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County Fairs

Some Suggestions of Judges, Breeders, Exhibitors
and Agricultural Associations for the Improvement of
the Agricultural Interests of County Fairs in Minnesota



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FOREWORD

This booklet has been prepared for the purpose of bringing to the attention of county fair secretaries and superintendents of departments those suggestions of judges and exhibitors whose experience should afford some assistance in helping to make more effective the efforts of county fairs to represent more thoroughly the best agricultural interests in the best manner. In 1919 the Extension Division supplied a mimeographed set of suggested premium lists in far greater detail than is attempted here.

The booklet is not at all complete in subject matter, nor should it be considered as any attempt to offer a guide in planning and operating a fair, but it is merely offered as a contribution of those who have a sincere desire to be of service in presenting ideas that have occurred to them in their experience with certain phases of county fairs in Minnesota.

The Agricultural Extension Service of the University believes that its function from the standpoint of assisting in judging exhibits should and must be in the nature of a demonstration to the interested people of the local community rather than being considered as a "placing" service in determining prize winners. It is believed that judging can be made a very valuable educational service, that will teach sound lessons in the selection, management, and feeding principles of livestock production and in the selection and production of superior crops and farm home necessities.

To this end the Extension Service would like to see the judging arrangements as to arenas, exhibit preparation and showing, entries in judges' books, and advertising of judging made more uniform, given more thought and attention, and made more prominent in many of our fairs.

If it is believed desirable by county fair authorities the Extension Service will be glad to prepare small attractive Extension folders covering important points in "better crops and livestock" to be distributed among members of the public interested in the judging demonstrations. These can be provided at a cost of \$4 per thousand, or they may be printed locally by any fair and the copy will be furnished free of charge. Samples of such publicity will be furnished by the Extension Division on request by any fair.

EXHIBIT MATERIAL FROM UNIVERSITY FARM

There will be available a number of exhibit panels for use at county fairs in 1925. Each panel is 3x6 feet in size. Two are bolted together to be shipped from fair to fair by express. Ten panels were prepared and used at some of the fairs in 1924. Samples of the panels are shown in the hallway and you are asked to examine them and to suggest other topics that can be illustrated.

SUGGESTIONS

ENTRIES OF EXHIBITS

1. It is recommended that as uniform an entry system as possible be used for all fairs with the entries made in the judge's book so as to save time and avoid confusion in the judging of exhibits.

2. The question is raised as to whether it is possible to limit the entries in "fancy-work" to articles made in the last three or four years.

3. It is recommended that in the junior beef exhibits the entries be limited as far as possible to the county concerned, with all outside entries to be shown in the open classes only; at least no club member should exhibit at more than one county fair.

4. It is recommended that in crop entries "freaks" be avoided such as "lodge proof" or "rust proof" varieties.

5. It is suggested that a more systematic arrangement and placing together of the entries in each class will be helpful to the judge as well as less confusing to the spectator. It is also confusing to have entries accepted after the advertised time for the closing of entries.

CLASSIFICATION OF EXHIBITS

Under livestock classification it was suggested that the various livestock breed associations recommend a desirable classification that could be fairly well standardized and made uniform for many of the fairs. These classifications are given here with the idea of indicating the desirable classes of livestock, age limits, and definitions of livestock terms. It is understood that the premiums allotted are to be determined by the individual county fair concerned and any statement contained in these recommendations as to premiums is merely used to illustrate the distribution of prize money.

HORSES

Classification for horses at county fairs as recommended by the committee appointed by Minnesota Horse Breeders' Association.

PUREBRED CLASSES

The classification for purebred classes should be for each breed.
Stallion, 3 years and over.
Stallion, 1 year and under 3.

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Mare, 8 years or over.

Mare, 3 years and under 8.

Mare, 1 year and under 3.*

Stallion or filly foal.

Mare and foal, mare to count 50 per cent, foal 50 per cent.

