

Market Dairy Feeder 201 Resource for Delaware County Fair

Show Breaking Calendar and Technique



- June – Early July
 - Allow the animal to get comfortable around you to build trust
 - Tie the calf up each day with a rope halter, starting with 15 minutes and gradually adding time every few days
 - While the animal is tied up, you can brush him and pet him to build trust and begin getting him used to the show stick
 - Start getting the animal used to a halter and show stick
 - Start with the rope halter, then move on to the show halter
 - Start using the show stick with the calf in a calm, light way, until they get used to it
 - Practice walking your calf around the yard on the rope halters
- Late July – August
 - Introduce the calf to the show halter
 - Practice using the show stick to set up your animal and scratch it's belly
 - Wash and dry the calf a few times a week
 - This helps avoid stains on the calf, and helps the calf grow more hair – making the fitting process easier later on
 - If your goal is to get the calf to grow more hair, rinse them during cool times of the day
- Late August – Fair
 - Continue washing and walking your calf, and practice setting it up for the show

Showmanship Summary

- Preparing for showmanship
 - Make sure your calf is clean and ready to go
 - Make sure you are professionally presented
 - Collared shirt tucked in, long jeans, close toed shoes, belt, scotch come in back pocket (with teeth facing toward your body)
 - Be sure to watch the classes before you
 - Observe what the judge is looking for, and watch what older/more experienced showman are doing
- Going to the Ring
 - Listen for your class – you don't ever want to be late!!!
- Makeup Area
 - Don't fight other exhibitors for a spot in line, be patient and calm – your animal can sense it
 - The judge is always watching – even when you're in the makeup area
 - Keep your eyes on the judge when you're in the holding area

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- In the Ring
 - As you enter, make solid eye contact with the judge
 - Be aware of your surroundings
 - Do not get too close to the exhibitor in front of you
 - Stay in line with the other animals
 - If the judge touches your calf, pull out the comb and brush up where they touched
 - Get your calf set up as quickly and effectively as possible, and then watch the judge as you rub the calf with the show stick
 - Set the front legs even with each other, and the back leg closer to you about 6 inches further forward than the other back leg

Grooming/Fitting

- To get the animal ready for the show, clip the animal's head (but not ears!), trim some of the longer hairs along the animal's topline, clip the tail, and clip roughly one strip on the rum on each side of the tail (right next to the tail)
- Fitting a dairy feeder can make a difference, but don't feel like it is something that is essential for you to do; if you want to get more advanced, feel free to try the steps below
 - To fit your animal, you will want to pull, or comb up, the hair on the front and back legs
 - Knee and hock down
 - It is best to practice at home a few times before you take the calf to the fair
 - How to fit your animal
 - First, you will want to wash and dry your animal
 - Then, you can use a comb to come the leg hair (again, from the knees and hocks down) up
 - Lightly spray some adhesive on the legs, then comb it up
 - Spray a little, comb a lot
 - A little adhesive can go a long way
 - After pulling the legs, use your clippers to cut off any stray leg hairs and to even out the leg hair
 - You want the fit leg to blend into the rest of the animal's body – look natural and proportional
 - When you have finished fitting the dairy feeder, do not mess with the legs or let the calf lay down until after it has finished showing
 - Once the animal is finished showing, you need to break down its leg hair to get the adhesive out
 - First, spray the adhesive remover on the leg (ex. – *Weaver's ProRemover* and *Sullivan's Hocus Pocus*)
 - Rub the adhesive remover into the leg to work out the adhesive
 - Wash the adhesive remover out of the leg, and wash with soap
 - Dry the leg hair with your blower

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Finish

- Dairy feeder steers have a higher muscle-to-fat ratio than beef steers, while also having a thinner hair coat and less external fat to maintain body heat. Because of this, dairy steers require more energy than beef steers.
- As you near the fair, your calf may need a little more fat cover or need to burn off some fat
 - If the animal is too skinny and you want to increase rate of gain and build finish (fat), you need to feed a ration that is higher in energy
 - If your animal is over-conditioned and you need to control or take off finish (fat), feed a ration that is lower in energy