

PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS: DILIGENCE

PERSISTENTLY GIVING MY BEST EFFORT TO COMPLETE A TASK.

HOW WILL BEING DILIGENT BENEFIT MY TIME SHOWING LIVESTOCK?

The natural tendency for many people is to avoid diligence because it implies work. However, without putting in the necessary time and effort into your livestock projects, your end results will be far less rewarding. There are many benefits to being diligent. Among others, it can help you improve each time you step in the ring, allow younger showmen to look up to you as a role model and give you a sense of pride in all you accomplish with your project.

In the April/May issue of Showtimes, you read about Paul Weaver and his commitment to leadership and the value he places on developing the leaders of tomorrow. Weaver Leather Livestock is proud to present the series “Principles for Success: Lodestar Guidance” to livestock showmen everywhere. Throughout this series, you will learn about various principles, what they mean and how to apply them to showing your livestock animals.

Ready to get started? In this issue, let’s focus on **DILIGENCE**.

OTHER WORDS FOR DILIGENCE

If you are a diligent person, your mind is decisive, your actions are intentional and a job well done is your highest priority.

THE OPPOSITE OF DILIGENCE

Neglect, laziness and carelessness are the opposite of diligence and when practiced will be roadblocks to your success.

SO WHAT EXACTLY IS DILIGENCE ANYWAY?

Diligence means always giving your best effort to complete a task. When you practice diligence, you spend your time and effort in a willing, consistent manner to successfully set and accomplish your goals as you see your project through in its entirety.

Selecting your animal is just the beginning of a project that will have many ups and downs. First comes halter breaking your calf and learning about the proper nutrition. Then comes the daily care... rinsing or washing, conditioning, blowing...repeat. Let’s not forget about working with your calf every day, teaching it to lead and set its feet properly and more...all while honing your own showmanship skills. It all seems like so much work, right?

If you commit to being diligent, you can achieve your goals. Do you want to learn how to clip your calf better? Place first in your breed class at the State Fair? Win champion steer? Simply place higher than you did last year? Whatever your goals may be, every time you learn something and face things head on, you are successful.

On the path to this success, however, it’s easy to experience some common pitfalls to diligence.

COMMON ENEMIES OF DILIGENCE:

Distraction. As a young person growing up in the livestock world, there are lots of distractions that can pull attention away from your project. Sports, homework, school dances, summer activities...the list goes on. It is important to learn how to prioritize and balance all of these things that are important to you so you can still find time to focus on your animals, too.

Procrastination. Once school is out for the summer, it’s easy to say, “I can’t wait to sleep in” or “I want to catch up on my favorite TV shows.” When you do this, you are losing valuable time with your calf – time that can make or break how well you do at your next show. As the saying goes, why put off until tomorrow what you can do today?

Have you ever seen someone who waits until a month or two before the show to work with his or her calf? How well does that person typically do at the show?

Comfort. The choices that make life easier and more comfortable tomorrow generally require choosing a bit of discomfort today. When raising livestock, there may be some things you like doing more than others. But when you are diligent and challenge yourself to step out of your comfort zone, you open yourself up to new opportunities.

Consider this quote, “If you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you always got.” When you get comfortable, you don’t challenge yourself to become better. With your calf, try something new...a new technique, a new product, a new feed. Maybe it works. Maybe it doesn’t. At least you were diligent about expanding your knowledge.

HOW DO I AVOID THESE PITFALLS?

Mind. To succeed in your goals, you must think ahead and choose the right actions that will produce the desired results. You must make a deliberate and intelligent choice. What are the steps I need to take to train my calf to lead? How often do I need to do these?

Motives. Diligence can also be called “joyful persistence”. It requires your heart to willingly choose to complete the task for its own satisfaction. If you don’t have the heart to put in the hours upon hours of necessary work, it will be hard to find joy in showing your calf.

Actions. With your calf or other livestock projects, being diligent means hard work, long work, determined work and, ultimately, rewarding work. Sure, the daily hair care routine on your calf can seem tedious. However, if you are committed to whatever it takes for as long as it takes to complete the process each day, you can reap the benefits of your hard work.



BY WEAVER LEATHER LIVESTOCK



how
DO YOU
demonstrate
DILIGENCE with YOUR
livestock animals

We want to know! Visit Weaver Leather Livestock at [facebook.com/thewinnersbrand](https://www.facebook.com/thewinnersbrand) and look for Principles for Success on our Timeline or in the apps. Click on the link and tell us the way or ways you show **DILIGENCE** when it comes to your cattle, sheep, goat or pig projects. By participating, you will be entered in a random drawing for a Weaver Leather Livestock prize package!

The random prize package winner and his/her **DILIGENCE** example will also be featured in the next issue of Showtimes Magazine. So, be sure to look for the **PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS** feature in each issue of Showtimes Magazine to learn about a new Lodestar Guidance Principle, what people are saying about it and, most importantly, for the opportunity to inspire, and be inspired, by your fellow showmen!

After all, winning isn’t just about the banner, it’s how you get there.

NOW IT’S YOUR TURN:

Do you consider yourself a diligent person? Are there ways you can improve on this principle? Consider the following questions then take a moment to rate yourself.

1. With my animals, when has it been difficult for me to be diligent? What is my biggest enemy to practicing diligence?
2. Is it harder for me to start a task or to finish it? What can I do about that?
3. How can I encourage diligence among my fellow showmen since it involves their own heads (personal choice), hearts (willing choice) and hands (hard, consistent effort)?

ASSESS YOURSELF: AM I DILIGENT?

Evaluate yourself from 1-5 (1 being least diligent and 5 being most diligent)

I think ahead and willingly choose the actions that will product the results I want with my animal.	1	2	3	4	5
I always do my best and strive for excellence.	1	2	3	4	5
I check facts and options carefully and pay attention to details to avoid mistakes.	1	2	3	4	5
I don't give up when things are difficult or not going well with my animal.	1	2	3	4	5
I do not procrastinate and start my tasks promptly, working carefully and persistently until they are completed.	1	2	3	4	5

IN ANY AREA WHERE YOU SCORED LESS THAN 5,
WHAT ARE SOME WAYS YOU CAN INCREASE YOUR DILIGENCE?