but not if it means jeopardizing morals, integrity or animal health. It is important to convey a positive image of dairy farming to the general public, so they feel comfortable about where their food comes from and the farmers who produce it.

Misrepresenting information, like falsified birthdates, affects the integrity of registration processes in Canada and is unfair to other exhibitors. Preparation procedures like tail freezing (which can cause permanent paralysis) and injecting substances into udders contravene the Code of Ethics and can be detrimental to the animal.

As 4-H members, it's important to take responsibility for our actions and participate in shows in an ethical manner.

Each dairy breed in Canada has its own Code of Ethics, although they are all very similar. The Code and its penalties for showing Holsteins in Canada can be found on the next page. To help ensure integrity in the show ring, dairy cattle exhibitors at shows across the country are now required to sign agreements stating that they will abide by the rules - these are also included.





NAME OF HOLSTEIN SHOW: _____

**STANDARD EXHIBITOR'S AGREEMENT**

Farm Name _____ Individual Name _____
 Address _____ City _____
 Province/State _____ Postal Code/Zip _____ Country _____
 Tel _____ Barn Tel _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

AGREEMENT, DECLARATION, AND WAIVER

THE UNDERSIGNED, ON BEHALF OF THE EXHIBITOR AND ALL PRINCIPALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXHIBITOR, DECLARES THAT HE/SHE HAS READ, FULLY UNDERSTANDS AND WILL COMPLY WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR SHOWING.

If entry is accepted by the Show organizers, the undersigned on his or her own behalf and the exhibitor and the principals and agents of the exhibitor acknowledge and agree that they and each of them:

- (1) are bound by, and will act at all times in accordance with the Rules and Regulations for Showing Dairy Cattle, and Standard Procedures and Penalties for Enforcing Rules and Regulations for Showing Dairy Cattle, and will accept any final decision made thereunder;
- (2) accepts that any action which may be taken under the above may be reported to any association registering purebred livestock; and
- (3) release and agree to hold the Show and its officials, directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents and volunteers (collectively the "Show organizers") harmless from any action taken under this agreement, the Rules and Regulations for Showing Dairy Cattle, the Standard Procedures and Penalties for Enforcing Rules and Regulations for Showing Dairy Cattle, or any other show rules and regulations, and release the Show organizers from and against any injury, damage or loss suffered during or in connection with the Show, whether or not such injury, damage or loss resulted from or was contributed to directly or indirectly, by the acts or omissions of the Show organizers.

The undersigned further certifies that:

- (1) any animal entered is not currently barred from showing at any future dairy show in North America; and
- (2) no owner of the entered animal, whether direct or indirect, is currently barred from showing any other animal at any future dairy show in North America.

I declare by signing this entry that:

- (1) the entry information provided to the Show organizers is true and correct;
- (2) I have the authority to make this AGREEMENT, DECLARATION, AND WAIVER, and to bind all persons and enterprises with any interest in the entered animal(s) to the terms of this AGREEMENT, DECLARATION, AND WAIVER, and do so bind them, their agents, heirs, successors and assigns or, to the extent that I do not have this authority, will ensure that such person(s) sign this agreement;
- (3) I and all other persons and enterprises with an interest in the entered animal(s) accept full responsibility for my actions, and for those of anyone else, including but not limited to fitters, who are involved in the care of, show preparation and/or showing of the entered animal(s).

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND, AND AGREE TO THE ABOVE

X

Signature, Owner or Authorized Agent/Representative

Date: _____

X

Print, Owner or Authorized Agent/Representative

Date: _____

"THIS AGREEMENT MUST BE SIGNED BEFORE ANIMALS CAN ENTER THE RING"



STANDARD AGREEMENT BETWEEN OWNERS AND FITTERS FOR HOLSTEIN SHOWS



I agree I am personally responsible for the care, welfare, and condition of your animals during the period of the Show. I acknowledge that I am responsible for my own actions and failures to act and for the actions and failure to act of all of my employees and anyone else who assists me with the fitting, care, and show preparation of your animals.

I promise that I will abide by the Rules and Regulations for Showing Holstein Cattle, the Standard Procedures and Penalties for Enforcing the Rules and Regulations for Showing Holstein Cattle, and any other show rules and regulations. I will also ensure that all of my employees, agents, contractors and others who assist me with the fitting, care, and show preparation of the animals comply with the same requirements. I understand that a failure to adhere to such requirements could result in disciplinary measures including possible suspension or ban of me, my employees and helpers, the animal(s), the owner and/or the exhibitor of the animal(s) from the Show and future Shows and the public reporting of disciplinary action, including to any association registering purebred livestock.

I release and agree to hold the Show, the Show organizers and its officials, directors, officers, employees, representatives, agents, and volunteers (collectively the "Show organizers") harmless from any action taken under this agreement, the Rules and Regulations for Showing Holstein Cattle, Standard Procedures and Penalties for Enforcing Rules and Regulations for Showing Holstein Cattle and any other Show rules and regulations, and release the Show organizers from and against any injury, damage or loss suffered during or in connection with the Show, whether or not such injury, damage or loss resulted from or was contributed to, directly or indirectly, by the acts or omissions of the Show organizers.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND, AND AGREE TO THE ABOVE

Person in Charge (Print)

Signature of Person in Charge

Owner/Exhibitor Name (Print)

Date





Holstein Canada

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR SHOWING HOLSTEIN CATTLE



The following supports good animal husbandry practices at shows, while presenting a positive image to spectators. All exhibitors and their fillets, agents, or other representatives agree to abide by the following rules and regulations.

