

Tom Swain Memorial Showmanship

By Laws and Rules

- 1.** The committee shall consist of Joyce (Swain) Kisner or her delegated representative (current- Joyce Holtkamp), Hirt family representative (current- Heather Hirt Koors), Kendall family representative (current – N/A), Steve Gunn, and 4H project leaders of participating species. Vacancies to the committee shall be appointed by and approved by the committee. The chairperson of the committee shall be appointed by the committee members with the approval of Joyce Kisner (or her successor Ryan Kisner). A summary of the meetings will be given to Joyce Kisner via email or phone call.
- 2.** Eligible showman will be the first and second place members of the expert showmanship class of 4-H beef, 4-H swine, 4-H sheep, 4-H dairy and 4-H goats, with the only exception to this rule being 4-H Goats representatives will be the first place Dairy Goat showman and first place Meat Goat showman. No other species shall ever be added. If a currently participating species becomes so small that there are not enough animals of that species at the fair to provide each with an animal for the contest, it will be eliminated until enough animals are available.
- 3.** In the event that either of the two 4-Hers do not elect to enter the contest, after the expert showmanship list is exhausted for the species, the reserve senior showman of that species will be selected to participate in the contest. The selection of the contestants will go no further than the reserve senior showman, and the contest will be conducted with the available contestants. All expert showman will be placed in ranking order.
- 4.** The project leaders of each species will be responsible to see that 10 animals are available for the contest. Animals to be selected by Project Leaders for use in the Tom Swain Contest should be decided upon after seeing how they perform in the ring during their individual 4H shows. Project Leaders must keep animals selected to be used confidential and not release this information to the animal's owner or family until 24 Hours prior to start of show. It must also be stated to the animal's owners that this animal's selection to be used in the Tom Swain Contest is to be kept confidential until the contest begins.
- 5.** Contestants will not know which animal they are showing in the contest until immediately prior to entering the show ring. Project Leaders will randomly assign numbers to 10 animals they select for Tom Swain competition with 2 alternates designated in case one of the original 10 animals is unable to be shown. This list of animals with the numbers assigned by Project Leaders will be turned in by 5 PM on show day to the Tom Swain committee. Contestants will draw a number prior to showing each species during the contest and be provided with a notecard that includes brief animal information (i.e. Breed, Sex, Birthdate or Weight, and 1 Tip from animal owner) before entering the ring with the animal. Contestants will not be permitted to ask for any additional information of the animal owner. If a contestant selects their own animal (or that of their siblings or any animal that has resided on their home farm), they will be required to re-draw a new number. If the judges opt to switch animals during the contest and a contestant receives

their own animal in this manner, this is beyond the Tom Swain committees' control and will be allowed if it occurs.

6. During the contest, the only individuals allowed to be in the show make up area will be Tom Swain Contestants, members of the Tom Swain Livestock Committee, and 1 owner of the animal being used for the Tom Swain contest that is the next species to be shown during the contest. Contestants will be provided with water and items they need to show the next species in the Make Up area and should ask for assistance from a Tom Swain Committee Member if they need something prior to going into the ring.

7. There will be at least one, and no more than two judges. They will judge all species. The judges will be chosen by the 4-H youth educator and paid for by the 4-H Council. The same judges will not be used in back-to-back contests. Comments and reasons may be given at the discretion of the judges. If comments and reasons are to be made, they will not be given after each species. They will be given after the contest is completed or not given at all. Only a Grand champion and a reserve. Grand champion will be selected by the judge(s). No other placings will be given. The judges will announce the grand champion and the reserve grand champion.

8. The show order each year will rotate from the bottom up. The first species from the year before will be last, the second will be first, the third species will be second, fourth will be third and so on.

9. A fund has been established by Joyce Kisner in 2011. Contributions may be made to this fund at any time by anyone. Contributions will be accepted at First Federal Savings and Loan. Joyce M Holtkamp will be responsible for the Tom Swain Memorial fund with Heather Koors acting as secondary account representative. All the awards to be given must be approved by the majority of the Tom Swain committee. All 10 contestants will receive recognition and a gift.

10. A member of the committee shall be delegated to update rules, if needed, in the fair book each year. A short biography of Tom Swain, and a picture shall be in the fair book each year. Any changes deemed necessary in the future must have majority approval of the committee members. These rules and bylaws replace any previous ones. These bylaws are effective May 12, 2025.

Submitted by Heather Koors and Joyce Holtkamp.