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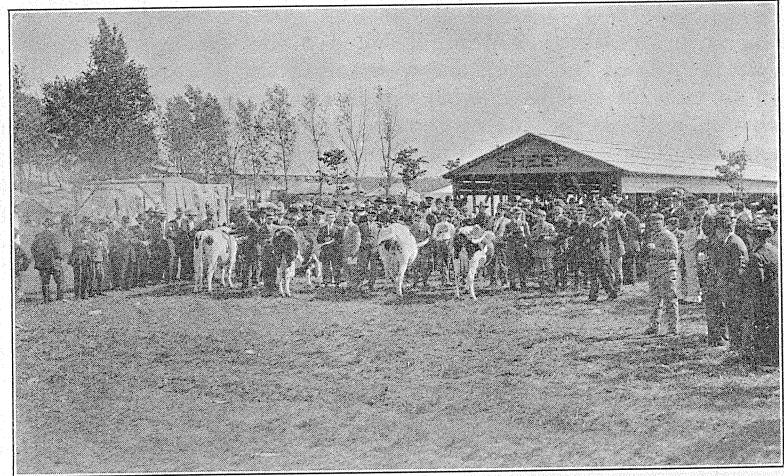
PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Department of Agricultural Extension

G. I. CHRISTIE, Superintendent

EXTENSION BULLETIN No. 4

LaFayette, Indiana, March, 1912



Goshen Contest. Everyone Interested.

Stock Judging Contests for Boys at County Fairs.

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Animal Husbandry Department, Purdue University Experiment Station.

The Live Stock Judging Contests for Boys which have been held cooperatively by Purdue University and many County Fair Associations of this State, serve as a medium through which the young people are vitally interested in the live stock exhibits at

the fairs. During recent years, three classes of instruction in live stock judging have preceded each contest. Although these classes have been designed primarily to benefit the boys entered in the contest, many farmers have listened to the demonstrations and watched the contests which have, almost without exception, proved attractive features of the fairs.

Many patrons have expressed themselves as highly pleased that the management has undertaken to institute such an educational feature. The exhibitors who supply stock for the class and contest work, are well pleased to have special attention called to the live stock exhibits. Judges and superintendents in the various classes universally endorse the contest, and aid materially in its success. Secretaries, realizing that the fair can only be a success from an agricultural standpoint when it has the hearty support of the people of the farm, are welcoming the contest.

In view of the favor with which the Boys' Judging Contest has met, with the people in general, and inasmuch as it tends to cause the people to study the characteristics and history of the animals to be judged, and, furthermore, brings many patrons of the fair into direct touch with the live stock and the breeders, and serves to vitalize the live stock exhibits at the county fairs, Purdue University will continue to cooperate in this worthy line of effort with Fair Associations desiring it.

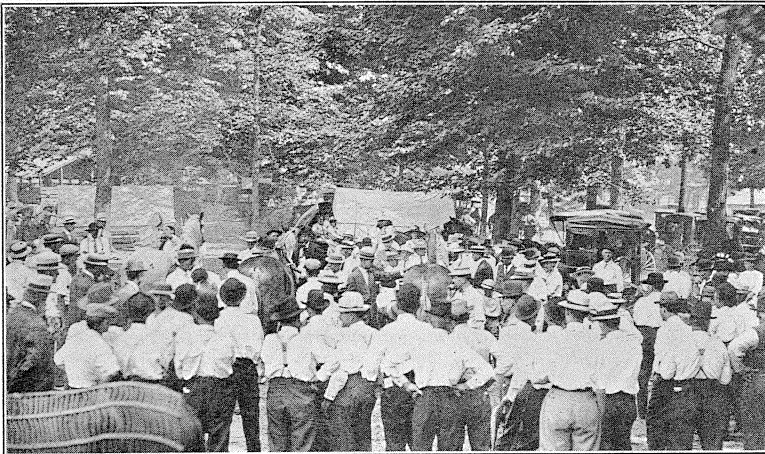


Fig. 2. Just as interesting as the races. Judging Horses at Fairmount.

