

Andy Bath, Spokane, WA
2026 Asotin County Fair Sheep and Goat Judge

My Expectations for Sheep

We should only have one goal when showing livestock – to make your animal look their best. It is your job to convince me that your animal is the absolute best in the show.

Ring Management-

- I will work each class the same way. If possible, watch a class or two each day before you come out and show. Make sure you pay attention to how I line up the classes, because it will be the exact same throughout the entire show.
- Your animal must always be between you and me.
- Ring awareness and eye contact is important, but so is knowing what is happening with the other students and animals in the ring.
- If anyone's animal gets away from them, no student should try and catch it if the loose animal is not theirs. You run the risk of losing your own animal while trying to grab someone else's.
- Be ready to switch animals. If I do ask you to switch, it is your job to show that animal better than its owner.

Bracing Your Animal-

- Know why we brace a market animal, do not just go through the motions.
- Bracing means the animal is pushing against you. This will make them look their best.
- When I handle your animal while bracing, it should feel firm to touch.
- If your lamb has a weak top, make sure you know how to make it level - either by bracing or getting down and lifting the belly with your hand.

Fitting Your Animal- Clean, clean, clean!

- Don't clean inside ears or flank pits. The lanolin and wax build up is healthy for the sheep.
- Market lambs and market breeding sheep should both be slick sheared. Wool breeds can be showed with some additional fleece length.
- Make sure the slick job is done neatly - no lines, missed spots, or major cuts to the skin.
- If you have shag on your lamb's legs, it must be blended with the slick sheared portion. There should always be a seamless transition from slick shear to shag. I should never see a hard line.
- The same rule goes if you leave wool or thick hair on the face/ears. Make the transition smooth.

Questions-

- I don't think this should be a knowledge bowl, so if I ask questions, they will be questions you should know.
- They could be questions about your feeding program, which means you need to know what you feed and more importantly, why you are feeding specific ingredients.
- I may ask questions about vaccinations and medications. Since our exhibitors are raising products for consumption, it is vital they know what goes into their animal - regardless of the student's age.
- I could ask basic carcass questions.
- I may also ask you what you like and dislike about your animal. It is important that you answer the question from a quality standpoint. I am sure your animal has a cute face or a great attitude, but that is not what I am looking for.
- I also may ask you to judge a couple of animals in the class and give me reasons why you placed them the way you did.

NO AUDIBLE COACHING FROM PARENTS

- As a show dad, I know how incredibly hard this one is. I want to know what your student knows when it comes to showing livestock. I have asked students to leave the ring before because their parents/leaders/coaches wouldn't stop coaching.
- I give a lot of oral reasons over the microphone in the market and breeding classes. When it comes to showmanship, I give individual reasons one-on-one with each student, and not over the microphone.