



By Sandra Matheson



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## Showing Yaks at the National Western Stock Show

You may have visited the National Western Stock Show in the past and maybe you've shown yaks at another show. Now you would like to enter your animals in the Yak Show at NWSS, but how do you go about doing that? The show seems to be kind of big, chaotic and maybe overwhelming.

Sure, but it's also exciting, stimulating, educational and rewarding. Meeting other owners and breeders and learning how they do things can make for a great experience.

Your friends at the International Yak Association (IYAK) have put together this Q & A to help make your first show less stressful and more enjoyable.



# Signing Up

If you are thinking of bringing your yaks to the NWSS, there are a few things you need to consider well before the show itself. Any IYAK member may show yaks at the show but they must be NAYR Foundation or Appendix registered and have a clean bill of health from a vet. Fall is the time to make your plans.

## What does it cost to enter an animal in the Yak Show?

There is a pen fee for every animal and entry fee for each judging class entered. The fees are \$45/pen and \$10 per judging class. So two yaks entered in two classes of judging would be:  $\$90 + \$40 = \$130$

## How do I sign up?

IYAK will post an online form on December 20. Each animal you want to show will require an individual form because there is a lot of information needed such as age class, judging and animal identification.

## What are the criteria for bringing animals?

Yaks must be in good health and registered with IYAK as Foundation or Appendix. All registration applications must be in by Nov. 20th for new Appendix and Foundation animals. Yaks must have all the necessary certificates of veterinary inspection transportation papers on hand to enter Colorado and the stock show. It is important also to have all the health requirements done to be transported to another state from Denver if the animal is sold at the stock show—states vary and this could be a huge problem if not addressed up front.

## Can a yak be grand champion without entering the halter show?

Yes, it can be the grand champion of the pen show or the fiber show

## Where can I stay during the show?

IYAK books a block of rooms at the Embassy Suites. We will announce the open reservations in October. Reservations will officially open November 15th. Make your reservation early because the hotel releases unused rooms after our deadline of December 20th. The block of rooms is usually available in early December. There is a shuttle from the hotel to the Stock Show.

Embassy Suites Hotel by Hilton Denver Stapleton  
4444 Havana St, Denver, CO 80239  
(303) 375-0400



# Getting Ready

As with any trip getting ready before-hand makes the whole thing go a lot easier. When you are traveling with large wooly friends that is doubly true.

## What are the health requirements?

The health certificate requirements vary from state to state. Have your vet call to get the requirements for entry to Colorado from your state. The Colorado Veterinarians Office can be reached at (303) 869-9130. The stock show also has some of their own requirements including a BVD test which can take a few days to get done. Don't wait until the last minute to get your health papers. Some states require two sets of tests 60 days apart so it is important to understand what is required ASAP.

## I see some people have tarps around their pen. Did they bring those?

Yes, they brought their own. Having a lot of strange animals and people around can be stressful to your animals. By blocking their view of these distractions you can help them remain calm. The only thing provided at the stock show is the pen. Anything extra such as tents, tarps, ranch banner, buckets, feed pans, water hose you will need to bring. Rakes, shovels and brooms are useful too.

## Does the fee cover feed?

Feed is not included in the entry fees or pen fees. Feed and straw for bedding can only be purchased from the Stock Show Feed Office. They will deliver it to your pen. The Stock Show does NOT allow us to bring our own hay, but you may bring your own grain.



By Peggy Lawless



# Arriving at the Stock Show

This is probably the most stressful part of your journey, but it doesn't have to be. Plan your route and be patient. Thousands of people have brought stock trailers full of animals to the stock show over the years and every mistake that could possibly be made has been made. You will find most people to be very helpful.

## How do I get there?

Since you will be traveling with a trailer you will want to be familiar with your route before you hit the Denver area. The yak unloading and pen area is on the **West** side of the grounds.

### *From the west*

- 🚗 Exit I-70 on Washington Avenue and turn left at the bottom of the ramp.
- 🚗 Go under the freeway and then turn right on 47th Avenue
- 🚗 Turn left on National Western Drive. The unloading area will be on your right about mid-way down the pens.

