MARKET LIVESTOCK JOURNALS

Barry County implemented the market livestock journals more than 10 years ago. The journals were put in place and are meant to be the “4-H’er’s livestock project on paper”. It allows the exhibitor to gather important information about their projects, such as finances, problem solving, health, and an overall collection of educational information in that livestock industry. The content knowledge area of the journals help prepare the 4-H’er for showing their animal at fair as these are questions asked by the judges during the live showing.

The interview process of judging the journals at fair has proven to be the most valuable part of the process. Over the years I have been fortunate to witness the growth of a 1st year show person at their first judging to their final year of presenting their journal. The judges often remember exhibitors from year to year and I have had the pleasure of hearing wonderful comments about our youth. I truly believe it has allowed many of our youth to become successful in their life ventures.

With that being said, the committee has decided to do some re-education in the journals as the judges have shared some concerns about the presentation over the past 2-3 years.

These are some of the things to remember when doing the journal:

1. **This is the child’s project** and should be written by them with little assistance from the parent or leader. This is what the judges will look at for “age appropriateness”. A journal written in adult printing is not age appropriate.

2. The journal is not meant to be a scrap book project – do not cut apart the actual required journal pages. This is meant to be a record.

3. It is OK to have pictures on “pretty” eye catching paper. But remember to also have this be “age appropriate”.

4. It is OK to have a lot of pictures but the judges are truly looking for market pictures. This is what is recommended to be on your first few pages of pictures:
   a: beginning project
   b: hind view of animal
   c: side view of animal
   d: end of project
   e: pictures of any shows you go to besides our fair
   f: pictures of the youth working with their animal

Any others are welcomed to be added but please don’t be upset when the judge doesn’t have time to look at them. More pictures will not get you a better score.

5. Do not put educational material in your journal if you don’t understand it. If the judge asks any questions about an article you found on line you need to know what it means. The more educational material added just to make your book bigger will not get you more points. Example: A 9 year old presenting a journal in a 4 inch notebook that is full of articles, etc. but knows nothing about the articles and tells the judge “my mom put it in” will probably not get the full points. That is also what the judge means by “age appropriate”.

6. Do only the sections of the journal that are required for your age group.

7. Always put this years journal on top of last years. Put your pages in sheet protectors and in a hard covered notebook.

8. Remember to dress appropriate, just like on show day.

I am always available to come to your club meetings prior to fair if your club has questions. I am always happy to talk with anyone by phone, 269-948-2315.

Ann Wilson, Superintendent, Livestock Journals