

IAFE (INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS)

NATIONAL CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show.

All youth leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors.

ETHICS

Nebraska 4-H Livestock Programs strive to create an atmosphere that encourages good character, accountability and ethical decision making. The International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) National Code of Show Ring Ethics outlines a number of specific guidelines for all exhibitors and others involved with 4-H livestock projects. In summary, these guidelines expect the following:

Exhibitors: Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Exhibitors' conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show. In addition to the "IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics," fairs and livestock shows may have rules and regulations which they impose on the local, county, state, provincial and national levels.

Youth Leaders: All youth leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Parents, owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit awards and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective fairs and livestock shows. Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from further competition.

The following is a list of guidelines for all exhibitors and all livestock in competitive events:

1. All exhibitors must present, upon request of fair and livestock show officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited.
 2. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by fair or livestock show officials.
 3. Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at fairs or livestock shows.
 4. Animals shall be presented to show events where they will enter the food chain free of violative drug residues. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer and/or absolutely responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Animals not entered in an event which culminates with the animal entering the food chain shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event.
- ▶ If the laboratory report on the analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from livestock indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medication, this shall be prima facie evidence such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally. It is presumed that the sample of urine, saliva, blood, or other substance tested by the laboratory to which it is sent is the one taken from the animal in question, its integrity is preserved and all procedures of said collection and preservation, transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample are correct and accurate and the report received from the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden on the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to prove otherwise.
 - ▶ At any time after an animal arrives on the fair or livestock show premises, all treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

5. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counter-irritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, conformation, or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
6. INHUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS: Abuse of animals in any form will not be allowed. No electric prods or muzzles will be allowed to be used on any animal at any time. Any violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification with no recourse.
7. The act of artificially filling of animals internally, which includes stomach pumping, drench tubes or any other method per os (by esophagus), is prohibited.
8. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of the official duty, all judges, fair and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.
9. No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of ethics. Violation of this rule shall subject such individual to disciplinary action.
10. The application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or participant whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this code of ethics.
11. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to have disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show for violation of this Code of Show Ring Ethics and any other rules of competition of the fair or livestock show without recourse against the fair or livestock show. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent that any proceedings or disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show may be published with the name of the violator or violators in any publication of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, including Fairs and Expositions and any special notices to members.
12. The act of entering of an animal in a fair or livestock show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions prohibited by the code. It is further a consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state, or provincial statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR ANIMALS EXHIBITED

- Under no circumstances may animals under quarantine be exhibited.
- Only animals not showing signs of infectious or contagious diseases will be allowed to show.
- Policy on Ringworm, Warts, and Abscesses:
 1. Animals that have active ringworm, visible warts, or abscesses, will not be allowed entry into the Boone County Fair for exhibition.
 2. The inspecting veterinarian may judge the ringworm to be inactive if the lesion is not encrusted and hair has begun regrowth in the area.
 3. Animals with warts that are visible by a hands-off inspection will not be allowed to remain on the premises.
 4. Animals that have visible abscesses will not be allowed to exhibit and will not be allowed to remain on the premises.
- All sheep and goats being exhibited, need to be individually identified with USDA Official ID. This applies to both market ewes and breeding ewes, regardless of age.
- To exhibit non-terminal swine:
 1. Have a negative Pseudorabies test conducted within 30 days prior to exhibition; OR
 2. Originate from a Qualified Pseudorabies free herd; and
 3. Be individually identified with USDA official identification.
 4. After exhibition, the Boone County Fair recommends that exhibited swine should be kept separate and apart from all other swine and retested negative in not less than 30 days following last exhibition, or shipped directly to slaughter.
- YOUTH FOR QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS (YQCA) TRAINING - All exhibitors in beef, dairy cattle, meat goat, dairy goats, sheep, swine, rabbits or poultry must have received YQCA training or testing through a Nebraska Extension based program prior to the county fair. Program attendance or completion of on-line test is required. Completion of training will be certified by county extension staff.

