

2026 PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW

CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

THE STATE FARM PRODUCTS SHOW COMMISSION has developed a Code of Show Ring Ethics to curtail unethical, deceptive, and fraudulent show ring practices. The Code is as follows: Exhibitors of animals at the Farm Show 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 the 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. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards, and auction proceeds and may be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the Commission. 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 list of mandatory rules is for all exhibitors and all livestock in competitive events.

1. All exhibitors must present, upon request of show officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership, and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or any fact relating thereto is prohibited.

2. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by show officials.

3. Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at the show.

4. Animals shall be presented to the show or competition event free of unapproved or illegal drug residues. Market animals that will enter the food chain shall only use products that are solely in accordance with the USDA and FDA approved labels and administered according to label instructions of the product being used for the approved species being shown. Product withdrawals shall be in accordance to all labels, with sale day being the last day of the withdrawal period. Animals not entered in an event that culminates with the animal entering the food chain shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal and state statutes, regulations, or rules. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show or contest is giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, and/or absolutely responsible person for Show Management to obtain any specimen of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used for testing. 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 approved 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 Farm 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 drugs or implants injected or used shall be in accordance with USDA or FDA approved labels. All other surgical procedures, non-USDA or non-FDA approved substances, or illegal injection of any foreign substance or drug, including drenching and pumping of fluids, 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 hooves 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.

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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 interference with the judge, 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, 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.

9. The application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, 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 Commission for violation of this Code of Show Ring Ethics. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent that any proceedings or disciplinary action taken by the Commission 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. Additionally, the name of those involved with any violations will be sent to all County Extension offices and The State Department of Vocational Agriculture.

11. The act of entering an animal in the show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the 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 that contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal and state statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

By signing, exhibitor verifies that the exhibitor has read, understands, consents to, and agrees to abide by the terms and conditions stated herein in the Code of Show Ring Ethics. If the exhibitor is under 18 years of age, the signature of a parent/guardian is required in addition to the signature of the minor.

Exhibitor Name: _____

Exhibitor Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if Exhibitor is under 18 years of age): _____

Exhibitor Address: _____

Exhibitor Phone Number: _____