Champion stallion any age.†

Champion mare any age.‡

Get of stallion, will consist of three animals, either sex, the get of same sire.

Produce of mare, will consist of two animals, either sex, the produce of same mare.

Breeders' group will consist of stallion and three mares any age, mares bred by exhibitors.

GRADE DRAFT MARES AND GELDINGS

All breeds to be shown together.

Mare or gelding, 3 years old or over.

Mare or gelding, 2 years old, under 3.

Mare or gelding, 1 year old, under 2.

Foal, either sex.

Mare and foal, mare to count 50 per cent, foal 50 per cent.

Champion grade draft mare or gelding, any age.

Get of stallion—three animals, any age, sired by the same stallion.

Produce of dam—two animals, either sex, produce of same mare.

Pair of heavy draft teams, geldings or mares, weighing not less than 3,200 pounds, to be shown hitched.

Pair of light draft mares or geldings, weighing between 2,800 and 3,200 pounds, to be shown hitched.

Pair of general purpose mares or geldings, weighing under 2,800 pounds, to be shown hitched.

PONIES§

Stallion, mare or gelding, any age, to be shown under the saddle.

Stallion, mare or gelding, any age, to be shown hitched to a suitable vehicle.

SADDLE HORSES§

Stallion, mare or gelding, any age, to be shown under the saddle at the walk, trot, and canter.

* Where entries are sufficient to justify, the yearlings and 2-year-olds should be separated.

† Open to first prize winners in the stallion classes and highest placed stallion foal.

‡ Open to first prize winners in the mare classes and the highest placed mare foal.

§ For the purpose of this show a horse is over 14 hands 2 inches (58 inches), a pony 14 hands 2 inches or under. Shetland ponies must not be over 11 hands 2 inches (46 inches) to be eligible to entry.

ROADSTERS

Stallion, mare or gelding to be shown in harness.

Pair of stallions, mares or geldings to be shown in harness.

It is recommended that four premiums be offered with a substantial amount for first. The Committee—J. S. Montgomery, Thomas McManus, Walter Stone.

SHEEP

Recommended by the Minnesota Sheep Breeders' Association. The premium amounts are to be determined by each fair and the suggestions made here in regard to premiums are for the average three-day county fair.

REGISTERED SHROPSHIRES

Individuals

Ram of 1923 or over	Ewe of 1923 or over
Ram of 1924	Ewe of 1924
Ram of 1925	Ewe of 1925
Champion ram	Champion ewe

Groups

Flock: To consist of one ram any age, 1 ewe of 1923 or older, 1 ewe of 1924 and 1 ewe of 1925.

Pen: Four lambs either sex.

(Same classification for other recognized breeds.)

GRADE SHROPSHIRES

Individuals

Ewe of 1923 or older	Ewe of 1925
Ewe of 1924	Wether of 1925

Flock: To consist of 1 registered ram any age, 1 ewe of 1923 or older, 1 ewe of 1924, 1 ewe of 1925.

(Same classification for other recognized breeds.)

FAT SHEEP

Purebreds, grades, or crossbreds.

Individuals

Ewe or wether of 1924 or older.

Ewe or wether of 1925.

Groups

Three ewes or wethers of 1924 or older.

Three ewes or wethers of 1925.

It is recommended that four money awards, such as \$4, \$3, \$2, and \$1, be allotted for individual classes and four awards for groups, as \$7, \$6, \$5, and \$4.

SWINE

The Minnesota Swine Breeders' Association wishes to recommend a standard county fair swine classification. The adoption of the same classification by all county fairs in the state will be a great help to the exhibitors, by reason of the fact that in preparing a show herd they may fill the classes properly at each fair at which they wish to show. This classification is the one in most general use at leading county fairs, state fairs, and larger shows. It is as follows:

Individuals

Aged boar
*Senior yearling boar
Junior yearling boar
*Senior boar pig
Junior boar pig
Aged sow
*Senior yearling sow
Junior yearling sow
*Senior sow pig
Junior sow pig

Groups

Get of boar
Produce of sow

Champions

*Senior champion boar
*Junior champion boar
*Senior champion sow
*Junior champion sow

Grand Champions

Grand champion boar
Grand champion sow

Herds

*Aged herd
*Breeder's aged herd
Young herd
Breeder's young herd

An aged boar or sow is one farrowed prior to September 1, 1923.