The following suggested announcement of the contest for the fair premium list outlines the plan along which it should be conducted:

(Suggested Announcement for the Fair Premium List)

BOYS' STOCK JUDGING CONTEST DEPARTMENT.

....., Superintendent,
....., Indiana.

The Fair will hold a Live Stock Judging Contest for Boys at the fair this fall. Classes in live stock judging, in which a competent instructor recommended by Purdue University will teach the boys something about how to judge live stock, explain the score card, and teach some elementary phases of comparative judging, will be held at the following hours:

(Date).....10 a. m. and 2 p. m.; (Date).....10 a. m.
The contest will start at 12:30 p. m., (Date).....

The boys in the contest will be required to judge a class of beef cattle, of dairy cattle, of draft horses, of lard hogs, and of mutton sheep, and place first, second, and third animal in each class.

Purposes of the Contest.

The object of the contest is to interest the boys of this county in improved live stock and in the county fair, and to acquaint them with methods of judging. The future prosperity of the live stock industry of the county, with which the prosperity of the county fair is so closely allied, depends upon the amount of intelligent interest taken by the rising generation. The Association also wishes to bring the boys into closer touch with the judging contest to be held at the Indiana State Fair, and with Purdue University School of Agriculture, and will send theboys making highest score either to Indianapolis to enter the State Stock and Grain Judging Contest, or to Purdue University at LaFayette to attend the One Week's Farmers' Short Course held annually in January. (Note list of premiums.)

Benefits to the Boys.

The boys participating have opportunity to win valuable premiums. Furthermore, everyone entering, whether or not he win a premium, should benefit in the following ways:

1. He forms an acquaintance with other boys of the county, and with a man from the State Agricultural College, which may mean much to him in after years.
2. He has the most excellent opportunity to closely inspect the best live stock at the fair.
3. He learns to know the breeders and showmen.
4. He becomes a keen observer of the regular judging in all the classes of live stock; thereby the live stock exhibits come to be things of reality to him, and he gathers some ideas as to the classification of stock in the shows, and of show ring methods.
5. He attends three classes of instruction in which a competent judge explains to him matters pertaining to live stock and to live stock judging.
6. He places five classes of stock and writes his reasons for his placing them as he does, which is an exercise well worth while in the actual study and the impetus to further study which it gives him.

Rules and Regulations.

1. Every boy in County, between the ages of 15 and 20 years who has never been regularly classified in any agricultural college or school of agriculture, may enter this contest. This restriction does not apply to any one who may have attended only the One Week's Farmers' Short Course or any of the District or County Farmers' Short Courses held in the State.

Entries.

2. All entries should be in the hands of the superintendent not later than noon of the day of the contest. It is desirable that they be made at as early a date as possible.
3. Each contestant shall be given a number by which he shall be designated throughout the contest. This number will be used by him instead of his name upon all papers handed in to the superintendent.
4. The superintendent of the contest must provide satisfactory classes of animals for the teaching work and for the contest. He shall consult the judge of the contest concerning the animals desired. The classes selected for the contest must con-

sist of animals which have not met in the regular competition of the show ring previous to the contest, or if they have met, the judge's decision must not be made public until after the contest.

5. Classes should consist of not less than four animals.
6. Contestants will not be allowed to exceed twenty minutes to place and write reasons for their placing each class of stock. No additional credit will be given for papers which are handed in before the allotted time has expired.
7. Printed forms will be given each contestant on which to make written reports of the classes judged, and any contestant writing his name or placing any other identifying mark other than the number assigned him on his written reports will be excluded from the contest.

