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# UNIFORM SCORECARD

for Judging Junior Dairy  
Fitting & Showmanship Contests



# PDCA

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**Purebred Dairy Cattle Association**

**Publication of the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association.**

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# POINTS

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**Appearance of Animal.....**  
**30**

Cleanliness..... 10  
Grooming..... 10  
Clipping..... 5  
Condition & Thriftiness..... 5

**Appearance of Exhibitor.....10**

**Showing Animal in the Ring.....60**

Leading..... 25  
Posing..... 15  
Show Animal to Best Advantage..... 10  
Poise, Alertness, Attitude..... 10

**TOTAL..... 100**

# **PDCA FITTING & SHOWING SCORECARD**

## **A. Appearance of Animal -- 30 points**

### **1. Cleanliness -- 10 points**

- a. The best fitted animals are always extremely clean. Hair and switch must be completely clean and free from stains.
- b. Hide and ears free of dirt and wax. Legs and feet clean.
- c. Must be washed early enough to be completely dry at show time.

### **2. Grooming -- 10 points**

- a. Hair properly groomed and the hide soft and pliable. Hair dresser and powders should not be used in excess. Excessive manipulation of hair is undesirable, however toplines may be blow dried and hair spray used to straighten toplines.
- b. Hooves trimmed and shaped to enable animal to walk and stand naturally.
- c. All animals of all breeds older than six months must be dehorned.

### **3. Clipping -- 5 points**

- a. Final clipping should be done just before the show. Clipped and unclipped areas should be smoothly blended so clipper lines do not show.
- b. Head, neck, ears, tail, udder (for cows) and elsewhere clipped as needed. Front and rear legs should be clipped to give the appearance of greater flatness of bone and to remove stains. Toplines should be trimmed to improve straightness. Withers are clipped to a sharp point to improve angularity. Body clipping is acceptable, but additional credit should not be given for professional clipping. Belly and udder not to be clipped on heifers that have not freshened and are not springing close.

### **4. Condition and thriftness, showing normal growth, being neither too fat nor too thin -- 5 points**

## **B. Appearance of Exhibitor -- 10 points**

1. Clothes and person neat and clean; white costume preferred. Durable, protective shoes are recommended when large animals are exhibited. Clothing should be practical and tasteful.
2. Local regulations may include special instructions for exhibitors, e.g. banning farm names on shirts, requiring neckties or organization clothing (FFA jackets, 4-H shirts or ties, breed vests, etc. ) It is the responsibility of show management to inform judges and exhibitors of special rules.

## **C. Showing Animal in the Ring -- 60 points**

### **1. Leading -- 25 points**

- a. Enter leading the animal at normal walk around the ring in a clockwise direction, walking opposite the head on the left side, holding a lead strap with the right hand quite close to the halter with the strap neatly, but naturally (preferably not coiled), gathered in one or both hands. Holding close to the halter or with the hand inside the halter ensures a more secure control of an animal.
- b. Animal should lead readily and respond quickly to the exhibitor. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to respond quickly with the animal to the signals given by the judge.
- c. Halter of right type for showing dairy cattle, fitting properly and placed correctly on animal. The nose band should fit across the bridge of the nose midway between the eyes and the muzzle. A leather halter with leather or chain lead is preferred.
- d. As the judge studies your animal the preferred method of leading is walking slowly facing the animal and holding the lead strap in the left hand with the remainder of it neatly, but naturally, gathered in one or both hands. At all other times walk facing forward at a quicker pace. When given the signal to pull into line, move quickly to that position in the ring.
- e. Lead at a comfortable pace with the animal's head held high enough for impressive style, attractive carriage and graceful walk. Never allow a large gap to occur between your animal and the one ahead of you. Do not crowd the exhibitor ahead of you nor lead in front of that animal so it cannot be seen by the judge.

### **2. Posing -- 15 points**

- a. When posing and showing an animal stay on the animal's left side and stand faced at an angle to her in a position far enough away to see stance of her feet and her topline.
- b. Pose animal with feet squarely placed. The hind leg nearest the judge is posed slightly behind the other one when showing heifers or bulls. The hind leg nearest the judge should be far enough ahead to allow the judge to see both the fore and rear udder when exhibiting cows.
- c. Animal should be trained so the exhibitor can move it quickly and easily into the correct pose. The position of the rear legs should be reversed when the judge walks around to view the animal from the other side. Do not over show. When judge is observing the animal, let it stand when posed reasonably well.
- d. Face animal uphill, if possible, with her front feet on a slight incline.

- e. Always move quickly into line when given the signal by a judge. Neither crowd the exhibitor next to you nor leave enough space for another animal when you lead into a side-by-side position.
- f. Animal may be backed out of line when judge requests that her placing be changed. Move animal back by exerting pressure on the shoulder point with the thumb and finger of the right hand while pushing back with the halter. Many prefer to lead animal forward and around the end of the line or back through the line. Do not lead animal between the judge and an animal being observed. To move the animal ahead, pull gently on the lead strap.
- g. Do most of the showing with the halter lead strap and avoid stepping on animal's hind feet to move them.
- h. Be natural. Overshowing, undue fussing and maneuvering are objectionable.