### *From the East*

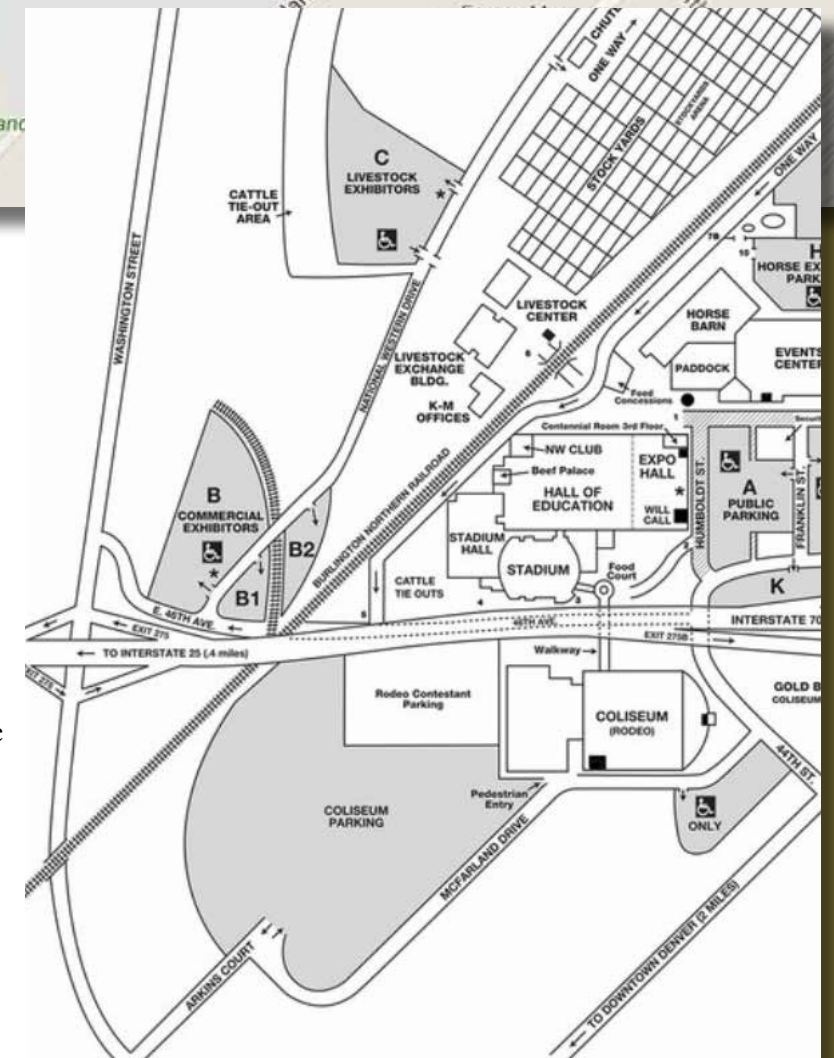
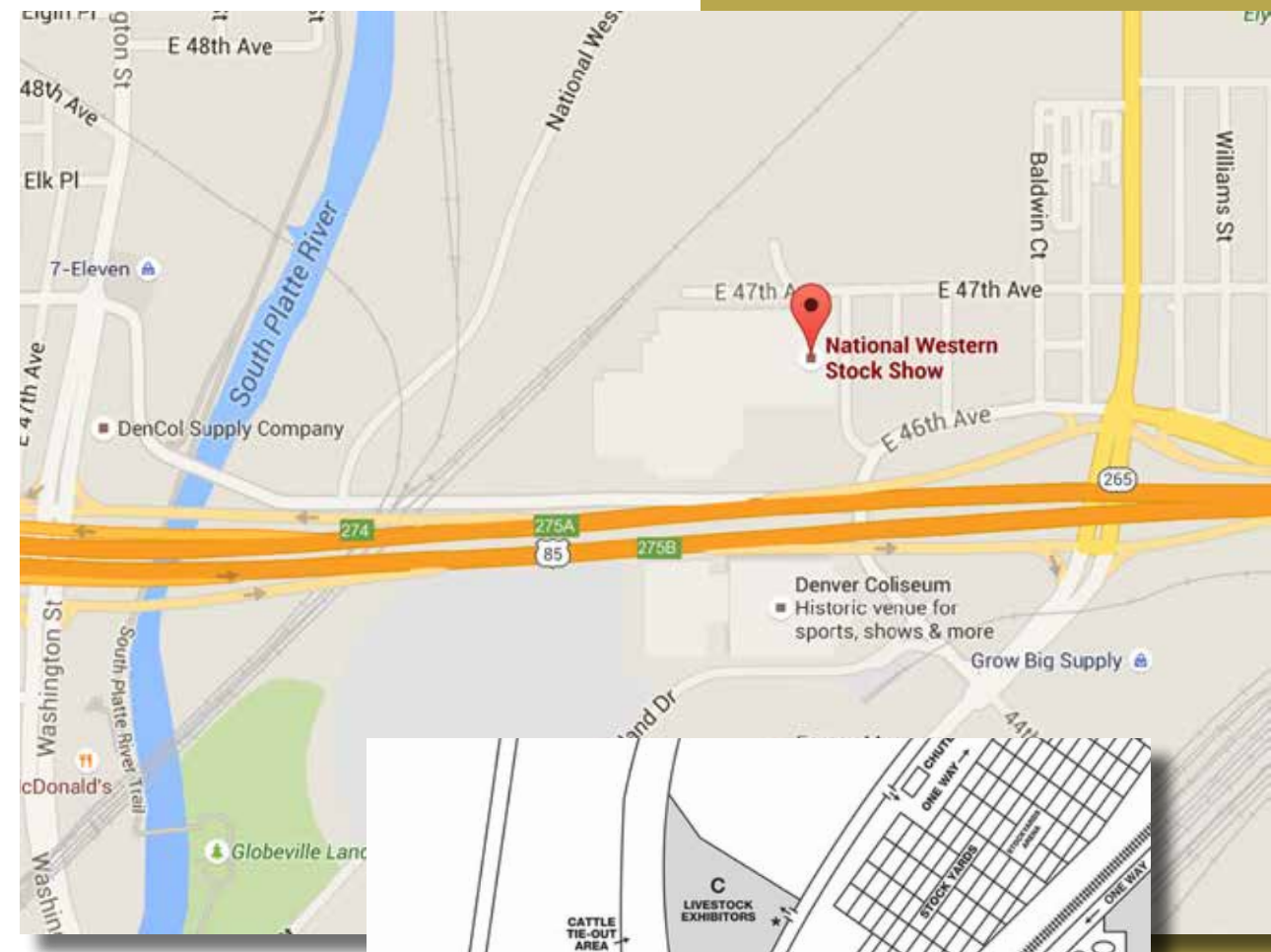
- 🚗 Exit I-70 on Washington Avenue and turn right at the bottom of the ramp.
- 🚗 Turn right on 47th Avenue
- 🚗 Turn left on National Western Drive. The unloading area will be on your right about mid-way down the pens.