A senior yearling is one farrowed between September 1, 1923 and March 1, 1924.

A junior yearling is one farrowed between March 1, 1924 and September 1, 1924.

A senior pig is one farrowed between September 1, 1924 and March 1, 1925.

A junior pig is one farrowed since March 1, 1925.

Herds and groups shall be made up as follows:

Aged herd.—One boar and three sows, farrowed before September 1, 1924.

Breeder's aged herd.—One boar and three sows farrowed before September 1, 1924, bred by exhibitor.

Young herd.—One boar and three sows farrowed on or after September 1, 1924.

Breeder's young herd.—One boar and three sows farrowed on or after September 1, 1924, bred by exhibitor.

Get of boar.—Four swine, any age, get of same boar.

Produce of sow.—Four swine, any age, produce of same sow.

* If smaller county fairs cannot offer the entire classification, the items starred may be omitted.

DAIRY CATTLE

The following standard dairy cattle classification is suggested for county fairs by the Dairy Extension Division, University Farm:

DAIRY CLASSIFICATION

(Same for each breed)

- Bull, 3 years old or over.
- Bull, 2 years old, under 3 years.
- Bull, 1 year old, under 2 years.
- Bull calf, 4 months old and under 1 year.
- Senior champion bull, 2 years old and over, ribbon award.
- Junior champion bull, under 2 years, ribbon award.
- Grand champion bull, ribbon award.
- Cow, 3 years old or over.
- Cow, 2 years old, under 3 years.
- Heifer, 1 year old, under 2 years.
- Heifer calf, 4 months old and under 1 year.
- Senior champion cow, 2 years old and over, ribbon award.
- Junior champion cow, under 2 years, ribbon award.
- Grand champion cow, ribbon award.

GROUPS AND HERDS

1. Graded herd—1 bull 2 years old or over, cow 2 years old or over, yearling heifer, heifer calf.
2. Young herd—1 bull, 2 heifers under 2 years of age.
3. Get of sire—4 animals any age or sex by the same sire.
4. Produce of cow—2 animals any age or sex from the same cow.
5. Dairy herd—4 cows which have freshened.

This classification remains the same for each dairy breed.

In championships for dairy breeds "Senior" designates cattle 2 years old or over; "Junior" under 2 years.

The base date for computing all ages in dairy breeds shall be August 1st.

No entries are necessary for the championship classes. It is suggested that only ribbon prizes be awarded in these classes.

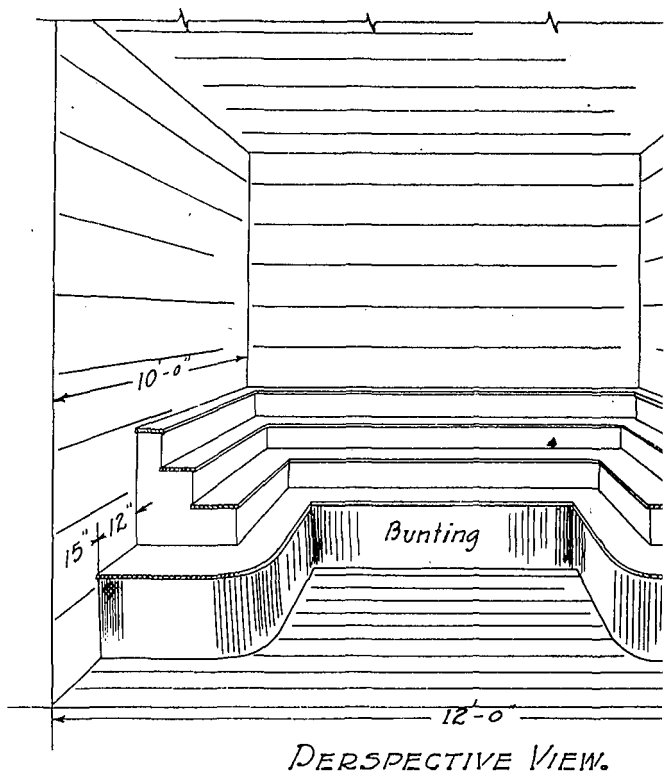
Calf club calves that meet requirements are allowed to enter the open class upon the payment of the regular entry fee.