8. Referring to text books or other sources of information, or giving or receiving opinions by contestants among themselves, from any other persons, or conversing about any class of stock being passed upon, or about to be passed upon, or before the written judgments of all contestants are in the hands of the superintendent, is strictly forbidden, and any disregard of this rule may expel any contestant or contestants, or party thereto, as determined by the judge and the superintendent of the contest.

9. The classes and written reports when finished by the contestants will be judged and passed upon by the judge of the contest.



Fig. 3. A faithful crowd—and glad they entered.

Basis of Awards.

10. Each contestant shall be required to write his decisions, placing the first three animals and given reasons substantiating the same, upon printed forms provided.

11. All reports on the different classes shall be graded on the basis of 100 per cent. for each class, to be divided as follows:

Cattle:

Beef—

Correctness of placing.....	60	
Reasons for placing.....	40	100

Dairy—

Correctness of placing.....	60	
Reasons for placing.....	40	100

Horses:

Draft—

Correctness of placing.....	60	
Reasons for placing.....	40	100

Hogs:

Lard—

Correctness of placing.....	60	
Reasons for placing.....	40	100

Sheep:

Mutton—

Correctness of placing.....	60	
Reasons for placing.....	40	100
Total possible points or standing.....		500

Premiums.

The premiums for the contest have either an educational value, or are of such a nature that the winners will receive a start in some line of pure bred live stock. Boys who receive them will derive more benefit than if cash prizes were given.

First Premium. A trip with all expenses paid to

- (a) Indiana Star Fair.
- (b) Purdue University for the Farmers' Short Course.

Second Premium. A trip with all expenses paid to

- (a) Indiana State Fair.
- (b) Purdue University for the Farmers' Short Course.

Third Premium. \$5.00 worth of agricultural books:
Types and Breeds of Farm Animals. Plumb.....\$2.00
Judging Live Stock. Craig..... 1.50
Sheep Management. Kleinheinz..... 1.50

Fourth Premium. \$3.00 worth of agricultural books:
Judging Live Stock. Craig.....\$1.50
Sheep Management. Kleinheinz..... 1.50

Fifth Premium. \$2.00 worth of agricultural books:
Types and Breeds of Farm Animals. Plumb.....\$2.00

Note:—Those winning and accepting the trip to the State Fair must enter the State Fair Stock and Grain Judging Contest. Books selected from the list given elsewhere in this leaflet may be substituted for any in the above groups, which are inserted as possible groups which might be given.

For application blanks and for all other information apply to Superintendent.....
or to Secretary.....
Indiana.

(Note to Secretaries: The greater part of this suggested announcement, especially those relative to date, purposes, benefits to boys, rules and regulations, and premiums, altered as you may see fit to suit your local conditions, should find a prominent place in the premium list published by your association.)

Suggestions as to Premiums.

The premiums to be offered will depend entirely upon the Association in charge. However, it is suggested that these premiums be made educational in character. Experience in many contests in the state has proved conclusively that this is the most desirable thing to do. Further, since a Stock and Grain Judging Contest will be held at the Indiana State Fair, where \$250.00 in scholarships in Purdue University School of Agriculture will be offered as premiums, it is suggested that one or more of the premiums offered should be the expenses of a trip for the winner to the State Fair, where he should enter the contest. Where the county contest is held after the time of the State Fair contest, the premium may well consist of a trip with all expenses paid, to the Purdue University Farmers' Short Course held at La-Fayette in January. The expenses of these trips need not exceed \$10.00. In some counties, leading hog, sheep, and cattle breeders have, upon solicitation, donated young breeding female animals to be given as premiums in the contests, and in this way the winning boys have received a good start in pure bred live stock. For

the smaller premiums, good agricultural books recommended by Purdue University should be given. The following is a partial list of books which are suitable. Cheap, unauthentic books should not be given, as they are worse than valueless to the recipient.

