Goat shows provide an opportunity to the exhibitor/owner to learn how to select top show animals. There are other benefits involved in showing goats; prize money to help with the feed bill, interaction with other goat producers that have a common interest and the relationship an exhibitor develops with their goat. In order to understand how to show your dairy goat, follow the simple instructions below.

Listen for the class to be announced. Bring your animals to ring side immediately and get checked in to avoid delay of the show. When it comes time to enter the show ring make sure you have your animals under control and looking good as many judges watch the exhibitors and their animals as they enter the show ring. You should walk on the left side of your animal, holding the neck chain in your right hand. Watch the judge and pay attention to what he or she is saying. Do not talk to the judge unless you are asked a question.

When you enter the ring, walk in a clockwise direction. Make sure to keep your animal between you and the judge at all times. Figure #1 shows you how to cross in front of your animal when the judge is in the ring. This will keep your animal in front of the judge as you walk by them. When the judge calls for you to stop walking, make sure you leave enough room for the judge to walk between the animals.

Figure #2 shows the correct way an animal should be positioned. Place the front legs squarely under the animal and spread slightly.

To position the legs, grasp each one above the knee and place the leg in the correct position. Always set the legs nearest the judge first (Figure 3).
Stretch the hind legs slightly, this will help to accentuate body length and level the rump if needed.

If your animal moves out of position or the judge asks you to change places, lead your animal forward out of the line, then back through the line following steps describe the making a circle and return to judge's position in the show the indicated position. When performing this maneuver, make sure you give the animal plenty of turning room (Figure 4).

If the judge is positioned behind the line of animals, move the animal out of place and circle toward the front of the line. Place the animal in the position indicated by the judge and set the animal up (Figure 6).

Position your animal in the lineup will depend on the position of the judge. These following steps describe the judge's position in the show ring. If the judge is positioned in front of the animals, move the animal out of line and walk toward the judge. Place the animals in the position indicated by the judge and set the animal up (Figure 5).

If animals are lined up in a head to tail fashion and there is a change in the position by the judge, the number 1 animal is led out of the line and the number 2 animal would move up. The number 1 animal moves into the new position (Figure 7).

The number 1 animal follows the number 2 animal and circle one behind the other clockwise through the line and back to the requested position.

If animals are side by side and there is a change in position by the judge, both animals are led forward and turn right (Figure 8).

If the judge wants to compare two animals (Figure 9a) side by side, the butterfly pattern is used. A. Shows the animals walking away from the judge. B. Shows the turning of the
animals, C. Shows the return of the animals toward the judge, D. Shows the turning of the animals, E. Shows the turning of the animals away from the judge, F. Shows the return of the animals to the original position in the line (Figure 9b).

When the judge wishes to check the animal, more control over your animal can be achieved by raising the front leg opposite from you (Figure 10).

Some judges will watch the animals on the move therefore, you have a chance to cover up some faults when you set up your animal. If the animal is a little steep in the rump, stretch the hind legs as you set up. It will also help to pinch the third vertebrae in front of the hip bones. If the animal has a sway in the back move the hind legs up and under the body and hold the animal's head lower to cover up this fault. If you want to strengthen the topline, tickle the tummy.

After the judge places the animals, he or she will give the reasons of the placing. If you have any questions about the placing, ask the judge before leaving the show ring.
The proper citation for this article is: