

**Mission Statement:**

The mission of the 4-H and FFA Show and Sale is to assist youth with premier leadership, personal growth, and career successes through encouraging improvement in the production, processing, and marketing of agriculture products while developing personal commitment and responsibility.

**These rules cover an in-person Show and Sale. If the Show and Sale has to move to a virtual format due to COVID-19 Restrictions, some rules may be relaxed or changed. Updates will be sent to exhibitors through email and will also be posted on our website:**  
[https://shenandoah.ext.vt.edu/content/shenandoah\\_ext\\_vt\\_edu/en/programs/livestock-horse.html](https://shenandoah.ext.vt.edu/content/shenandoah_ext_vt_edu/en/programs/livestock-horse.html)

## **2024 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE RULES**

### **CODE OF ETHICS / CODE OF CONDUCT SHENANDOAH COUNTY 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE**

**This applies to all exhibitors, parents/guardians, leaders and volunteers.**

Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times represent 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 leaders, parents/guardians and volunteers 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, leaders, parents/guardians and volunteers who violate the Code of Ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and will forfeit premiums, awards and auction proceeds. They may be placed on probationary status or deemed ineligible for future competition and/or participation at this Fair.

The following is a list of guidelines for all exhibitors, parents/guardians, leaders, volunteers and all livestock in competitive events.

The following practices or procedures are unacceptable and are defined as being fraudulent and/or unethical in the fitting, preparation, care, and showing of all animals. Penalties for an infraction by exhibitors of the following code of ethics/code of conduct may include, but is not limited to the following:

1. removal of animal from premises immediately
2. be excluded from all show and sale activities upon determination of an infraction
3. return of premiums and proceeds from show and sale.

The enforcement of the code of ethics/code of conduct may require all animals entering the fair to be subject to blood and/or urine sampling and testing at any time during the fair. The exhibitor's timeline to bring complaints forward are as follows:

1. for the live show and sale - by the completion of the livestock sale
2. for the ultrasound evaluation - by 3 weeks from the livestock sale.

All decisions will be made by the Executive Committee (5-member majority). All decisions are final.

1. Misrepresenting the age or genetics of an animal for a class in which it is entered.

2. Treating an animal, internally or externally, with an irritant or counterirritant, or other substance to artificially change its conformation or appearance for a show or sale. This includes, but not limited to, the use of graphites, powders, hemp, artificial coloring, or similar substances. The use of dyes, spray paint, or other artificial colorings which result in the misrepresentation of the animal (i.e., that change the natural color of the hair/wool, etc.) This shall also include the offering for consumption by the animal of any substance not considered a normal component of a diet for livestock.
3. The use of tranquilizers, sedatives, depressants, or similar substances which alter the physical or physiological state of the animal.
4. Surgery, injection, or insertion of foreign material under the skin and/or into the flesh of an animal to change the natural contour, conformation, or appearance of the animal's body.
5. The inhumane fitting, showing, and/or handling practices that are deemed inhumane by a group of persons knowledgeable of livestock, i.e., the executive committee. Examples include, but are not limited to, icing lambs and goats, excessive beating/caning/striking of any livestock, preventing animals from keeping 4 hooves on the ground when set up, and muzzling animals.
6. Exhibiting animals found to carry false hair/wool or natural hair/wool that has been relocated to enhance the contour, conformation, or appearance of the animal.
7. Criticizing or interfering with the judge, show management, or other exhibitors before, during, or after a competitive event, or unsportsmanlike conduct to the breed or the show, on the part of the exhibitor is prohibited.
8. All 4-H and FFA members are representatives of the 4-H/FFA program. They are expected to conduct themselves as good citizens. The following are prohibited:
  - a. Fighting or deliberate destruction of facilities and equipment;
  - b. Possession or use of fireworks and firearms;
  - c. Possession or use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or tobacco products.
9. 4-H/FFA exhibitors are expected to be the primary care provider for their animals, to include feeding, watering, maintaining the stall, grooming of their animal and other care for their project animal throughout the duration of the fair. Assistance may only be provided by the parents, and family members, a Shenandoah County 4-H club leader enrolled in Virginia 4-H, a Virginia Extension Agent or FFA instructor or another 4-H/FFA youth member for the Shenandoah County 4-H/FFA Livestock Show & Sale. One warning will be given in this case. Penalty for a second infraction may include, but is not limited to the following:
  1. removal of animal from premises immediately
  2. be excluded from all show and sale activities upon determination of an infraction
  3. return of premiums and proceeds from show and sale.

**On January 24, 2022, the 4-H/FFA Livestock Show and Sale also accepted the IAFE (International Association of Fairs and Expositions) Code of Show Ring Ethics, which governs all State Fair of Virginia livestock shows:**

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 (youth) 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. In addition to the 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.

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. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the State Fair of Virginia. Exhibitors

who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada.

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. Youth exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at fairs or livestock shows. For the State Fair of Virginia, assistance may only be provided by the parents and family members, a bona fide 4-H volunteer leader enrolled in Virginia, Virginia Extension Agent, Virginia FFA Instructor, or another exhibitor with animals entered in the show.
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 procedure 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, counterirritant, 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. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited.
7. 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 their 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.

10. 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.
11. 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.

### **State Fair of Virginia:**

***Any violation of this Code or Policies will result in forfeiture of premiums and awards, disqualification, possible loss of sale proceeds, and probationary status and/or loss of eligibility for future competition at the State Fair of Virginia.***

***An overview committee consisting of at least three people (Show Superintendent, Director of Livestock & Equine Events & The State Fair Programs Committee Chairman) generally recognized as knowledgeable of livestock management and exhibition are responsible for the administration of this Code. Their decisions are final and are not subject to appeal.***

-----Clip and return with entries-----

### **To be signed by exhibitor and parents/guardians**

**By submitting this form, I agree that:**

- **I have read the Shenandoah County 4-H/FFA Livestock Show and Sale Rules and agree to follow them.**
- **I have read the Shenandoah County 4-H/FFA Livestock Show and Sale Code of Ethics and agree to conduct myself in an honest, ethical, and upstanding manner and I understand that disciplinary actions will result if these rules are violated. I understand that I am expected to represent the program in a positive manner.**

**Exhibitor's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_