PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS: INFLUENCE LODESTAR GUIDANCE BY WEAVER LEATHER LIVESTOCK



WHAT IS INFLUENCE?

Influence is the power to affect, guide and shape the opinions and actions of others without making them feel pressured. It is a way to motivate your fellow showmen toward common goals. Hand-in-hand with sportsmanship in and out of the show ring, influence equips you to leave a legacy that will outlast you, extend your reach, provide you with new opportunities and help you become a better industry leader.

Throughout your show career, you'll come across people who will influence you both positively and negatively. It's important to keep in mind the main components that make up influence while being sure to keep in check things that stand in the way of being an influential person. Check out the following list of Do's and Don'ts of influential people.

BE TRUSTWORTHY: Trust is an extremely important piece of having strong personal character. When people trust you and feel that they are trusted by you, the more likely you are to have an impact in their lives and be looked up to as a role model in the livestock industry.

STAND UP FOR YOURSELF: Standing up for yourself and your ideas openly and honestly are common traits of influential people. When you do so in a positive, non-threatening way while respecting others' opinions, they respect yours in return.

BE RELIABLE: Over time, you can build a reputation of being responsible and reliable as you stick to commitments, follow through on promises, avoid making unreasonable promises, deal with any setbacks faced with your livestock projects, and much more.

DON'T COMPROMISE YOUR MORALS: When you lie, cheat, bend the show rules, break

promises, neglect your chores and more, you prove that you can't be trusted and your influence as someone credible becomes insignificant. Always do what's right rather than compromising your principles.

DON'T HAVE BAD MANNERS: You may not agree with other peoples' routines or way of doing things, but the manner in which you disagree says a lot about your character. And always remember that kindness and a simple "please" or "thank you" go a long way.

DON'T HAVE A BAD ATTITUDE: A bad, cynical attitude will get you nowhere. It's easy to be negative when things don't go your way in the ring or you don't feel like working with your animals. Keeping a good, positive attitude is your chance to see the silver lining of your hard work.

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