

PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS:

# DILIGENCE

LODESTAR GUIDANCE BY WEAVER LEATHER LIVESTOCK



## WHAT IS DILIGENCE?

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.

Check out the following list of do's and don'ts of diligent people.

**BE INTENTIONAL:** 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?

**TAKE ACTION:** 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.

**STAY MOTIVATED:** 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.



**DON'T LOSE FOCUS:** 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.

**DON'T PROCRASTINATE:** 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?

**DON'T GET COMFORTABLE:** 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.

**LEARN:** [www.lodestar-guidance.com](http://www.lodestar-guidance.com)

**SHARE:** #morethanthebanner and #diligence