PART I

The following practices or procedures are unacceptable in the show ring of registered holstein cattle:

1. misrepresenting the age, calving date, number of lactations, or ownership of an animal;
2. filling an animal's udder woefully with liquid [tubing];
3. balancing the udder by any means other than by leaving naturally produced milk in any or all quarters;
4. treating the udder internally with an irritant, counter-irritant, or any other substance to temporarily improve conformation or produce unnatural animation;
5. treating the udder externally with an irritant, counter-irritant, or any other substance to temporarily improve conformation or produce unnatural animation (Allowable practices/substances include sealing and setting teats, and the use of external anti-inflammatory substances for the well-being of the animal.);
6. roping udders and the use of objects to physically improve definition of the suspensory center ligament;
7. administering epidural anesthesia [blocking tails] and/or applying any irritant either externally or internally to the perineal [rectum and vaginal] area;
8. inserting foreign material/articles under the skin, into the topline [including hair not attached to its own hair follicle];
9. applying foreign material/articles on the feet;
10. performing surgery of any kind to change the natural contour of appearance of the animal's body, hide or hair. Not included is the removal of warts, teats and horns, clipping and dressing of hair and trimming of hooves;
11. criticizing or interfering with the judge, show management or other exhibitors while in the show ring; as well as any conduct that violates, directly or indirectly, recognized standard show practices, or any other discreditable conduct that could damage the image of the breed or show;
12. wrapping hocks or draining fluid from hocks unless authorized by a veterinarian appointed by the show management.

PART II

All exhibitors and their fillets, agents or other representatives agree to abide by the following procedures:

1. Exhibitors, agents, employees or other person acting on behalf of an exhibitor, shall deliver to an inspector upon request any hypodermic syringe, needle or other device, swabs, cloths or other material, or samples of any medicine, preparation or substance, whether in liquid or other form, for the purposes of laboratory analysis.
2. All entries and personal property of the exhibitors, their servants and agents and persons acting on behalf of exhibitors, are subject to inspection by inspectors authorized by a show. All such persons shall cooperate with the inspectors and shall provide all such information in connection with such inspections and shall provide access to the animal and all information reasonably required by inspectors in connection with such inspections and shall provide, if so requested, samples of urine, milk, blood, or any other body fluids suitable for analysis.
3. Exhibitors shall remove any udder supports, blankets or other objects limiting the ability of the inspector to undertake a thorough inspection.
4. The exhibitor agrees to act at all times in accordance with the Rules and Regulations for Showing and the Standard Procedures, and will accept any final decision made thereunder.

Violators are subject to the disciplinary provisions of the Standard Procedures and Penalties for Enforcing Rules and Regulations for Showing Holstein Cattle, and/or other show rules and regulations.



Holstein Canada

STANDARD PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES FOR ENFORCING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR SHOWING HOLSTEIN CATTLE



CANADIAN DAIRY

The purpose of these procedures is to put into effect the *Rules and Regulations for Showing Holstein Cattle* as published by show organizers. Where there is any conflict between the *Rules and Regulations* and these procedures, the *Rules and Regulations* shall prevail to the extent of the conflict.

1. The show organizers will ensure all owners/exhibitors sign an agreement to abide by the *Rules and Regulations for Showing Holstein Cattle*—either as a separate document or as part of the entry form.
2. The show organizers will appoint designated persons to act as a Rules Committee at the Holstein Show. The Rules Committee for the Show will be responsible for overseeing compliance with the *Rules and Regulations for Showing Holstein Cattle*.
3. The Rules Committee for the show, or any agent or representative of the Rules Committee, shall act as the Inspector under the *Rules and Regulations for Showing Holstein Cattle*, for the purpose of monitoring compliance. To help in this regard, such person(s), their agents or representatives shall have the authority to perform on any animal entered any of the following:
 - (a) an ultrasound examination of the udder, prior to and after milk-out where the possibility of such examination has been announced before any judging in the class in which the animal is entered;
 - (b) a milk-out of any individual cow or cows;
 - (c) the collection and testing of any of the animal's body fluids, at any time;
 - (d) the use at any time of any other technology, and other inspections and/or analysis—including autopsy—that the Inspector considers may be useful for assessing compliance with the *Rules and Regulations*.
4. The Inspector may, at any time, require the delivery of any hypodermic syringe, needle, or other device, swabs, cloths, or other material, or samples of any medicine, preparation, or substance, whether in liquid or other form, in the possession or control of the exhibitor, his fitter, agents or persons acting on behalf of the exhibitor for the purpose of laboratory analysis.
5. All exhibitors, fitters, agents, or other persons acting on behalf of the exhibitor at the show shall provide promptly to the Rules Committee, upon request, whatever information and produce any documents required by the Rules Committee for the proper monitoring of compliance with the *Rules and Regulations* and shall fully cooperate with any inspections.
6. The Rules Committee will try to warn an exhibitor or exhibitor's representative before showing that:
 - (a) a complaint has been received of a possible violation of the *Rules and Regulations for Showing Holstein Cattle* concerning the animal to be shown; or
 - (b) the Rules Committee has a reasonable belief that there would be a violation of the *Rules and Regulations for Showing Holstein Cattle* if the exhibitor's animal is shown.

If the exhibitor decides not to show the animal after receiving such a warning, no violation of the *Rules and Regulations* will be considered to have occurred and no disciplinary measures will be taken against the exhibitor. The Rules Committee will only give the above warning to an exhibitor or exhibitor's representative where the committee considers it reasonable and practical to do so and not in circumstances of disqualification of entries under the *Rules and Regulations*.
7. The Rules Committee shall have the option, following the judging of the milking classes, to ultrasound the udders, prior to milk-out, of a representative number of animals in each of the milking classes, or to take milk samples from a representative group of animals. If the Rules Committee undertakes the option to ultrasound the udders or to take milk samples, it shall make an announcement to this effect before the judging of the milking classes.