

**HERDSMANSHIP**  
**Department: G500**  
**Attention-Livestock Exhibitors**  
**Premium Code: CONTESTS**

**Herdsmanship is a club entry and will be judged on a club basis.** Independent 4-Hers will all be judged together as a club. Premiums will be paid per club NOT exhibitor. Each club or independent member will be subject to herdsmanship requirements. Herdsmanship will be checked by a committee of adult leaders, parents, senior 4-H member or Livestock Association members during the fair. Top club winner in each herdsmanship species may select their choice of stalls for the next year's fair.

**Guidelines:**

1. **Animal Care-** This is the highest priority and should be maintained all year long, not just at and before county fair time. Proper care including fresh water, a well-balanced diet, protection from the environment and a good healthy program will ensure that an animal will be ready at fair time.
2. Exhibitor will be responsible for feed & bedding unless sand or appropriate bedding is in the stall area. Livestock exhibitors must keep pens, stalls, and alleys clean to the satisfaction of the superintendent(s). Pens and stalls must be cleaned for Herdsmanship and after check-out at the end of the fair.
3. **Fair Time-** Good herdsmanship and animal care is the key. Well-groomed and cared for animals are healthier and show better, thus resulting in higher placing for the 4-Her.
4. **Score sheets** are available at the office for review.
5. **Hogs are NOT to be fed in the wash racks.** Anyone caught feeding in the wash rack will have their club penalized 20 points in herdsmanship for that half day.
6. It is preferred that beef be housed in the barn between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. as much as possible so visitors may be able to view the animals. Beef may be fed and watered in the barns.
7. Fans-  
Nuckolls County Only: Hanging fans will only be allowed when attached to the tie rails or to supports attached to the tie rails, or otherwise properly supported.  
Thayer County Only: Free standing fans will not be allowed. Hanging fans will only be allowed when attached to the tie rails or to supports attached to the tie rails. All fans must be hung above the stalling area.
8. Bucket calf exhibitors are expected to follow Herdsmanship requirements, (i.e., exercising calf, cleaning, & feeding calf, cleaning stalls & tack areas).
9. Herdsmanship Awards:  
**Nuckolls County-** The club with the highest overall final score will

have their name engraved on a plaque displayed in the extension office.

**Thayer County-** The Leonard Johnsen Memorial Herdsmanship Award will be displayed in the Extension Office showing the overall herdsmanship winner of the current year's fair. The club with the overall combined highest herdsmanship score will receive the award.

## **LARGE ANIMAL ROUND ROBIN SHOWMANSHIP**

### NUCKOLLS COUNTY RULES

The Round Robin Showmanship contest gives an opportunity for the Champion and Reserve Champion Senior Showman winners in each species of large animals to compete head-to-head for Best All-Around Senior Showman Honors. Intermediate then Junior showmen that have received purple showmanship ribbons will be eligible to compete if no First, Second or Third place Senior showmen are able to compete.

**Thayer County only:** FFA champions/reserve champions in beef, sheep, goat and hog are eligible to compete in the large animal Round Robin Showmanship competition.

Contestants will rotate from station to station, while being judged on their showmanship skills with each species of animal (Beef, Goat, Hog, Sheep and Horse). The judge will use a numerical scoring system to grade each individual at each station, with the winner determined by the total score over all species.

There is no limit on how many times a person may qualify to compete in the Round Robin Contest over their career. Even if a person has won the contest in a previous year, if they qualify again, they may compete again. In the event a person wins the Senior Showmanship contest in more than one species of animal in a given year, they will be entered in Round Robin in the first species that they qualified in that year. In the event that the second-place person has already qualified, the third-place person in that contest will then be eligible to enter the Round Robin. If the Champion, Reserve and third place individuals have previously qualified, then the next highest-ranking individual will be entered in the Round Robin, etc.

Contestants will draw numbers to determine what animal they will show. **In Nuckolls County, 5 animals must be used for each species competition, (5 horses, 5 beef, 5 swine, 5 sheep, & 5 goats), for Large Animal Round Robin.** The contest superintendent and/or species superintendent(s) will select animals to be used in the contest with all, or most, of the showmen showing the same species in the ring at the same time. Animals used in the contest will be selected for their disposition and showing ability. The judge will be asked to rotate animals shown by exhibitors at least once in each species to help even out differences between animals. Prizes will be awarded, but **no premium** will be paid. Overall winner is eligible to be nominated to represent their county at the State Fair in the NE Elite Showman Competition, **IF** they are exhibiting at the state fair.

### THAYER COUNTY RULES

The Round Robin Showmanship contest gives an opportunity for 4-H Champion Senior Showman & FFA Champion out of school Showman Winners in each species of large animals to compete head-to-head for Best All Around Showman Honors.

Contestants will be judged on their showmanship skills with each species of animal (Beef, Goat, Swine, Sheep and Horse). The judge will use a numerical scoring system to grade each individual with each species, the winner determined by the total score over all species. There is no limit on how many times a person may compete in the Round Robin Contest over their career. Even if a person has won the contest in a previous year, if they qualify again, they may compete again. In the event a person wins the 4-H Senior or FFA Out of School Showmanship contest in more than one species of animal in a given year they will represent in Round Robin with the first animal that they received champion honors with that year.

In the event that the second-place person has already qualified, the third-place person in that contest will then be eligible to enter the Round Robin if they have received a purple ribbon. If the Champion, Reserve and third place individuals have previously qualified, then there will be no entry in that species category.

4-H and FFA species representatives will bring back the first animal with which they won champion honors to be used in the round robin contest. All other contestants will draw for animals selected by the round robin and species superintendents with all, or most of the showmen showing the same species in the ring at the same time. Animals used in the contest will be selected for their disposition and showing ability. The judge will be asked to rotate animals shown by exhibitors at least once in each species.