

**THERE'S NO BUSINESS
LIKE SHOW BUSINESS**



An Emerald Star Plan

By:

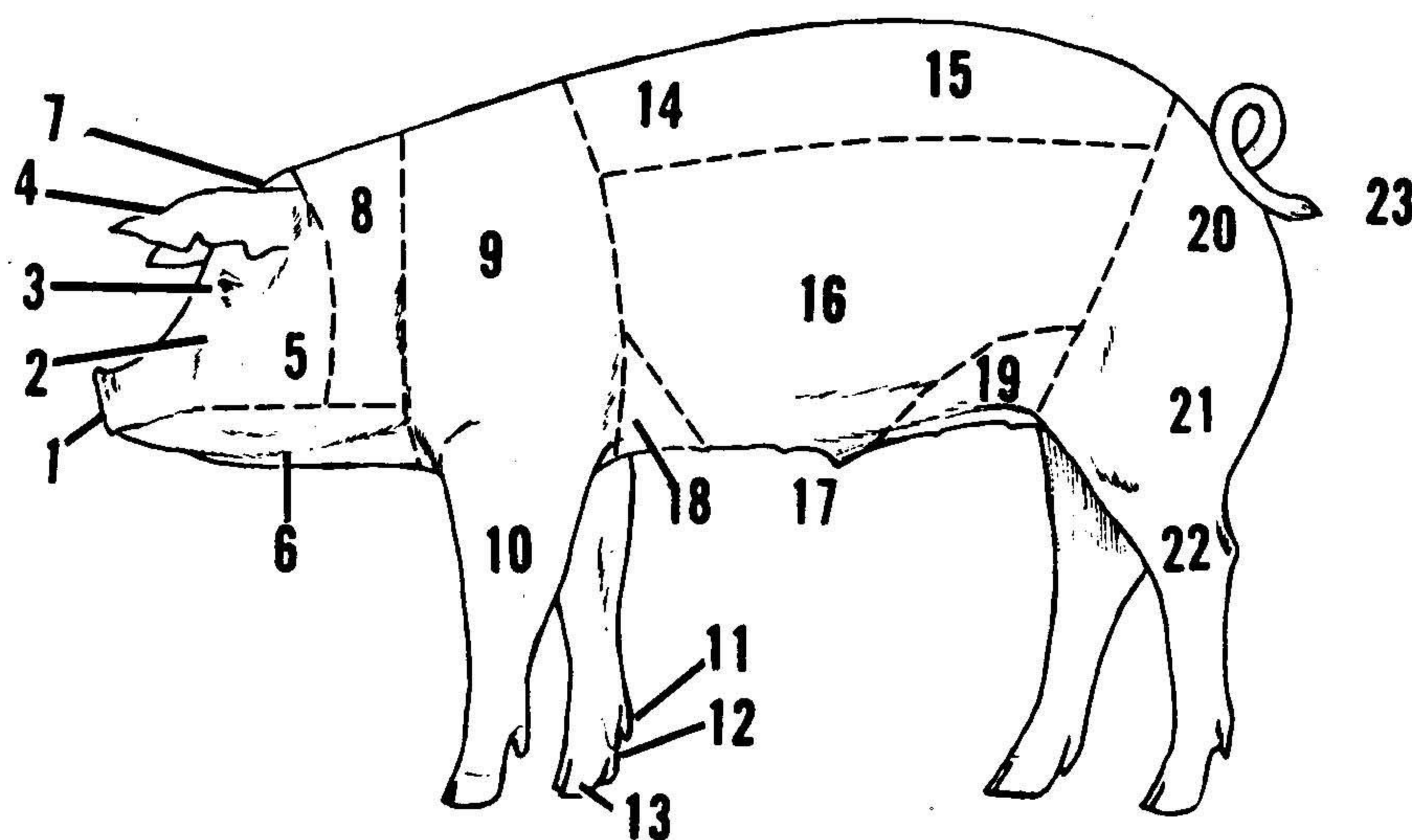
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1. FORWARD

There are many basic rules to the fitting and showing of swine. In this booklet, I will attempt to take you from the beginning of the showing process to the show ring, which means I will start with the training of your pig and end up with the proper way to behave in the show ring. I hope this booklet will help you learn some of the basics of fitting and showing of swine.



