

# **Stephens County Junior Livestock Show**

## **Herdsman Award Information Packet 2023**

*This packet is developed as an aid for the participant and judges. The official rules are published in the Stephens County Junior Livestock Show rule book.*

## Stephens County Livestock Show Herdsman Award

*This award is given in honor of Mr. George Blackburn, a long time Ag Extension agent for Stephens County. Mr. Blackburn was known as "a herdsman of kids," thus the award is named in his recognition.*

The goal of any livestock project is to increase the participant's knowledge about proper care, conditioning and presentation of the animal while growing character traits of the individual.

The Herdsman Award is the opportunity for participants to compete for the recognition of top herdsman in his/her respective division(s) (Sr/Jr in each species).

The following criteria will be used to select the top herdsman.

- Knowledge about the animal
- Proper care and conditioning of the animal
- Showmanship
- Character building

If the participant chooses to compete for the Herdsman Award, he/she should indicate their choice by checking the box on the project registration form. Superintendents will monitor the above from validation through show clean up.

The following methods will be used to help judge the participants.

### **Applicant Letter/Essay** *(Example Attached)*

Application letters/Essays will be due one week after validation of the animal.

Letter/Essay can be delivered to an FFA or 4H sponsor, the show superintendent, or the general show secretary, or emailed to [SCJLS.Herdsman@gmail.com](mailto:SCJLS.Herdsman@gmail.com).

The letter/essay should include:

- Introduction of the participant including age, grade, and history in livestock showing
- Why did you choose it this project? Do you have previous experience with this species?
- How will you feed, exercise and care for the animal?
  - *Protein requirements for the animal*
  - *What do you need to watch for regarding signs of illness*
- What do you hope to get out of this project? What are your goals?
  - *What did you hope to gain as an individual from doing this project?*
  - *How will this project make you a better person?*

### **Site Visit**

The superintendent will do a site visit to the location where the animal is being kept. The superintendent will examine the area for cleanliness, water and food access, type of feed program, exercise requirements, proper housing, and containment, etc.

The participant will be interviewed during this visit. He/she may be asked to demonstrate exercising or working with the animal on presentation. They also are encouraged to ask

questions of the superintendent to improve their knowledge and correct issues that maybe identified.

### **Showmanship**

The superintendent will monitor the participant's care and cleanliness of the pen and area during the show, showmanship in the arena, volunteer work done throughout the show, and sportsmanship shown towards other participants.

### **Interview**

The final stage of the competition will be an interview with the superintendent committee. The interview will be a summary of the livestock project. It will be conducted the morning of January 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am at the ag barn, preferably starting with senior applicants.

Upon entering the room, the participant should be prepared to introduce him/herself, their project and answer questions regarding:

- Selection of species
- Selection and purchase of animal
- The nutrition program, the exercise program, and any issues with the animal
  - Protein calculation
  - Purpose of exercises
- Preparation of the animal for the show
- Knowledge about the species, breed, and gender of the animal
- The good and bad attributes of the animal and how those maybe improved or overcome
  - *What could have been improved on your animal?*
  - *What strengths/weaknesses did your animal exhibit?*
  - *Could you have done anything to improve these weaknesses?*
  - *If you were starting over what would you do differently?*
- Performance in the ring
  - *What is the hardest part about showing this animal?*
  - *What went well/poorly in the ring?*
- Showmanship concepts specific to the species
- Individual goals
- Impact on his/her character
  - *Did this project changed you as a person?*
  - *Would you do it again?*
- His/her future plans

Joe Participant  
1234 Applicant Way  
Breckenridge, TX 76424

October 19, 2018

Dear Cattle Superintendent,

My name is Joe Participant. I am competing for senior level the 2018 George Blackburn Memorial Senior Herdsman Award for the Stephens County Livestock Show in the cattle division.

I moved to Breckenridge in 2012 and I am a senior at Breckenridge High School. I moved here from the Dallas area and had no experience in agriculture prior to coming to moving. This is my third year to participate in the Stephens County Livestock Show through FFA. The previous two years I showed lambs, since both of my brothers before me did. But this year I decided to venture into a new species.

For my project this year I chose to show a heifer. I have no experience with cattle. After watching show participants the last two years, I could see that showing cattle was the most challenging of all the species. It would require the most dedication and had the biggest learning curve for me. I like a challenge and with the encouragement of my instructors, Mr. Chase and Mrs. Shortes, I know I can learn what I need to have a successful project.

A growing show heifer needs to consume 2-3% of their body weight of 11-14% protein feed spread over 2-3 feedings per day. She also needs to have access to fresh hay and clean water. The pen should be large enough that the animal has room to roam with shelter from inclement weather and should be kept as clean as possible. The heifer needs to be trotted 15-20 minutes/day for development and washed, blown, and combed out at least three times per week to promote hair growth.

While cattle are probably the most intense and time consuming of the livestock species to show, I want to prove to myself I can learn everything that comes with it. I also want to prove to myself I can dedicate the time and commitment to complete such an intense project. This project will teach me responsibility and commitment and increase my confidence as I look forward to selecting and attending college.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my application.

Sincerely,

Joe Participant