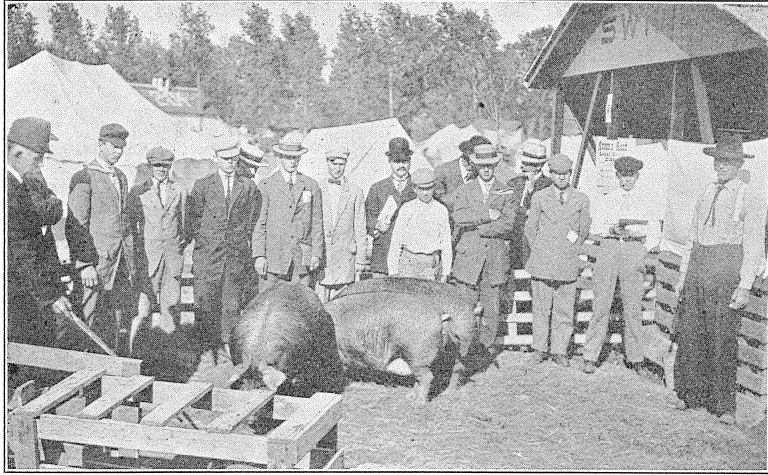


Fig. 4. Exhibitors are well pleased to supply stock.

List of Books Suitable for Premiums.

Types and Breeds of Farm Animals. Plumb.....	\$2.00
Feeds and Feeding. Henry.....	2.25
Beef Production. Mumford.....	1.25
Swine in America. Coburn.....	2.50
Judging Live Stock. Craig.....	1.50
Sheep Management. Kleinheinz.....	1.50
Modern Sheep. Shepherd Boy.....	1.50
The Horse. Roberts.....	1.25
The Horse Book. Johnstone.....	2.00
Breeding Farm Animals. Marshall.....	1.50
Diseases of Swine. Craig, R. A.....	.75

Any of the above books will be sent postpaid upon receipt of price; address Purdue University Department of Agricultural Extension, LaFayette, Indiana. A more complete list will be sent upon request.

Additional Suggestions to Secretaries.

In order to profit by the experience gained by conducting County Fair Live Stock Judging Contests for Boys in the past, it is important that the following points be emphasized:

1. The interest in the contest and its educational value are greatly increased by giving several lessons in live stock judging to the prospective contestants. It is, therefore, important that the judge of the contest, who will be recommended by the Animal Husbandry Department of Purdue University Experiment Station, spend two days at the fair, and on the forenoon of both days and on the afternoon of the first day of his attendance assemble as many boys of proper ages as may wish to take this instruction, and give these classes definite instruction in live stock judging; each class not to last less than an hour. The contest will then be held on the second day of the judge's attendance. In this way the educational value of the contest is greatly increased and a larger class of boys is obtained for the contest than when no classes are held previous to the contest.

2. A good enthusiastic local manager who is willing to devote considerable time and energy to pushing the contest, is essential to success. The secretary of the fair is too busy a man to attempt to give this matter the detailed attention it requires. He should make the work of conducting and organizing this contest one of the departments of the fair, put some energetic man in charge and instruct him to make it equal in point of entries and interest to all other departments of the fair.

3. This superintendent should be well acquainted with the people of the county and should secure enough advance entries to warrant holding a contest. (Not less than ten.) Entries should not close before noon of the day of the contest. There ought to be 100 or more boys interested in every county.

4. The work of the superintendent prior to the contest should embody the following points:

- a. He should secure a list of names of boys who should be interested. This list may be secured from the school clerks, and from the county and township Farmers' Institute chairmen, and directors of the fair. A premium list should be sent these boys, and other special invitations and advertising matter. The interested ones may be sent a copy of Circular 29, Live Stock Judging for Beginners. The superintendent should see as many of them personally as he can.

b. Wherever possible, schools should be visited and the contest explained, and the teachers and parents interested, or letters of announcement may be sent teachers and parents.

c. Newspapers should be enlisted in the work of promotion.

d. Farmers' Clubs, Farmers' Institutes, County Breeders' Associations, and all kindred organizations should be enlisted in the work of informing the young people about the contest.

e. He should keep in close touch with Purdue University from the time of his appointment.