If the fair is large, and the money available, Junior and Senior classes can be substituted for the one 2-year-old class and the yearling class also. There can be a 3-year-old and a cow class.

All animals must be owned by exhibitor except in the get of sire and produce of dam classes.

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Farmers' Clubs and Fa

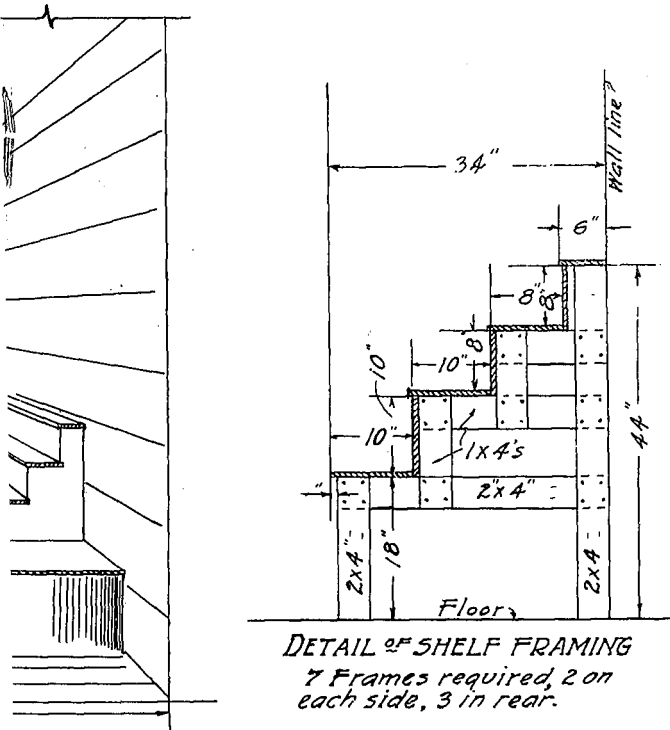


The following suggestions are offered as a guide to farmers' clubs contemplating making exhibits at county fairs:

It is a good plan to have an exhibit booth somewhat wider than it is deep in order that all the productions shown may be seen without the necessity of entering the booth. Good sizes are 12 feet wide by 10 feet deep, or 10 feet wide by 8 feet deep.

Shelves.—Height and width. The figure suggests an arrangement of shelving with dimensions. Notice that the lower shelf on each side begins far enough back from the front line of the booth so that room is left for the display of tall forage plants like stalks of corn or sunflowers against the side partitions, and

Farm Bureau Unit Booths



SUGGESTED PLAN FOR FARMERS' CLUBS EXHIBIT BOOTH.

baskets of vegetables on the floor. Also note that the bank of shelves above the first shelf on each side of the booth is a foot shorter than the lower shelf, thus allowing space for potted plants or some other exhibit to be placed so as to hide the ends of the shelving.

Design.—Some thought should be given to the general design of the exhibit before the products are put in place. Plan to have the items so arranged that no part will hide any other from the view of the front of the booth. It is a good plan while arranging the products to step back occasionally to get the viewpoint of the visitor. You may have been too close to the work to see it

to best advantage. The exhibit should be well balanced; that is, the two sides should contain about equal amounts of material so as not to look lopsided. Material should not be placed so close together as to produce a crowded appearance.

Size of Specimens.—Do not select the largest potatoes, apples, ears of corn, beets, cabbage, etc. Select a medium size, having the potatoes of each variety all of even size, the ears of corn all the same length, diameter and same number of rows of kernels, the apples on each plate uniform in size and color if possible. Hold to quality rather than to quantity.

Arrangement.—The larger vegetables like pumpkins and squashes, and bushel baskets of potatoes, etc., may be placed on the floor and the next smaller size such as beets, carrots, parsnips, corn, etc., on the first shelf. There will then be left three shelves on which may be arranged the threshed grains, apples and other fruits, bread and cakes and canned fruits and jellies, honey, etc., in somewhat the order named. Much may be added to the appearance of the booth if the shelves, before anything is placed on them, are covered with paper so that the shelving itself does not show.

Containers.—Boxes or baskets of uniform size and shape should be used for the exhibit of potatoes. Apples and other fresh fruits should be shown on uniform plates, and grains in uniform basins or measures. It would be well if canned fruits could all be shown in jars of the same size and make, and jellies in uniform glasses.

Labels.—Every item in the exhibit should have a label. The labels should be uniform and should be typewritten so as to be easily read. The name of the variety should be on every label attached to a basket of potatoes, a can of fruit, a basin of grain, or any exhibit whatsoever.

Decoration.—The booth may be neatly and prettily decorated with leaves, vines, grasses, grains, etc. Grains in the straw, wild and tame grasses and forage crops make good decorative material when neatly bound in small sheaves about two inches in diameter and tied in the middle, near the heads and near the butts with ribbon or colored cord. These sheaves placed on the walls at the sides and end of the booth may be made to add greatly to the appearance of the exhibit by being arranged in tasty designs.

Neatness.—Have all vegetables neat and clean. Do not wash them. Clean them with a brush, getting off all dirt. Be careful not to bruise the skin. Have all corn neatly silked. Do not "shine" the apples by rubbing them. Leave the natural bloom on them.

Score Card.—It is hard to arrange a score card adapted to all parts of Minnesota. Each section has some important crop which should be given more points than others. For instance, in

some parts of northern Minnesota more points should be given to potatoes than to corn. The clubs or fair officials should thoroughly canvass the situation so as to prepare a score card suited to the local needs. The score card should be published in the premium list, so that all exhibits could be arranged in accordance with it. The following score card is suggested:

Grains (seed) one-half peck samples.....	100
Corn, ten ear samples.....	150
Grass and clover seed, one-half peck samples.....	25
Forage, in bundles two inches in diameter.....	150
Potatoes, one-half peck samples.....	100
Vegetables, table, six of each.....	75
table, canned, one jar of each.....	50
stock, three of each.....	25
Fruits, fresh, not over ten kinds.....	75
canned, one of each kind grown in community.....	50
Baking.....	100
Sewing.....	100
Miscellaneous—Honey, eggs, butter, cheese, canned and cured meats....	100
Design and arrangement.....	100
Total.....	1,200

(Continued from Page 7)

TYPE AND PRODUCTION CLASS

Cows that have completed one year's work in cow test association or have official records above the following amounts for age at which the record was made are eligible to compete in the class:

5 years old or over.....	360	lbs. of fat
4 " "	323½	" " "
3 " "	287	" " "
2 " "	250½	" " "

This classification could also be offered for grades.

BEEF CATTLE

Beef cattle prize list for county fairs as suggested by the Agricultural Extension Division, University Farm. Similar prize list for each beef breed.

