

## *Showing in the Ring*

**I**F EVERYTHING has been properly performed up to this point, the animal should now be ready to go into the show ring looking its best. The final preparations or finishing touches should be completed so that the showman and his animal can be in the ring promptly.

Upon entering the ring the animals usually are led slowly in a clockwise direction unless directed to do otherwise by the judge or clerk. The leader should begin to show his animal immediately upon entering the ring and continue to do so until leaving the ring.

Some showmen often will walk backwards when showing their animals, holding the lead strap in their left hand. In this way the leader can watch his animal very closely and keep its back up or whatever it needs. Other leaders walk in a forward direction holding their animals lead strap very shortly in their right hand. The animal can be better controlled if the leader keeps a short hold on the lead strap both while the animal is walking and standing than if a long hold is used.

When moving around the ring the animal should be walked slowly, with short steps. This may be done by holding the lead strap short in the left hand and by pushing back on the point of the animal's left shoulder

with the right hand. The animal should carry its head well up and look alert. However, if the head is carried too high on some animals it may give the appearance of shortening the neck and this is to be avoided.

When the judge asks for the animals to stand still, they should be stopped with the front feet higher than the back ones if possible, even though this necessitates turning the animal around. This rarely should have to be done.

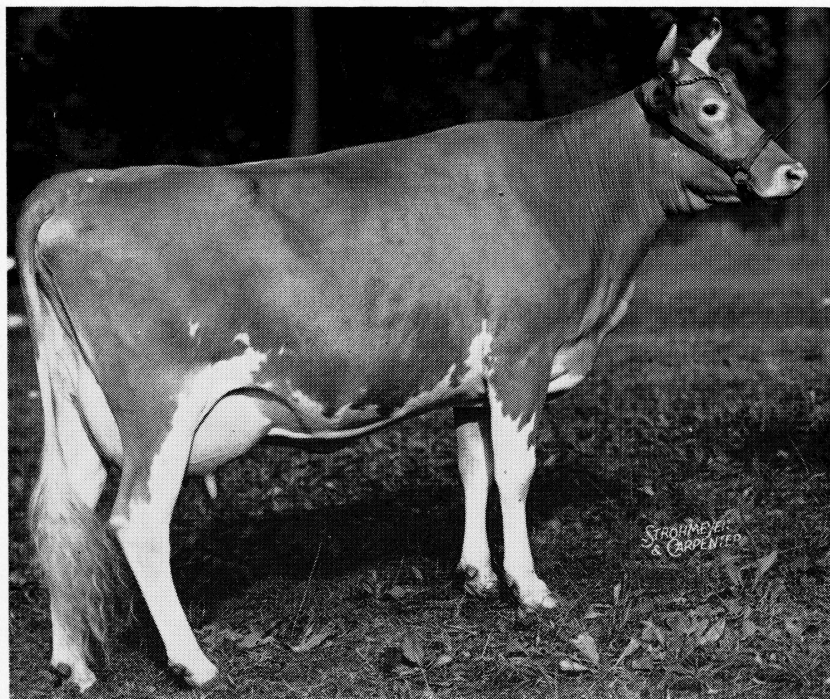
When the animals are stopped, their front feet should be practically even with one another and directly under their bodies. For bulls and heifers the hind foot nearest the judge should be slightly back of the opposite foot. Care should be taken that the hind feet are not placed back too far, giving the animals a stretched appearance which will make them look shallower than they normally are, or weak in the loin.

On cows, the hind feet are reversed — that is, the hind foot nearest the judge is slightly in front of the opposite hind foot so that it nearly covers the hind teat. Make sure that the animal is standing with a straight topline, and if it is humped the animal should be pinched on the high spot to straighten it out.

If your cow has a light quarter that cannot be corrected by proper bagging, have the hind foot on the side of the light quarter standing slightly ahead of the other hind foot when the cow is being viewed from behind by the judge.

Rumps often can be straightened or leveled by pinching the animal in the back about at a level with the hookbones.

## TWO-YEAR-OLD HEIFER

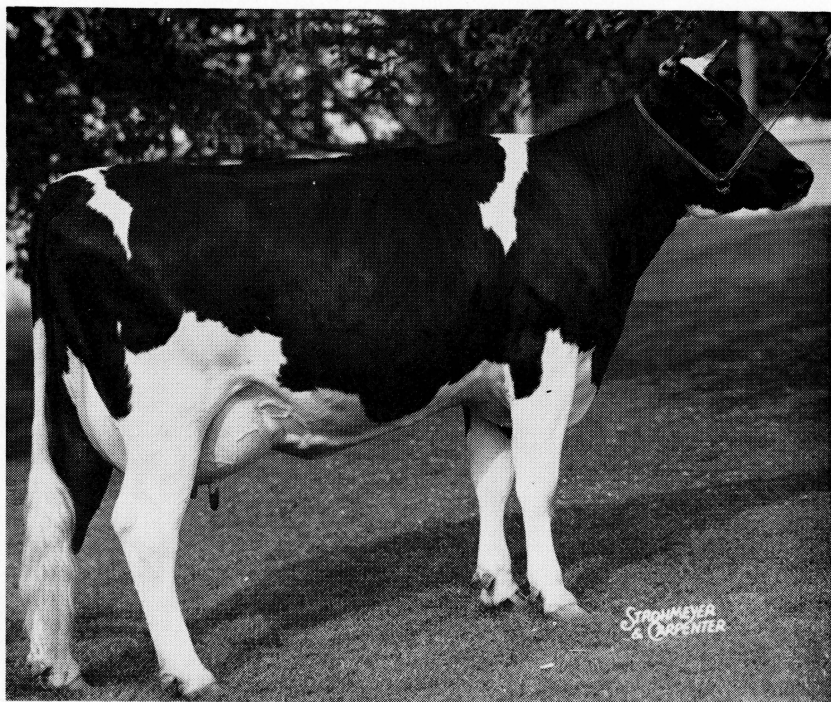


### Curtiss Candy Levity Destiny

Unbeaten at 2 years; 1st 2-year-old, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, Kentucky, Texas, Dairy Cattle Congress, 1947; 1st Junior Yearling, Illinois, 1946; 2nd Junior Yearling, Iowa, 1946; 1st 3-year-old, Northern Illinois Guernsey Breeder's Association Parish Show, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Toronto, 1948; 2nd 3-year-old, Indiana, 1948; 3rd 3-year-old, National Guernsey Show, Kentucky, 1948; 11345-524-Jr. 2; 12858-601-Sr. 4; On test, 4652 Milk 202 Fat, 6 years 81 days.

Here is a fine two-year-old. Notice her head that shows great breed type and femininity and alertness. Observe the smooth shoulders, fullness in the heart girth, deep chest and body and long rump. Her udder is level on the floor and well attached both fore and rear.

### THREE-YEAR-OLD HEIFER



**Curtiss Candy Madcap Ann**

Classified Excellent; 18585 Milk 783.9 Fat 365 days 3X 2 years 6 months.

This three-year-old Holstein heifer has a strong clean feminine head and a long dairy-like neck. She is sharp over the withers and has a long body. Her udder attachments are wide behind, smooth and well forward in front. Notice the veining of the udder and that the udder is well held up and level on the floor.

If the back is low, the front and hind feet should be moved a little closer together and the animal raised in the back by gently pushing on the point of the shoulder with the right hand. Check to see that the tailhead is down in the proper position and not raised up away from the body.

After the animal has been standing in one position for a while, it may sag or "fall apart." To overcome this and to get the animal back in position, move it ahead a step. This will pull the animal together again. Do this, of course, before the judge gets up to the animal so the animal will be in the best possible position and pose while being examined by the judge.

The judge usually examines the animals as they move in a circle in a clockwise direction. Then he will have the animals stopped and stood while he examines each one individually. The animal should be well posed for this inspection to show itself to the best advantage. Just as the judge steps back for a last minute look, the animal should be led ahead slowly for a few steps. This, of course, is assuming that the animal has been trained to lead and handle perfectly. Otherwise, the value of this move will be nullified.