Parts of a Hog

- | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Snout | 6. Jowl | 11. Dew Claw | 16. Side | 21. Ham |
| 2. Face | 7. Poll | 12. Pastern | 17. Belly | 22. Rear Leg |
| 3. Eye | 8. Neck | 13. Toes | 18. Fore Flank | 23. Tail |
| 4. Ear | 9. Shoulder | 14. Back | 19. Rear Flank | |
| 5. Cheek | 10. Foreleg | 15. Loin | 20. Rump | |

2. TRAINING YOUR PIG

The main reason for training your pig is to have complete control over the animal in the show ring. Pigs are the only class of large animals that you are not allowed to lead into the ring with a halter and rope. You must teach the pig to respond to your show cane and this takes time and patience.

To train your pig, you must practice showing it at least once a day for a month or two prior to the show. This gets the animal used to you, the cane, and what you want it to do in the show ring.

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES TO TAKE TO THE SHOW

1. Soap
2. Brushes
3. Coat Dressing (oil or powder)
4. Oil to clean ears
5. Cotton Swabs or Cotton Balls
6. Clippers or scissors
7. Hose and Bucket
8. Old Clothes & Old Towles
9. Feed & Feed Pans
10. Bedding
11. Shovel, Pitchfork, & Broom
12. Cane & Uniform

When practicing, you must pretend you are in the show ring. Use a good sized pen for your show ring. Always have someone act as your judge and they should treat you as a real judge would. If you cannot find a friend to help you out, use an object such as a post or bucket and pretend it is the judge. Remember, keep your eye on the judge and keep your pig a good distance from him (approximately 15 feet is a good distance). If you show too close to the judge, he cannot get a complete view of your animal.

When training your pig, you must use your cane in the proper way so the pig will know what you expect of him when you use your cane in the show ring. The proper method of cane use is very simple to learn. Pigs are highly intelligent and learn quickly when treated with kindness and understanding. Keep in mind the feelings of the animal. Touch the animal firmly enough to make it move, but not so hard that it hurts it. To get the pig to move, you must use one firm tap rather than a lot of light taps. Soon the pig will learn to stop or turn a certain way when you tap him on the various parts of its body. Such parts would include: the side of the head to make the pig turn, the snout to make the pig stop, or the side of the body and hocks to make the pig move forward. Never hit the animal directly on the head or on the body behind the hip bone. When showing, always hold the cane with the hook up and never touch the animal with your hand. Do not get between your animal and the judge.

Practice changing hands with your cane so you can work your animal from either side. Be careful not to bring your cane too far back as you may strike or interfere with another exhibitor.

If you practice enough, your animal should move slowly and smoothly through the show ring and be a great show pig.

3. FITTING YOUR ANIMAL

A. Washing - Having a clean animal is very important. A judge will not look favorably on a dirty animal. Most fairgrounds have washing facilities available; however, if necessary, you can use two folding panels for a make shift wash rack. You should try to wash the day before showing.

DEVELOPING GOOD SKIN AND HAIR COAT

1. Feed milk or milk replacer for about three weeks before the show.
2. Brush your animal daily.
3. Keep their pens and bedding clean.

First, wet the animal thoroughly and apply the soap. Jelly-type soaps such as "Wapaste" and "Orvis" work well because they adhere to the animal's skin. However, you can also use a mild dish washing detergent such as "Ivory". Work the soap into a good lather with your hands, then take a soft brush and work the lather all over the animal. Don't use too hard a brush as this can scratch their skin and cause red blotches. Be sure to clean all parts of your animal including the insides of the legs and the underline. If your animal's legs are stained (this is more of a problem with older sows and boars), use a coarser brush to clean from the hocks down.

Care must be taken to keep water out of the animal's ears. This will cause it much discomfort. It will also hold its head to one side and it will shake its head repeatedly.

Make sure all the soap is rinsed off your hog. Soap can cause skin irritations.

Keeping your pens clean and well bedded will keep your animal's coat clean. It is your responsibility, as an exhibitor, to keep your animals, pens and alleys as clean as possible at all times.

B. Grooming - Techniques differ with white pigs such as Yorkshires and Chester Whites from darker pigs such as Durocs and Hampshires.

