

TURKEY SHOWMANSHIP TIPS @ FAIRS

By Larry Lokai- Junior Fair Poultry Judge

Purpose of turkey showmanship is to determine best overall show person of turkeys.

Three skills will be used including:

- a) bird preparation by exhibitor
- b) skills of showing bird in ring
- c) exhibitor knowledge of turkeys

KEY POINTS TO FOLLOW:

1. **ALWAYS** show turkeys on the ground- too heavy, can hurt bird.
2. Use a cane for certain skills (hog cane or straight stick).
3. Move birds in clockwise motion in ring if possible.
4. Keep bird between judge and exhibitor.
5. Be calm with animal- calm exhibitors place higher in class.

Suggested steps by judge that I try to follow in shows include:

1. Ask exhibitor breed of bird, sex of bird, and weight of market turkeys.
2. Check bird for defects.
3. Examine bird for member preparation prior to show. (CLEAN)
4. Look for soiled feathers or dirt on bird.
5. Have member walk birds slowly in ring with cane. (if available)
....use skills in showing swine with cane
6. Set up birds **TO EXAMINE CLOSELY.**
7. **DO NOT GRAB BIRD BY NECK** – squat and place hands under bird to position bird as if setting up a lamb .
8. Review parts of bird.
9. Review general information of turkeys with exhibitor.
10. Members **MAY** switch birds and show another members birds.
(some birds show themselves..good exhibitors can adjust to other birds)

Good luck with showmanship. Scorecards will be used in all classes of showmanship and returned to exhibitor at end of show for review.

Keep in mind a show is three parts...

- a) judging of animal/exhibitor skills
- b) an educational experience
- c) having fun

If any questions...feel free to contact the judge.

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