

## Animal attractions



There is plenty of livestock to see and learn about at Suffolk Show.

Picture: SAA

## Livestock

A visit to Suffolk Show is not complete without seeing the many different breeds of livestock and horses taking part in the event. The show attracts more than 3,000 equine and livestock entries, from sheep and goats, to pigs and all breeds of cattle. For all animal lovers, a visit to the cattle lines and a walk around the sheep and pig pens is a must. Talk to the owners and breeders and you'll discover how showing livestock is a real labour of love. Exhibitors will have been up before dawn to get ready and will have travelled miles across the country to exhibit. Many are the third and fourth generation of a family, so there are wonderful stories to tell of show's past too.

The Suffolk Show proudly keeps its livestock right at the heart of the show, so all visitors have a chance to see them in all their finery.

Over 70 livestock and equine judges, all specialists in particular breeds, travel from all over the country to judge. While their expenses are met, they are un-paid - they do it simply because they are passionate about the animals.

There are over 300 equine and farriery classes too. With seven show jumping classes giving a total of over £20,000 in prize money, visitors will see some of the highest quality show jumping in the Grand Ring during the show's two days.

During the show, various shoeing competitions take place at the Richard Gowing Farriery Centre. This is a real skill and craft, and it takes many years of training to qualify. Watch the farriers carry



out this fascinating work and learn how they know what size of shoe to make and how they do it!

There are also over 200 heavy horse entries in turnouts - pairs, teams, ridden and in-hand classes - which will be a really impressive sight, one rarely seen in such numbers at any other show. The Suffolk Agricultural Association is also proud to be supporting the Suffolk Punch

breed with a new heavy horse area and Suffolk Punch live demonstration area where show visitors can learn more about the majestic breed up close.

There are over 400 competitive classes for livestock, including the South Devon National Show, which the show is delighted to be hosting this year, with support from competitors from all over the country.