White Pigs must be powdered to whiten their bristles and skin. This can be done in several ways:

1. While the animal is still wet from washing, apply baby powder or corn starch to its body. The powder will stick to the damp animal and whiten the bristles and skin.
2. After washing, make a paste of cornstarch and water. Apply this to the animal's body and let it dry.
3. Use a spray bottle to dampen the animal's coat and apply the cornstarch or powder as in step one.

Leave the powder on your pig until just before show time, then take a soft bristled brush and remove it.

If your animal has become soiled after washing, clean the spot with clear water and a damp towel. Once again, apply some powder and leave it on at least 15 minutes before brushing out.

Dark Pigs are bathed the same as white pigs. After your pig is dry, apply a Tight oil such as baby oil or mineral oil to the bristles. This is done just before entering the show ring. A good coat dressing can be made of a mixture of equal parts mineral oil or baby oil and alcohol. (Enough Rose oil may be added to just color the mixture. This is used on red pigs.)

Be sure to wash the oil off your animal after showing. Oil will clog the animal's pores and may cause it to over heat. It may also cause the animal's skin to blister if they are exposed to the hot sun.

C. Smoothing the Bristles - If your animal has a spot where the bristles are ruffled up, you can sometimes smooth this down with a piece of sandpaper. Rub the sandpaper slightly across the bristles in the direction of the coat.

D. Clipping - A certain amount of clipping is desired to make your animal look clean and neat in the show ring, but don't go too far. "Over-clipping" can make your animal look worse than no clipping at all.

You may have to use a snare to control your animal for clipping. Have an adult or older 4-H'er hold the snare for you. It is extremely dangerous for the animal and the attendants if a snare gets pulled from someone's hand. The pig will toss its head around causing the snare cable to cut into its snout and, in the same manner, the snare can hit one of the attendants.

Ears - The long hairs should be clipped from the top of the ears and from the edge of the ears. Clip just the animal's ear, don't let the clippers go up onto its head. This would also be a good time to take a cotton ball or cotton swab soaked with oil and clean the inside of the pig's ears. Alcohol may also be used, but if the animal has small scratches inside the ears, this will burn and the pig will become upset and nervous. You may be able to do most of the clipping and cleaning of the ears and tail while the animal is relaxed and sleeping in its pen.

Belly - Sometimes there are stray bristles on the animal's belly. These should be clipped off. The main reason for clipping is to give a clean, neat appearance - Don't go too far. Remember, clipping too far up on the animal's side can make it look worse than no clipping at all.

PREPARING TO ENTER THE SHOW RING

Before you go into the show ring, you will want to make sure your animal looks as good as possible. This allows the animal to show to its best advantage. Poor grooming distracts from the animal's conformation.

The morning of the actual show, you will want to give your pig just enough feed and water to quiet it down. This keeps it from looking pot-bellied in the ring. However, a hungry pig will be cranky and hard to show. So, you must be able to judge its feed to reach a happy medium.

About 15 minutes before you enter the ring, you will want to make sure there are no dirty spots on your animal. If there are, you can remove them with some water, a brush, and towel. Simply wash that spot and then apply an extremely small amount of powder or oil (depending on what color pig you have) on the spot to make it blend in with the rest of the coat.

Be sure all the bristles lay down in a natural manner. Brush your pig just before you enter the ring, thus putting any stray bristles in place. When you enter the ring, make sure there is no bedding clinging to your pig.

PROPER BEHAVIOR IN THE SHOW RING

When in the show ring, always treat other exhibitors with kindness and courtesy. Concentrate on your animal and the judge, but remember, help others if you have the opportunity. It is important to be a good showman but it is even more important to be a good human being.

Your main job in the show ring is to let your judge see the animal to its best advantage. Make your pig look good. The judge cannot properly place an animal that is racing around the ring or fighting with other pigs.

Use your show cane to control your pig, not as a weapon. You can injure your animal and other exhibitors if you do not have proper control of your cane.

For the best control of your pig, walk approximately half way between its head and ham. Tap your pig lightly on the side of the face to get it to turn. The sight of the cane should make a well trained pig turn. Remember, never hit the animal too hard or strike it with a series of light taps. It is very important that you avoid touching your pig with your hands.