### **3. Show animal to best advantage -- 10 points**

- a. Quickly recognize the conformation faults of the animal you are leading and show to overcome them. You may be asked to exchange with another and show a different animal.
- b. For the judge to evaluate the animal properly it is vital that the exhibitor know basic information such as birth date, fresh date, breeding date and due date. Knowledge of this information will help show the animal to best advantage.

### **4. Poise, alertness and attitude -- 10 points**

- a. Keep an eye on your animal and be aware of the position of the judge at all times. Do not be distracted by people or activities outside the ring.
- b. Show animal at all times and not yourself.
- c. Respond rapidly to requests from the judge and officials.
- d. Be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times.
- e. Keep showing until the entire class has been placed and the judge has given the reasons.

## **FACTORS TO BE EVALUATED**

### **Cleanliness of Animal**

- 1. Dirt/dust in hair coat: *slight to serious discrimination*
- 2. Dirt/wax in ears: *slight discrimination*
- 3. Feet not cleaned: *slight discrimination*
- 4. Stains in hair coat: *slight to serious discrimination*

### **Grooming the Animal**

1. Long or curled toes in need of trimming: *slight to serious discrimination*
2. Excessive use of hair sprays, baby powder, hair dressings (oils), etc.: *slight to serious discrimination*
3. Horns present on animals older than 6 months: *serious discrimination*

### **Clipping the Animal**

1. Clipping too early (hair appears too long): *slight to serious discrimination*
2. Incomplete clipping (long hair in ears, on udder, front and rear legs, etc.): *slight to serious discrimination*
3. Clipping lines not properly blended: *slight discrimination*
4. Excessive clipping: *slight to serious discrimination*
5. Legs not clipped: *slight discrimination*
6. Professional clipping: *extra credit should not be given to animals prepared by professional fitters*

### **Condition of Animal**

1. Overconditioned (too fat): *slight to serious discrimination*
2. Underconditioned (too thin): *slight to serious discrimination*
3. Lack of size for age: *slight to serious discrimination*

### **Appearance of Exhibitor**

1. Not wearing necktie: *no discrimination unless required by respective show.*
2. Not wearing white clothing: *slight discrimination*
3. Wearing clothing with farm or commercial advertising/logos: *slight discrimination*
4. Wearing inappropriate shoes (sandals, etc.): *slight discrimination*
5. Inappropriate or incomplete dress: *slight discrimination*

### **Leading Animal in the Ring**

1. Inappropriate halter (beef style, rope halter, tie halter, etc.): *slight discrimination*
2. Halter not fitting properly (nose band too high or too low on muzzle): *slight discrimination*
3. Animal not handling well (balky, unruly, in heat, out of control): *slight to serious discrimination*
4. Leading too slowly (either circling or when called into line): *slight to serious discrimination*
5. Lead strap coiled, rather than naturally gathered in one or both hands: *slight discrimination*
6. Lead strap removed from chain or coiled and fastened: *serious discrimination*

7. Striking animal unnecessarily to make it move: *serious discrimination*
8. Holding lead strap too far from halter: *slight to serious discrimination*

### **Posing Animal in the Ring**

1. Legs incorrectly posed (unbalanced, stretched, rear legs in wrong position): *slight to serious discrimination*
2. Animal posed downhill (front end too low): *slight discrimination*
3. Positioning animals front feet by stepping on them: *slight discrimination*
4. Positioning animals rear legs by stepping on rear feet or pasterns: *serious discrimination*
5. Leaving too much space when pulled into line: *slight discrimination*
6. Crowding or bumping other animals when pulled into line: *serious discrimination*
7. Overshowing, unnecessary fussing or maneuvering animal: *slight to serious discrimination*
8. Failure to switch rear legs when judge moves around animal: *slight discrimination*

### **Showing Animal to Best Advantage**

1. Unable to recognize type faults of animals: *slight to serious discrimination*
2. Unable to show animal to best advantage: *slight to serious discrimination*
3. Does not know birth date, fresh date, breeding date, due date: *slight to serious discrimination*
4. Violations of PDCA Show Ring Code of Ethics: *disqualification*
5. The exhibiting of bulls in showmanship classes should not be encouraged

### **Poise, Alertness and Attitude**

1. Watching the judge too intently (unaware of other animals or own animal): *slight to serious discrimination*
2. Inattentiveness (pays little attention to judge, seems more interested in what's happening at ringside, distracted): *slight to serious discrimination*
3. Slow response to judge or ring officials: *slight discrimination*
4. Unsportsmanlike conduct (discourteous to officials or other exhibitors, disrespectful of judge, inappropriate comments or gesture): *serious discrimination to disqualification*