## When do I unload animals? Is there a time better than others? Who do I have to check in with?

We ask that show participants unload their animals between noon and 3 p.m. on Wednesday. IYAK check-in begins at noon. Earlier than that and the previous animals may not be out and pens cleaned. You may check in with IYAK at the yak pens. If you need assistance loading or unloading look for IYAK volunteers in vests to help or ask at the IYAK tent. The NWSS does not allow unloading after dark.

## How do I find my pen?

You can leave your trailer with animals and go find the yak pens. We are generally in the middle of the pens and just East of the catwalk. Look for an IYAK banner. We will have someone to show you where your pen is.





# Arriving at the Stock Show

**Where do I get my exhibitor badge?**

Pick up your exhibitor badge at the show office in the same building as the feed office. IYAK has a limited number of badges that we let everyone borrow to see the rest of the show.

**How do I get my yaks to the pen if I don't have help and the yaks are not halter trained?**

The person who helped you find your pen can find some fellow IYAK members to assist you. Most everyone is very willing to help. There are a series of alleyways that can be closed and opened as needed.

**What do I do with my trailer?**

After you get your animals to the pen you need to move your trailer. NWSS has a trailer parking area for a fee. If you are staying with other IYAK folks at the Embassy Suites there is a parking lot next door at a mattress factory and we have been able to park trailers there. Bring a trailer lock.

**Do I need to check in with a vet?**

You do need to check-in with all your paperwork before you unload. The trailer is right by the unloading station and there are NWSS personnel that will direct you to where you need to go. At load-out you will have to go to show office and get paperwork to get your animals out. It gets busy in the office so don't wait until the last minute. You can get your load-out papers as early as Friday.