Fig. 5. Most any boy can judge hogs—troubles begin when he comes to the sheep class. One reason why instruction is necessary.

5. The superintendent should be present and attend to the business of the contest during the two days of the contest. He should see to arranging for a place to hold the classes, securing stock for the same, enrolling boys in the classes, and securing entries for the contest. He should devote enough time to the work to insure its being a success.

6. The contest will not be a success with merely an announcement in the premium list, because it is more or less of a new proposition and not generally understood as to intent and purpose. It will take a considerable amount of personal work

on the part of all concerned to make it a contest well worth while. With the proper degree of attention, it can be made one of the best features of the fair, and if made an annual event, can be worked into the leading feature of the fair, for in its nature it carries all the elements that make for keen, lasting interest. It is a truly educational feature that nearly every county fair can well consider making its own.

What Purdue University Will Do to Assist the Contests

1. Judges.

In order that suitable, competent judges who can give instruction may be provided for these classes and contests, Purdue University will agree to furnish one man and pay his per diem for two days.

2. Report Blanks.

Upon application to the Agricultural Extension Department, report blanks will be furnished free.

3. Purdue Circular 29. Live Stock Judging for Beginners (Illustrated.)

Upon request from the superintendent, this circular which has been prepared by the Animal Husbandry and Dairy Departments and which treats of the subject of live stock judging from an elementary standpoint, will be sent free of charge to whatever boys he may name.

4. Agricultural Books.

Any agricultural books given as premiums and selected from the list on page 8, may be ordered through the Agricultural Extension Department. A more extensive list will be sent upon request.

5. Advertising.

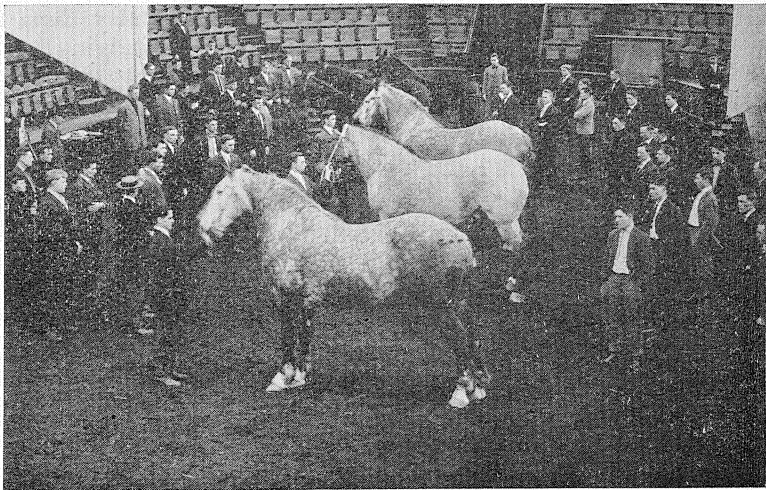
Announcements will be prepared by the Extension Department for the daily and weekly papers of the section from time to time prior to the contest. These may be handled through the local superintendent, or will be sent direct to the newspapers, as seems most desirable.

What County Fair Associations Must Do to Secure a Contest.

1. Make application at least six weeks in advance for assistance.
2. Pay traveling and hotel expenses of the judge of the contest.
3. Provide suitable premiums.
4. Make the contest a department of the fair.
5. Appoint a superintendent whose duty it shall be to act as local manager, and in this capacity promote in every way possible, the classes and the contests, in cooperation with Purdue University. (For details of the work of the superintendent see page 9.)

Everyone interested in making this educational feature a part of their fair, and desiring the cooperation of Purdue University, should address,

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DEPARTMENT,
Purdue University, LaFayette, Indiana.



Judging Contest—Purdue Short Course.