

Live Stock Classifications and Premium Money.

For the purpose of arriving at some definite facts concerning the success of State Fairs, the following figures have been made up showing the relative amounts of money offered by the State Fairs named in the following list which includes one breed each of horses, cattle, sheep and swine.

	Percheron Horses	Hereford Cattle	Shropshire Sheep	Poland China Hogs
Iowa	\$769	\$1,349	\$178	\$558
Virginia	260	615	176	250
North Carolina..	160	150	87	91

A glance at this table will show why some fairs are making a continued success and why others fail to arouse interest, and it is not the intention to state that the failure is at all times the direct fault of the management. The State Fair of North Carolina, for example, is offering on all classes of live stock \$3,281, and on speed horses, \$3,500. This condition evidently should not exist. Speed horses may be a part of the program, but by all means the apportionment should be altered. The figures given in the foregoing table for the Iowa State Fair amount on only four breeds to slightly less than the total amount offered on all live stock at the North Carolina State Fair. These four breeds mentioned are taken from the fifty odd breeds and classes on which money is offered on live stock at this fair is about \$33,000, while in the speed department it amounts to about \$11,400.

A County Comparison.

The County Fair of Mecklenburg is offering \$2,100 on all classes of live stock which is two-thirds of the total offered by the North Carolina State Fair on all classes of live stock. Taking the average amount of money offered \$715 on each class of live stock at the Iowa State Fair, it would require in North Carolina \$21,450 to give classes for thirty different breeds and groups. The writer has based these figures on breeds which are actually adapted to Southern conditions. If all breeds were classed such as provision is made for in the larger state fairs, it would require one-half of this amount of money in addition to that required by the thirty breeds. This may seem like an undue sum of money to be offered in premiums but it is necessary to properly and satisfactorily classify live stock in competitive groups. A standard classification for cattle, for example, should have about eighteen classes and on each class there should be at least three prizes offered. Allowing \$15 for first, \$10 for second, and \$5 for third prize, it would require \$540 on each breed of cattle. On this basis only six breeds of cattle could be classed at the North Carolina State Fair under the present arrangement. This would leave as many breeds of cattle unclassified, saying nothing whatever of horses, sheep, and swine.

Live Stock Building and Judging Arena.

A fair should be educational and to properly carry out this idea permanent and well arranged buildings should be provided. The writer is speaking primarily from the live stock point of view, and will suggest a few points whereby this department may be improved. In the first place a permanent building should be erected in the center of which the live stock may be judged. Raised seats should be provided all around the interior of this central judging pavilion whereby spectators and visitors may be comfortably seated and watch each class of stock judged as it comes into the ring. By providing the buildings for the various classes of live stock adjacent to this central building it is very convenient to have each class of stock taken into the central judging ring through openings which are provided on the four sides of the building. The writer suggests that a wing be erected on each of the four sides of the central judging arena. This provision will accommodate horses, cattle, sheep, and swine. In the larger shows and exhibitions the stock is not only classified by a premium number, but each animal is given a number

in the final catalogue. When an animal comes into the ring to be judged the exhibitor wears a large placard, one hanging in front and the other back of the shoulders, each bearing the catalogue number of the animal. Any one in the audience can readily determine from the catalogue just which class is being judged, and after the awards are made the placing of each animal and the owner may readily be determined. Such an arrangement as this provides for the educational feature of the live stock exhibit in which many fairs now fall short.

Further than this, all live stock should be grouped in the buildings according to breed or type. By so doing the animals can be studied either before or after the awards are made. If they are scattered throughout the building this is practically impossible. The English show authorities even go further, requiring that the animals in each class be stalled together. That is, all classes in the Hereford breed, for example, would be grouped together as follows:

- Bull three years old or over.
- Bull two years old and under three.
- Bull one year old and under two.
- Bull under one year, etc.

By arranging the animals in this way the spectator has practically the same advantage in passing over the animals as the judge has in the ring.

Grade and Scrub Sires.

