



## “JACKPOT SHOWS” Explained

By Randy Williams, Lincoln/East Adams 4-H Program Coordinator

Many of you may not be aware of Jackpot Shows for Youth Livestock Exhibitors. Typically, Jackpot Shows are a one day event open to ALL youth in different age brackets. 4-H and FFA members who are preparing their animals for County or State Fair can utilize these shows as a way to gain more experience in preparing, fitting and showing a steer, hog, lamb or goat. Livestock enthusiasts who organize a Jackpot Show secure the show facility, seek sponsorship money from local businesses, advertise, and distribute entry forms. For most jackpot organizers, a highly qualified judge is critical to the success of the show; an individual who is knowledgeable, can relate to kids, and is talented on the microphone is paramount.

Shows will charge an entry fee (typically around \$30-\$40/head) that will be used to pay the judge, cover show costs (facility rental etc.) and pay back out to exhibitors. This “payout” is based on their placing in class or by being selected Grand Champion or Reserve Champion in their division.

The following would be an **EXAMPLE** of a **typical** set of rules:

1. Classes are open to all junior, intermediate, and senior 4H and junior and senior FFA exhibitors.
2. The entry fee is \$40.00 per head. Entry fee doubles after entry deadline.
3. **ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED PRIOR TO OR AT THE SHOW.**
4. There will be **NO** refunds on entries.
5. All exhibitors must show their own animals, except when more than one entry is exhibited at one time. In this case, another exhibitor may help.
6. Any exception to the entry rules must be approved by the Show Committee. The Show Committee reserves the right to make any changes or exceptions necessary for the betterment of the Jackpot Show. All committee decisions are final.
7. Entry in Showmanship is mandatory fee is \$5. Showmanship contestants must show in the Jackpot show. Fitting is not required in showmanship classes.
8. Exhibitors are responsible for getting their animals to the ring on time.
9. Steers will be classified as follows:  
**ENGLISH:** Must be purebred Angus, Shorthorn, Hereford or Red Angus  
**In accordance with CJLA rules, Registration Certificates are required and must be checked in the office prior to weighing**  
**ALL OTHER COLOR** - for all breeds or crossbreds which are predominantly red, white, or any other non-black color.  
**BLACK** - for all breeds or crossbreds which are black in color or have any black marking.  
ANY QUESTION about the proper color classification for a steer will be settled at weigh-in by the Jackpot Committee.
10. Each steer or market heifer must be entered in the name of a specific exhibitor.

11. Classes will be broken by weight. Divisions will be as follows:

**PROSPECT STEERS - UNDER 900 POUNDS**

PROSPECT ENGLISH

PROSPECT ALL OTHER COLOR

PROSPECT BLACK

GRAND CHAMP & RESERVE PROSPECT STEER

**PROGRESS STEERS - 900 POUNDS AND OVER**

PROGRESS ENGLISH

PROGRESS ALL OTHER COLOR

PROGRESS BLACK

GRAND CHAMP & RESERVE PROGRESS STEER

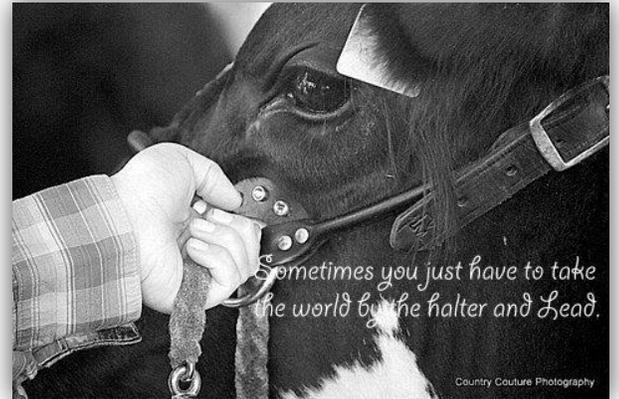


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By participating, exhibitors have the opportunity to observe other showman and practice the latest in show and fitting techniques. Many times educational clinics are offered by industry professionals on animal nutrition and feeding. Animal care, managing, and animal preparation are also common topics.

Also by participating in such events, youth are really developing their skills because they are taking advantage of the opportunity to show more than one or two times per year. This generally provides a huge advantage because of this experience. In fact, at the recent Spokane Junior Livestock held last week, I discovered that all Beef Showmanship Champions were kids who had participated in multiple jackpot or junior breed association local, regional and national shows!

Because of the aforementioned reasons I encourage all livestock youth to consider participating in a "Jackpot" show or other opportunities to practice showmanship skills. Watch for a future article on bio-security (safe management practices) when bringing animals back home from contact with other animals and facilities.

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Reference to specific Jackpot events is provided for informational purposes only. No endorsement of the named jackpot/prospect show is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar shows not mentioned. There are many other Jackpot and open events like the Wheatland Jackpot Show that may provide valuable experiences for youth. Please be aware that the WSU 4-H youth development program may not be the sponsor of some of these events and is not responsible for any of the activities or outcomes associated with the non 4-H sponsored shows.

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities and special needs should be made to the Extension Office at least 10 days prior to events. 509-659-3209