PUREBRED CATTLE

1. Bull, 3 years old or over.
2. Bull, 2 years and under 3.
3. Bull, 1 year and under 2.
4. Bull, 4 months and under 1 year.
5. Senior champion bull. (Suggest ribbon if money is not available.)
6. Junior champion bull. (Suggest ribbon.)
7. Grand champion bull. (Suggest ribbon.)
8. Cow, 3 years or over.
9. Heifer, 2 years and under 3.
10. Heifer, 1 year and under 2.
11. Heifer, 4 months and under 1 year.
12. Senior champion female. (Award same as for champion bull.)
13. Junior champion female. (Award same as for champion bull.)
14. Grand champion female. (Award same as for champion bull.)
15. Graded herd.—1 bull 2 years or over, 1 cow 3 years or over, 1 heifer 2 years and under 3, 1 heifer 1 year and under 2, 1 heifer 4 months and under 1 year.
16. Young herd—Bull under 2 years old, 3 heifers under 2 years old. Bull to be owned by exhibitor. Females to be bred and owned by exhibitor.
17. Get of sire—4 animals any age or sex by same sire. (Not necessarily owned by exhibitor.)
18. Produce of cow—2 animals any age or sex, produce of one cow. (Not necessarily owned by exhibitor.)

Base dates for all classes, September 1.

Championships.—“Senior” designates cattle 2 years or over; “Junior” under 2 years. Only first prize winners may compete for championships. Championship winners only may compete for grand championships.

Fairs which have a large entry in beef classes may add senior yearling and junior yearling classes in place of class “1 year and under 2”; and senior calf and junior calf classes instead of class “4 months and under 1 year.” Base dates would then be September 1st to January 1st for seniors, and January 1st to September 1st for juniors.

POULTRY

No recommended classification was obtainable before this material went to press, but it will be made available upon request to the Extension Division, University Farm.

FIELD CROPS AND VEGETABLES

It is recommended that emphasis in crop exhibits be placed upon approved varieties rather than awarding prizes on “*Any* early white oats” or “*Any* yellow Dent corn.” The field crop section at University Farm recommends the following general classification that has been selected from the present premium lists of various county fairs:

*CORN (10 Ear Samples)

Southern Section (as an example)

Murdock	Silver King
Minnesota No. 13	Rustler
Any other recognized variety of Yellow Dent	Any other recognized variety of White Dent
Champion Yellow	Sweepstakes
Champion White	Champion 50 ears
50 ear sample, Yellow, any variety	50 ear sample, White, any variety

POPCORN (10 Ears)

Japanese Hull-less	Any variety of early sweet corn
Any other variety	Any variety of late sweet corn

OATS (1 Peck)

Early varieties, white or yellow, such as Gopher, Minnesota No. 674, Iowar (white), or Iowa 105, Kherson (yellow).

Medium late varieties (white) such as Victory, Ligowa, Silvermine and other Swedish types.

Russian Green.	Champion.
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BARLEY (1 Peck)

Any variety of barley.

Manchuria 184, Minsturdi, and other six row varieties.

Svansota and other two row varieties.

RYE (1 Peck)

Minnesota No. 2, Rosen Any other recognized variety

WHEAT (1 Peck)

Spring Wheat (Marquis) Winter Wheat (Minturki)

Amber Durum (Mindum)

GRASS AND FORAGE CROPS (4 Quarts)

Alfalfa Alsike Clover Timothy

Medium Red or Mammoth Clover White Sweet Clover

MISCELLANEOUS (1 Peck)

Soybeans such as Chestnut, Harbo, Wisconsin Black, Elton,

Black Eyebrow, Ito San, Manchu

Buckwheat (Silver Hull) Canadian Field Peas

Millet Navy Beans

* Use similar classification for junior corn club entries.

(Classification suggestions for vegetable, fruit, and flower exhibits may be obtained from the secretary of the Horticultural Society, University Farm, St. Paul.)

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS RELATIVE TO PREMIUMS

1. It is recognized that the allotment of premium money is a difficult task, but in some instances it is suggested that the money be spread out as much as possible. At some of the fairs it was pointed out that the premiums for flowers were much greater relatively than the premiums offered for baking and sewing entries.

