

## **Judge Asks You, the Exhibitor, to Move the Lamb**

You should be on the opposite side of the lamb from the judge. If you are on the lamb's left side, your left hand should be under the lamb's chin. Keep your hand well out towards the muzzle, not choking him by holding his throat. Your right hand, with fingers closed, should be on the lamb's dock. It is considered very poor showmanship to grasp the wool with an open-fingered hand or pull the wool at any time. Pulling your lamb by its wool will cause bruising. While it is fairly "showy" to move the lamb without touching its dock, this often results in loss of control and would not be considered good showmanship to loose your lamb in showring. The lamb should move at a fairly slow and even pace with its back level and head in normal position. The judge is looking for animals with free-moving, natural gaits.

Dusting off shavings and straw after lamb has risen should be done only as soon as the judge has indicated he is moving onto the next lamb. Get the lamb posed first, then dust it off.

In the line, or at any time the lamb is being viewed by the judge, calmness and control are far more important than showy gesturing and arms-length posing which allow the possibility of losing the lamb. Watch the position of the lamb more than you watch the judge. Have your lamb calmly "showing" its best at all times. Excess movement, positioning or 'fixing' is distracting.

If the lamb should bolt away, do not run after it and tackle it in football fashion. Follow the lamb as quietly as possible to a corner or position where you can catch it quickly. As soon as the lamb is caught (under the chin), lift its head up. You have more control over a lamb if you keep its head up and nose slightly raised.

## **Showmanship Etiquette**

- Be sure you, your clothes and boots are neat and clean. Check the show guidelines or standards for specific clothing requirements. Do not chew gum. Tie long hair back away from your face.
- Be alert, polite and courteous to the judge and other show people. Always be on time for a show.
- You should appear keen but relaxed. Regardless of where you are placed, accept the judge's decision in a sportsmanlike manner. Remember that the class is not over until the class exits the ring. Keep showing until you are out of the ring.
- Keep your animal under control at all times. Keep glancing at the judge to watch for his/her directions.
- Be prepared to lead any animal that the judge designates.
- Be prepared to answer questions that would normally be asked by a judge about a lamb such as birth date, breed line, and diet.
- Avoid grandstanding or showing off. Don't be sidetracked by members of the audience.
- Always shake hands with the champion and the reserve champion. Don't forget to thank the judge for his/her time and for sharing their expertise with you and your club. Sportsmanship is a big part of the show!