

# DUSTING FEATHER

*By Kim Murchison*

Preparing feather for show is often a question that many of us get asked. Here is how we prep feather on show day:

1. Wash feather: I often mix a bucket of diluted soapy water. First hose down the feather, sponge on soapy water and then apply a bluing shampoo. Make sure you rinse in a timely fashion so you have white feather and not purple feather!
2. Place horse on the canvas tarp with your mixture of dusting sawdust. Start at the knee or below the hock and pull dust down through feather. Never pull up - you want a nice flat look. Some excess will stay. Run over feather until feather is almost dry to the touch. Run your fingers through again to take out any excess before going in the show ring.
3. We use the product to:
  - 1) Help dry and condition the feather on show day
  - 2) If the horse messes, this provides protection against stains and issues before showing.

How to make:

- 1/4 bag sunflower dust (can get from Shiphewana Harness)
- 1 box corn starch
- 1 medium size bottle baby powder. Then mix all together.
- 1 canvas tarp at least 4 feet square
- 1 plastic container to store tarp and product



You can reuse this product if you use it on the canvas tarp- this allows it to dry after use as some moisture will stay. Buy a plastic container, and after the product is dry, store it in the container for shipping and storage. If it is not dry, it will mold. Fold the tarp around the product when done to make an envelope to store and hold it together.