2. There has been some interest indicated in the consideration of offering premiums for *Junior* corn and other crop entries which may or may not compete in the open classes.

3. The question is raised as to whether the early fairs should give premiums for immature garden entries. This sometimes presents a difficult judging problem.

4. Some judges feel that the vegetable premium list should be shortened and they recommend that only commonly grown vegetables be considered in order to avoid the exceptional or "freak" in such entries.

5. It is suggested that those crops that are of special importance in a county or region, such as sugar beets, alfalfa, or flax, be featured in the premium list as a part of the educational work affecting these products.

PREPARATION OF EXHIBITS

1. For the sake of saving time in the judging of crops and vegetables it is recommended that each variety be placed in separate boxes for judging.

2. Considerable mediocre livestock is being shown in the state and raises a question as to whether it is possible to develop methods for getting out the very best livestock in a community for the fairs.

3. One judge recommends that so far as possible only pint cans be used for the showing of vegetables and fruits, but it is recognized that the quart can is often the most economical unit for the farm housewife to use.

4. Special attention is called to the need of more booths from farmers' clubs and farm bureau units. In this connection attention is called to the figure and suggestions for making such exhibits, on the center page of this pamphlet.

5. Some of the livestock judges point out that in many instances the animal exhibits are not clean when they are shown and thereby leave a poor impression. It is not necessary that the animals be especially fitted, but cleanliness should be one of the first requirements in exhibiting livestock.

6. It is believed that such organizations as the Horticultural Society and the Crop Improvement Association could well provide lists of recommended crop, fruit, and vegetable varieties for various sections of the state and publish pointers on the preparation of such exhibits.

HOUSING EXHIBITS

1. It is recommended by several judges that the arrangement of such exhibits as fruit, eggs, butter, flowers, etc., consider the desirable effect of better lighting for the exhibits and that *first* day judging of these products be done where possible.

2. The poultry judges recommended that more care be given to the housing of poultry exhibits, as to kind of pens, and the serious overcrowding of birds.

3. The pens or stalls for sheep and hogs should open, if possible, on the outside or be so arranged that the animals can be easily and quickly brought into the ring. It is very difficult for one to do a satisfactory job of judging hogs if they are not taken from their pens.

4. Some people have pointed out the desirability of having the buildings well marked and signs on the grounds indicating where

various exhibits may be found. A few judges made this suggestion from their experience at some of the fairs during the past year.

JUDGING EXHIBITS

1. It is highly desirable to make as much of a demonstration as possible of the judging work to the end that it will result in a real service to the exhibitors and spectators.

2. It is suggested that the same judge should not be used more than two or three years in succession at the same fair.

3. Any advertising that can be done regarding the time of judging will be much appreciated so that time can be saved and exhibitors notified ahead so as to be ready when the judging is to start.

4. There is surely need for better places for judging livestock, especially hogs; they should have either a building as an arena or a panel arena. For cattle and horses either a fenced or roped arena on level ground large enough for showing the stock to good advantage, particularly in moving horses, should be provided. In this connection if any arrangement for convenience of spectators could be made it would help in popularizing the judging work. It is strongly urged that consideration be given to using rope if it is impossible to provide a closed or fenced arena.

5. The judges state that many exhibitors are not present when judging is done, indicating that it might be well to advertise the judging schedule as widely and effectively as the racing schedule. This would save time, increase the effectiveness of the educational work and be more satisfactory to the judges and exhibitors.

6. A few of the fairs mail fair passes to the judges, or to University Farm to be given to the judges, in advance of the fair. This policy would relieve the judges of some embarrassment and inconvenience if it could be more generally followed.

7. At several of the fairs livestock parades are given in front of the grandstand with announcement made as to ownership and winnings. This seems to be a worthy practice and increases the educational advantages of the fair.