Another idea which should be carried out is the elimination of all scrub and grade sides. There is a place for grade females and grade unsexed males, especially in general utility classes, such as work horses, dairy cattle and beef cows, the latter to be used for the production of feeding cattle, beef steers, etc. One of the best plans for the elimination of undesirable classes and for the much needed improvement in the classification of State and County Fairs would be the installation of a uniform live stock classification by a State and County Fair organization. By so doing many of the undesirable features of judging would be eliminated. The exhibitors and spectators would understand the awards more thoroughly, and most important of all, the best exhibits at the County Fairs would be eligible for competition at the State Fair which should really be a clearing house for all live stock and agricultural exhibits.

How May Our State Fair be Improved?

C. L. Newman, Professor Agriculture A. & M. College.

It should ever be borne in mind that the first object of a State Fair is education and that social and amusement should be secondary and all free from immoral and harmful features.

Comfortable quarters should be provided for visitors from a distance and especially for women and children. A dining-room and lunch stand separate from exhibits and with conveniences for women and children would be an improvement over the present arrangement. Extension of street car facilities for moving the crowd is necessary. This could be secured through a circuit around the grounds or by connecting with the Country Club line. The present entrance is congested and more gates should be provided. Entrances for vehicles should be removed from entrances for those on foot.

The proportion of premiums offered for farm products, pure-bred animals, etc., is too low as compared with premiums offered for horse racing. Is it necessary to encourage horse racing and by offering larger premiums than are offered in any other class?

All exhibits should be classified and exhibited under a logical order of arrangement and not scattered, as has been the case in two or three buildings. The scattering of the exhibits in a class not only seriously interferes with the just award of

premiums, but detracts from the educational benefit of the exhibits.

The congestion of exhibits into too small a space and with inadequate aisles for visitors has seriously detracted from exhibits. This was particularly true of the very creditable corn exhibit. The spaces between the exhibit tables was so narrow that it was awkward for two persons to pass and many went away without seeing the best feature of the farm crop exhibit and but few secured from it any educational value.

All commercial exhibits should be segregated. Definite buildings for the larger divisions of exhibits is an evident need. Each class of agricultural products should have permanent quarters, and sub-classes definite spaces and all constructed so as to exhibit its class to the best advantage. Better and more commodious structures are needed for the live stock and each class should be segregated.

A large covered judging pavilion should be provided. As the fair is now conducted, the educational value of designating the winners of premiums is largely lost. The judging of live stock should be a public feature and in the presence of all who wish to attend.

The exhibition of more farm machinery and machinery of a greater variety should be encouraged and ampler buildings provided.

Gambling and games of chance should be prohibited. Why should fakirs be a part of an agricultural fair? The disposal of sewerage and surface water should be provided for. The closets as they now are, are not only excessively disagreeable, but dangerous to public health. Conditions found at the recent fair should be prohibited by law.

Exhibits should be installed earlier than is the custom. This will enable the visitors to know to which exhibit the premiums go and will develop one of the main educational features of an agricultural fair.

A defect of our State Fair grounds is the absence of a roof large enough to protect all attendants in inclement weather. A large combined auditorium and judging pavilion would to a great extent correct this defect.

There is no order or plan in the arrangement of the present buildings or grounds. The grounds should be laid off by a competent landscape gardener and the buildings located with due attention to permanency, to the beautification of the grounds, to sanitation and to the segregation to the various features and their arrangement so as to afford easy access.

County Fairs throughout the State should be encouraged and made feeders to the State Fair. A county exhibit should be a county exhibit in more than name. Individuals exhibit borrowed and purchased and under the name of "County Exhibit" are given the premium. No county premium should go to an individual but to a county or organization. The county organization should hold the fair before the State Fair is held, and then exhibit at the State Fair the best the County Fair had on exhibition.

The management of our State Fair should keep constantly in mind that the fair is a permanent thing.

Helen Keller in Speech and Song.

Helen Keller who since 1882, when she was nineteen months old has been deaf, dumb, and blind, sometime ago attended the Otological Congress at Harvard Medical School attended by scientists from all over the world, and addressed that body in three languages—English, French, and German. She also sang, many in the audience being moved to tears. Think what this remarkable woman has accomplished in the face of well nigh insuperable difficulties! What boy or girl who can see, hear, and speak, should ever be discouraged in the face of such an example of shining triumph?