**How do I get hay and straw?**

Go to the feed office at the brick building and order it. Hay has to be paid for in advance.

**My yaks sometimes poop. How do I get rid of manure?**

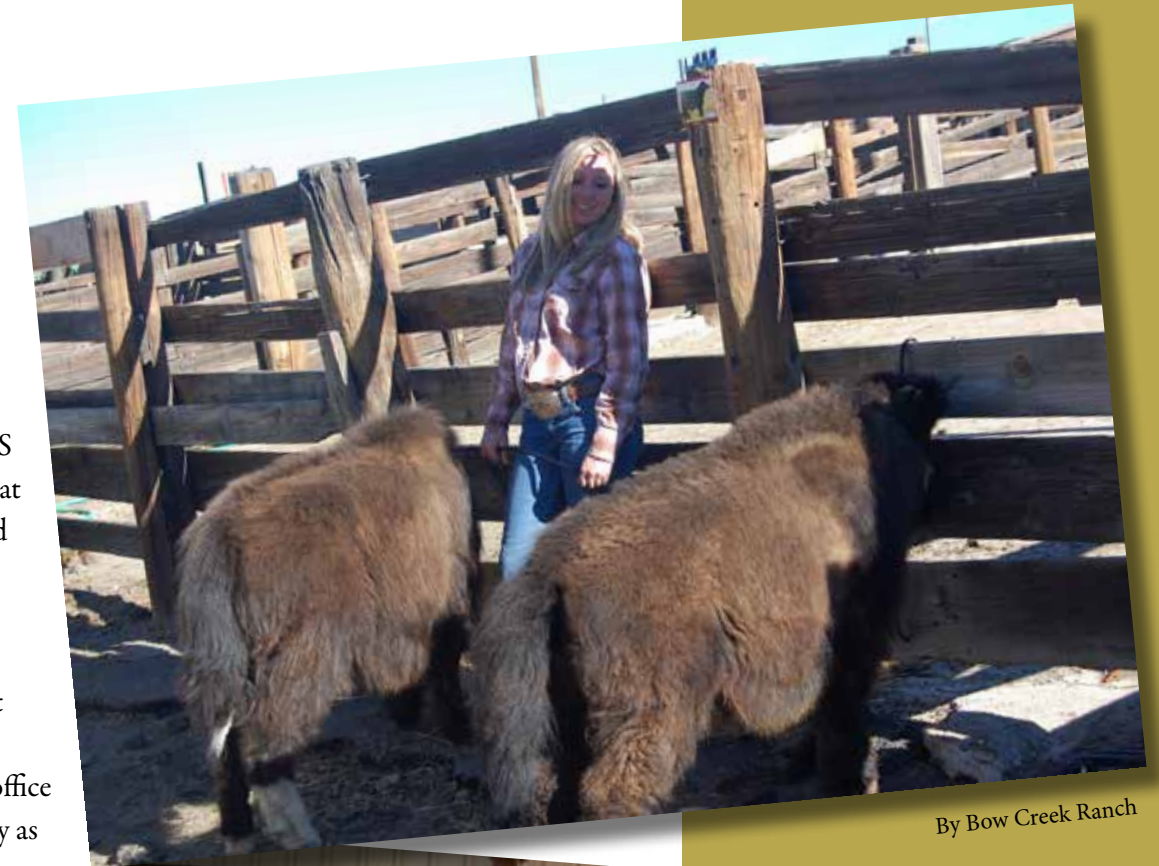
No real good way to deal with this, you will want to keep the middle of pen as clean as possible and pick a spot in or around the edge of your pen to pile manure.

**If I need extra panels for my animals how do I get them?**

You have to order panel gates from the stock show office if you don't bring your own. They will deliver the panels. You can call the office in advance, let them know when you are arriving, and pay by credit card.

**What are the instructions for animals getting judged?**

You will receive an information packet at check-in. Halter show numbers will be included along with instructions for judged animals. There will be a judging orientation meeting at 4pm on Wednesday at the IYAK tent. It is very important that show participants attend.



By Bow Creek Ranch



By Bow Creek Ranch



## When do I remove my animals and what is the procedure?

## What is the procedure if I sell a yak at the show?

[illegible]

# See You in January!