After the judge has lined the animals up abreast in the order that he intends to place them, he usually makes a trip up and down the line to give his placing a last minute inspection. Just before he gets to your animal, back the animal quickly and pull it back into position to straighten out the animal or "pull it together" again.

It is advisable to watch both the judge and the ani-

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mal in order to have the animal in its best position whenever the judge is looking at it.

Naturally, the showman of dairy cattle should be dressed neatly, and in white clothes, if possible. He should be courteous to the judge and to the ring attendants, and should display the proper sportsmanship and cooperation at all times.

The following is a plan for a uniform score card for judging junior fitting and showmanship contests, suggested by the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association:

	Points
Appearance of Animal .....	40
Condition .....	13
Grooming .....	10
Clipping .....	10
Cleanliness .....	7
Appearance of Exhibitor .....	10
Showing Animal in the Ring .....	50
Leading .....	15
Posing .....	15
Recognition of animal's faults and showing to overcome them .....	10
Poise and alertness .....	10

### Explanation of Score Card

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| A. Appearance of Animal .....   | 40 |
| 1. Condition and thriftiness, being neither<br>too fat or too thin. ....      | 13 |
| 2. Grooming .....   | 10 |
| (a) Hair well groomed and the hide soft<br>and pliable.                       |    |
| (b) Hoofs trimmed and shaped to enable<br>animal to walk and stand naturally. |    |
| (c) Horns (if present) scraped and<br>polished.                               |    |



3. Clipping ..... 10
  - (a) Clipping preferably done about two days before show.
  - (b) Head, ears, tail, udder, and elsewhere clipped as needed but not over entire body.

Belly and udder not to be clipped on heifers that have not freshened and are not springing close.
4. Cleanliness ..... 7
  - (a) Hair and switch clean and if possible free of stains.

Oil should not be used in excess.
  - (b) Hide and ears free of dirt, and legs and feet clean.
- B. Appearance of Exhibitor ..... 10
  1. Clothes and person, neat and clean, white costume preferred.
- C. Showing Animal in Ring ..... 50
  1. Leading ..... 15
    - (a) Enter leading the animal at normal walk around the ring in a clockwise direction walking opposite her head on the left side, holding the lead rope with the right hand quite close to the halter with the rope neatly, but naturally (not necessarily coiled) gathered in one or both hands.
    - (b) Animal should lead readily and respond quickly.
    - (c) Halter of right type, fitting properly and correctly put on.
    - (d) As the judge works the preferred method of leading is walking slowly backward facing the animal and holding the lead rope in the left hand with the remainder of it neatly, but naturally, gathered in one or both hands.

- (e) Hold the lead strap quite close to the halter as this insures a more secure control of an animal.
- (f) Lead slowly with animal's head held high enough for impressive style, attractive carriage and graceful walk. (Leading too slowly is not desirable.)

2. Posing ..... 15

- (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 legs placed squarely under her with the hind leg nearest to the judge slightly behind the other one.
- (c) Face animal up-grade, if possible, with her front legs on a slight incline.
- (d) Neither crowd the exhibitor next to you nor leave enough space for another animal when you lead into a side by side position.
- (e) Animal preferably should be backed out of line when judge requests that her placing be changed.
- (f) Do most of the showing with the halter lead strap and avoid stepping on animal's hind feet to move them.
- (g) Step animal ahead by a slight pull on on the lead strap.
- (h) Move animal back by exerting pressure on the shoulder point with the thumb and fingers of the right hand as you push back with the halter.
- (i) When judge is observing the animal, let her stand when posed reasonably well.
- (j) *Be Natural*. Overshowing, undue fussing and maneuvering is objectionable.



3. Recognition of Animal's Faults and Showing to Overcome Them. . . . . 10
  - (a) Quickly recognize the conformation faults of the animal you are leading and show her to overcome them. You may be asked to exchange with another and show her or his heifer for awhile.
4. Pose and Alertness . . . . . 10
  - (a) Keep an eye on your animal and beware of the position of the judge at all times. Do not be distracted by persons and things outside of 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 sportsman-like at all times.
  - (e) Keep showing until the entire class has been placed and the judge has given his reasons.

Total—100