4-H/FFA COUNTY FAIR EXHIBITOR POLICIES

- **GROOMING OF LIVESTOCK** - This grooming rule includes ALL beef, swine, sheep, goats and dairy animals (showmanship, market, feeder, and breeding).
- 1. The only people allowed to clip, groom, brush and comb 4-H/FFA cattle, hogs, sheep and goats at the Boone County Fair are Boone County 4-H livestock exhibitors and exhibitors' family (parents/guardian, siblings, aunt/uncle, 1st cousins, etc.). **If anyone is caught violating this, they will be stripped of the award and the right to go to the premium sale. The Policy Committee has the final say in this.**
- 2. **Friends and family members ARE allowed to help with any and all daily chores EXCEPT clipping and grooming.**
- 3. **BLOW & GO:** All beef, swine, sheep, and goats (showmanship, market, feeder, and breeding) will be shown Blow & Go. Animals may be clipped, blown, brushed or combed to enhance their appearance. Guidelines for the Blow & Go show:
 - All animals will be shown free of any adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products.
 - Any compounds that have adhesive qualities that when applied cannot be combed or brushed through, or alter the color of the animal are forbidden. These products include, but are not limited to commonly used adhesives and colorants such as Prime Time, EZ Comb, Tail Adhesive, Natural Hold, Ultra White Touch-Up, Black Touch Up, Black Finisher, black show foam, and baby powder.
 - Alcohol, water, oil, foam or any water or alcohol-based products with no adhesives or glue qualities, or Artificial colorings are permitted. These products include conditioners and commonly used sprays such as Kleen Sheen, Revive, Final Bloom, Pink Oil, white show foam, Freshen Up, Silk, and Sudden Impact.
- 4. **GROOMING** - All beef, swine, sheep, and goats will be subject to visual inspection and/or toweling (before and/or after entering the show ring) using a disposable paper towel for the presence of adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products. Toweling of the animal may include, but is not limited to, the topline, legs, chest, belly, flank, and cod/udder areas.
- 5. If, after inspection, the animal is found to have adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products applied, it will be disqualified from competition. Any premiums (physical or monetary) will be forfeited, and no refunds will be made.
- 6. Exhibitors will be asked to submit a signed affidavit certifying they know and understand these rules.
- 7. **All blocking chutes/stands must be in designated area inside the facility.**
- 8. **Stall/Pen Cleanup - If stall/pen cleanup does not pass the inspection of the superintendent or other designated person in that area, the exhibitor will forfeit HALF of their premium.**
- 9. **Animal Abuse:**
 - Animals that have been abused will be eliminated from the show.
 - Animal Abuse: Use of artificial stimulants or any other excessive direct abuse.
- 10. Only one entry per class number except livestock, dog, poultry, and rabbit classes.
- 11. **Dress Code:**
 - In all events/classes where an exhibitor's presence is required, the exhibitor (4-H/FFA) is required to wear the official approved County 4-H/FFA T-Shirt **with sponsor name on back. This would even include interview judging of static exhibits.** The only exception to this rule are exhibitors participating in Favorite Foods Review, Music, and Presentation Contests. These exhibitors have the option of wearing business casual with the official 4-H chevron or FFA emblem attached.
 - Horse exhibitors must follow the dress code cited in the current version of the "Nebraska 4-H Horse Show & Judging Guide".
 - When showing animals, exhibitors **must** wear the required official County 4-H/FFA t-shirt. Blue jeans are appropriate. Hats shall not be worn when in the show ring.
 - Failure to adhere to dress code will result in lowering a ribbon placing.
- 12. Exhibits made in the home economics or agricultural classroom are not eligible in 4-H competition unless the project is a school enrichment project.
- 13. Clover Kids must turn 6-8 years of age during the current calendar year. Project exhibits will be limited to Department I - Clover Kids, Divisions 100-900. Participation ribbons **ONLY** will be awarded. Judges comments will be given.
- 14. **OWNERSHIP OF ANIMALS & POULTRY** - All animals and poultry in the 4-H Show must be owned by the exhibitor who entered it. Any entry not properly identified and nominated is not eligible to be shown at county fair. Animals registered as FFA or 4-H must be documented to the FFA Advisor and/or Extension Office by May 15 to be eligible for county fair. All livestock entries must have been properly identified and nominated on-line by June 15 to be eligible for the State Fair.