Always keep your pig in the eye of the judge. Try to keep it away from a group so the judge can get a good view of it. During your time in the show ring, you should show the judge a front, side, and rear view of the animal. To make you and your pig look as if you are one unit, crouch down so your head is about two feet from your pig's back.

It is very important to keep your pig between you and the judge so he always has a clear view of your animal.

All pigs show best at a slow walk. If it suddenly runs off, don't run after it just walk calmly after it until it calms down and you can regain control.

If your pig gets into a fight in the ring, you should step aside and let the ring men separate the pigs with hand hurdles, board boards. Never put your arm or leg in between two fighting pigs. Try to keep your pig away from the one it fought with because they are likely to start again when they get near each other.

While in the ring, you should always stay alert and give the judge your undivided attention. This means don't talk to or be concerned with other exhibitors or spectators. One of the most difficult tasks in the ring is to keep your eye on the judge and at the same time, keep your pig within your line of vision.

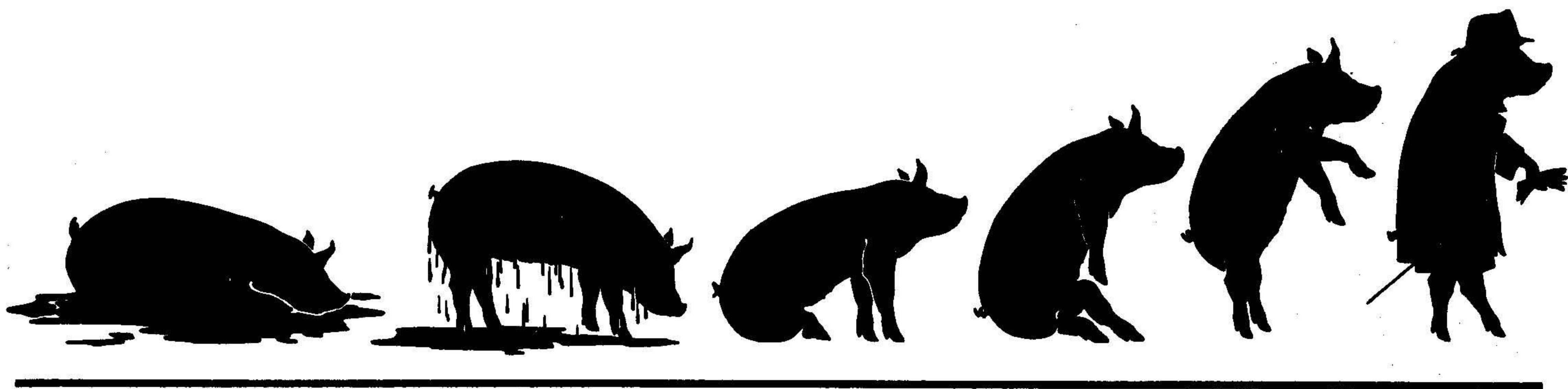
TIPS FOR THE SHOW RING

1. Always be courteous to other exhibitors, the judge and his assistants.
2. Keep your eyes on the judge.
3. Keep your hands off your animal.
4. Carry your cane with the hook up.
5. Be sure you and your animals are well groomed.
6. Stay Alert!

It is necessary to watch the judge because he may direct you on where to move your pig or to put it into a holding pen by using hand signals. He's liable to put you down if you miss this signal. To put your pig into a holding pen, open the gate and drive the animal in. Once you are in the pen, you must remember to keep showing your pig and watching for the judge's signals. Always close and latch the gate when you are directed to leave the holding pen.

The judge may ask you questions in the ring. Always be prepared with a good answer. Questions may include the age, sex, breed, or weight of your animal. He may also want to know your age, name, etc. Know your project and your animal.

Your personal appearance in the ring is also important. In California, it is necessary to wear a 4-H uniform in the ring. This consists of a white shirt, white or off white pants, a 4-H tie or scarf, a 4-H hat, belt with shoes or boots to match. You must have a clean uniform on show day. If your white pants or shirt get soiled just before the show, dampen the spot and put a little baby powder or cornstarch on it. Your hair must be combed and your face washed. Look as well kept as possible.



It is my sincere hope that, by following the enclosed steps in the training, fitting, and showing of your pig, you will become a more confident and better prepared showman. Winning is great, but don't get so competitive that you fail to relax and have fun. Good luck at the show!