

Road To The Ring

Selecting the right project

November 17, 2022

Set a Goal

- Win East Carolina 4-H Livestock Show and Sale
- Win North Carolina State Fair
- Win North American International Livestock Exposition

- Be Realistic
- Set goals that are attainable
- Have FUN!!

Which one is the BEST??



A



B



C



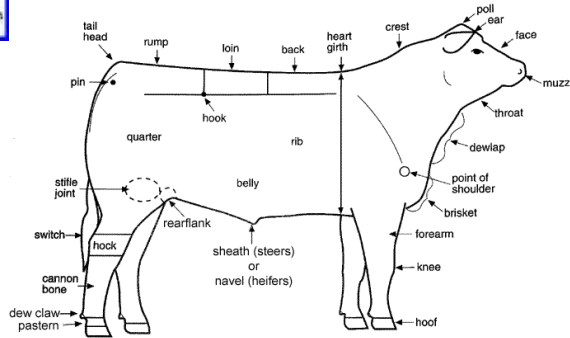
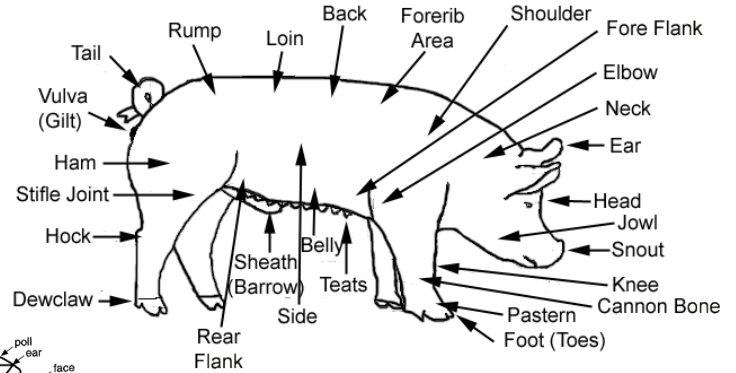
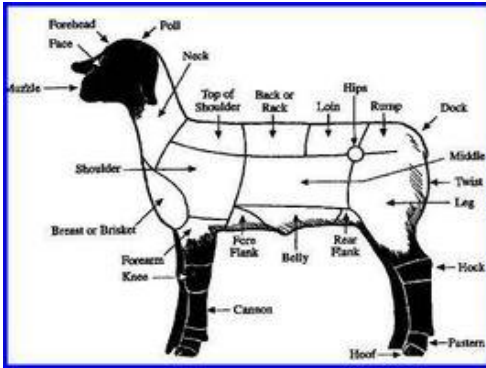
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Where to eat supper today?

- What factors?
 - Cost
 - Quality / Taste
 - Cleanliness
 - Location
 - Speed

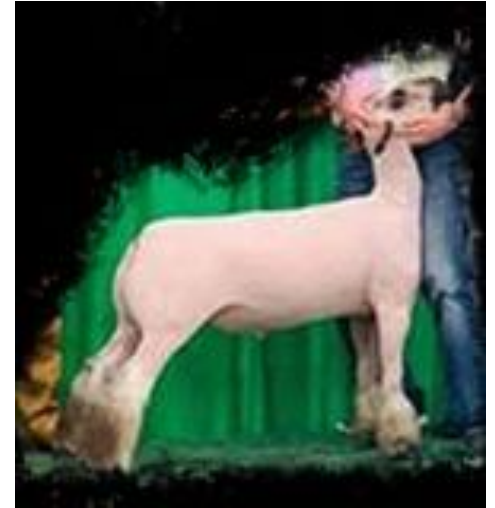


What are you Showing??



Selection, What is a Judge looking for?

- Structure
- Balance
- Rib Shape
- Muscle



Both Champions, time changes



Structural Correctness

- Evaluate when in motion
- Various other defects cause distortion of topline
- Hip Structure
- Tailhead
- Loin



Balance



- The term balanced in livestock can be interpreted in several different ways. However, balanced generally refers to the animals proportionality or symmetry from the side. In essence, do all of their pieces fit together. Does their chest and rear flank seem proportional. An animal would be considered unbalanced if their chest was deeper and their rear flank was shallower.

Which goat is nicer balanced?



Volume / Rib Shape

- Deep, outward shaped rib with width of chest and base is desired
- 3 Dimensional
 - Depth
 - Width
 - Length

Muscle

- Places to evaluate for total muscularity and thickness:
 - Base Width
 - Circumference of forearm
- Where to evaluate expression and dimension of muscle.
 - Down Top
 - Hindquarter

Muscle

- While muscle is important in females, it is important to remember that they need to look like females and be correct in their muscle shape.



Remember when selecting your project

- Genetics are crucial
- Purchase from someone you trust, at some point you will need to ask them for help.
- Have a Budget, stick to it!!
- Even the best little ones don't always turn out great!

Facilities

- Cleanliness (Note I did not say fancy, I said Clean!!)
- Dry
- Wind break



Target your animal for the show

- Correct size at the time of purchase, Show April 5
- Check-in January 21 with 73 days to the show

Lambs	
Date	Weight
1/21/2022	108
ADG	.5
Goal Weight	145

Goats	
Date	Weight
1/21/2022	63
ADG	.3
Goal Weight	85

Swine	
Date	Weight
1/21/2022	165
ADG	1.5
Goal Weight	275

Weigh Schedule

Do NOT wait until just before the fair to weigh your animal.

1. When you get your animal home.
2. Every 2 weeks
3. 2 months prior to show, weigh every week.
4. 2 weeks before the show – Small Ruminants and Pigs should weigh everyday or every other day.

We are working with Show Animals, they need a little extra love.

- You don't race a Nascar on E-85.
- You are trying to get that animal to look his absolute best.
 - Meet and exceed their nutritional needs
 - Treat them as royalty – Clean pens, baths, etc...
 - Keep a close eye on them daily

Showmanship

- When do you Start?
 - The day your animal comes home.
 - Treat your animal as you want to be treated
 - Be Consistent
 - Be Consistent
 - Did I mention to be Consistent

Showmanship

**You NEVER get a
second chance to make
a first impression**