Herdsmanship should focus on teamwork, showing pride in exhibits, learning to pick-up and take care of area, proper care and treatment of the animal (feed, water, animal & pens clean, animal health, etc.). Herdsmanship is more than a contest--it should be a fun "educational" activity in which kids challenge one another within their club to make their club look good and "feel" good. The purpose of this contest is to develop knowledge and skill in proper care, handling, and stabling of livestock on public exhibition.

Hold a club discussion on care and feeding of animals at Fair. Outline Herdsmanship requirements and make plans to meet these requirements. See the fairbook for more information. Fair decorations need not be elaborate or expensive. Simple, neat and economical decorating should be encouraged. Decorations do not count for or against your score as long as they are neat and clean. There are no points on decorations (see guidelines & Horse Barn Rules).

**SUGGESTIONS FOR ORGANIZING YOUR GROUP**

The Herdsmanship Contest is a club activity. The leader should act as an advisor in helping the members organize and carry out their work. Leaders should not become a boss and should not do the work for the members.

The rules of the contest should be explained carefully and the importance of each member's part. The club members should decide how they want to tie or pen their animals, what they want to do in the way of a club sign or decorations, and how the feed and equipment should be stored. They should work out a schedule for caring for the animals that will be fair to all members. In most cases each member should feed their own animals and do the cleaning of the pen or stalls. They should do all of the fitting and preparation for show and should be responsible for their own equipment.

**EQUIPMENT**

Club members should put their names on their equipment. Tack ID Cards are available for Identification during Fair week. Members need a place to keep their equipment. Individual tack boxes or a club box is fine. A shallow tray with compartments is good. Records and papers can be secured to the underside of the lid. Those with swine **must** bring a sheet of plywood no larger than 44 inches by 94 inches for flooring in the pens to help prevent rooting.

**STALL CARDS**

Stall cards will be available at division area registration tables. Cards can be obtained in advance at the 4-H Office.

**ANIMALS**

**Clean and Comfortable**

Manure should be removed regularly. Animals should have sufficient bedding to keep them clean and make them comfortable. Refer to the Fairbook for bedding guidelines as per your project area. Freedom from flies and other pests is important. Remove water bucket after animal drinks (except for horses - they need water at all times) to prevent wet bedding. Swine self-watering units are to be maintained to prevent wet pens also.

**Regularly fed and cared for**

The animals should be fed and cared for at regular times. It is especially important that animals be watered regularly and that cows in milk be milked on time. A pen will be available for milking during the fair.
Animals to be Securely and Safely Tied or Penned

This is a must! Animals should be securely penned or tied at all times. Cattle should be tied short and low or cross-tied. Animals with horns should be tied so that they cannot hook another animal. All beef and dairy cattle are required to have a neck rope in addition to a halter. Dairy cattle should be grouped at one end of the club display. Horses should not be haltered, but a halter and lead should be hung outside the stall. Swine pens are to be securely wired. Pen gates are to be tied top and bottom.

BARNS

Alleys, stalls and pens should be cleaned regularly. Alleys are to be neat and orderly, stalls and pens well bedded. The use of excessive bedding should be discouraged.

Feed and Equipment - Grain should be stored so an animal cannot get to it if one should get loose. Equipment such as forks should be hung or placed where there is no danger of injury. Club members will be required to provide their own feed buckets, water buckets, trough, feed and other equipment. Such equipment should be kept clean and neat. Tack boxes are desirable and should be kept neat. Sweeping that causes excessive dust, is strongly discouraged.

CLUB MEMBERS

Appearance - Club members should appear neat and clean. Hands and faces should be clean, hair combed and clothes reasonably clean. Clothes should be suitable for wear at a livestock show. No sandals or open-toed shoes in barns or when handling livestock. Boots are to be worn when in the stall with a horse or when working with a horse.

Cooperation - Club members should learn to work together and to help each other do a better job. Cooperation with their leaders, the Fair Management, and with other clubs are all important.

Courtesy, Conduct and Friendliness - Club members should be courteous to each other and to all others. Their manner of speech and general conduct should be a credit to 4-H Club Work. They should be friendly and ready to tell Fair visitors about their animals and 4-H projects.

All Work Done By Club Members - There is great potential for learning if club members do their own work. If a club member needs help grooming an animal, the parent or leader might hold the animal, but the club members should do the work of fitting. (Club members should complete fitting and clipping prior to arriving at Fair.)

BASIS FOR SCORING 4-H HERDSMANSHP CONTEST

Club members.................................................20
   Appearance
   Cooperation, courtesy, conduct, friendliness
   All work done by appropriate age club members

Animals......................................................40
   Clean and comfortable
   Regularly fed and cared for
   Securely and safely tied or penned

Barns..........................................................40
   Alleys, stalls, pens
   Feed and equipment
   Stall cards

POSSIBLE SCORE.........................................100