The Youth Animal Exhibitor Code of Practice

This code of practice applies to anyone exhibiting animals at shows in the United States. It includes junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. All classes of livestock offered at the livestock event are included; Cattle, (beef and Dairy), Goats, (Angora, Boer, dairy, meat, cashmere,) Equine, (Donkey, Horses, Mules) Llamas and other specialty animals, Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep, Swine and any other livestock class offered. The Youth Animal Exhibitor Code of Practice will be enhanced with additional rules and regulations which individual fairs and livestock shows impose on the local, county, state, regional, and national levels.

The following practices or procedures are unacceptable and are defined as being deceptive, fraudulent, unethical, and inhumane in the care, fitting, preparation and showing of all animals. The use of any illegal drugs in prohibited. Legal or illegal substances used to phenotypically alter the appearance of an animal. (See rule#4) Use of illegal drugs is considered a pre-meditated act! Furthermore, any information obtained in the practice of illegal alteration of an animal will be turned over to proper authorities. **THIS IS A ONE STRIKE AND YOU ARE OUT POLICY!** Exhibitor will forfeit any premium, awards, or auction proceeds, and will be prohibited from further competition in the United States, as well as being subject to criminal prosecution if proven guilty.

The following is a listing of guidelines all exhibitors must follow to enter animals at organized competitive events.

1) All exhibitors must have viable proof (junior division) of ownership available to prove length of time animals have been owned. Market animals (Beef, Sheep, Swine, and Goats) must be owned and under exhibitor's daily care according to established rules and regulations for the fair or livestock exposition. This also includes all small market animals (rabbits and poultry). The official ownership date is the date shown on the bill of sale, unless the animal was bred by the exhibitor, in which calving or birthing records must be shown. (Local rules may determine ownership requirements for non-market animals). Registered breeding livestock must show the exhibitor as the sole owner of the animal on the breed Association papers or certificates.

2) Any method used to misrepresent the age of an animal for a class in which it is shown is deceptive and considered illegal. Showing an animal for another individual by claiming ownership in order to show in a specific class is prohibited. **False ownership is illegal.**

3) It is recommended that Junior Exhibitors care for and groom their own animals while at the fair. Specific regulations may exist. Please refer to each department's regulations for any additional guidelines.

4) Treating an animal internally or externally, with any irritant, counter-irritant, or other substance used to artificially change the conformation or appearance of an animal for show is considered unethical, inhumane, and is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the use of graphite, powders, hemp, artificial hair coloring, common products such as fly spray, ointment or liniment used to the point that it is irritating, (unless it is required to reduce edema at the time of calving) or similar type products. The use of dyes, spray paint or other artificial coloring which result in altering an animal's true and natural appearance and/or color is prohibited. Adding false hair or hair-like material, fleece, or skin at any point, spot or area of the animal's body is illegal and will result in immediate disqualification. Any liquid or substance not considered part of an accepted and normal diet for livestock is deemed illegal and inhumane. For example; the use of alcoholic or carbonated beverage as a drench or filler, etc.

5) The use of tranquilizers, sedatives, or depressants which alter the physical or physiological state of the animal is illegal. Exceptions to this rule would be a licensed, certified veterinarian's treatment for a recognized disease or injury, or recommendation for tranquilizing breeding animals in heat that might compromise the safety of others.

The drugs must be approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use in meat producing animals. All exhibitors shall advise show management of any drugs and/or medications administered to an animal that might be detected at the time of showing or at meat inspection. The name of the drug, its purpose, the person who administered the drug, time and date of administration shall be presented to show management prior to showing and sale of the animal. Failure to report this information to the show management will result in severe penalty and/or disqualification. **Any use of drugs or substances not approved by the Food and Drug Administration is strictly prohibited.** All animals entered into livestock competition shall be subject to testing for foreign substances that exceed acceptable levels established by the FDA, FSIS, USDA, or EPA.

During the animal events, in case of animals requiring treatment, all medications shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian and the show officials shall be notified.

6) Surgery, injection or insertion of foreign material under the skin/or flesh of an animal to change the natural contour, confirmation or appearance of an animal's body is illegal. This includes vegetable oil, silicon or any other substance used to alter the shape of the animal. Acceptable practices of physical preparation which are allowed include clipping of hair, trimming of hooves, dehorning, or removal of ancillary teats.

7) The balancing of the udder by abnormal means that includes the use of a mechanical contrivance or the injection of fluid or drugs, setting the teats and/or occluding (sealing the ends) with a mechanical contrivance or with the use of chemical preparation is illegal. Treating or massaging the udder or its attachments with an irritant or counter irritant is prohibited.

8) The use of inhumane fitting, showing and/or handling practices shall not be tolerated. For example, breaking of tails, striking of animal to cause swelling or for bracing purposes, use of an electrical contrivance, or use of overly severe bits is not acceptable.

9) Direct criticism or interference with the judge, show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives or show officials, during or after the competitive event is prohibited.

10) At the time an animal is sold at auction at the livestock show, the exhibitor shall be held directly responsible for animals that are rejected at the time of processing due to the presence of foreign residues. The seller will also be liable for attorney's fees and civil penalties. **Show management may share acceptable intelligence and evidence information with FDA and USDA.** If for any reason, any part of a meat animal carcass must be removed by the FDA or USDA inspectors, the market price will be discounted.

11) Show management reserves the right to require animal health certificates. Health inspection and diagnostic test may be made before or after animals are on the show premises for exhibitor and animal safety, or to inaugurate disease control procedures which may become necessary in emergencies as determined by animal health officials.

Any violation of **"The Youth Exhibitor Code of Practice"** or specific rules as designated by individual fairs and livestock shows will result in forfeiture of premiums and awards, disqualification, and may result in probationary status and/or loss of eligibility for future participation in organized livestock competition. **Possible civil penalties may be imposed by the proper authorities based on evidence provided by the show of exhibitors in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic act/or the animal mistreatment, neglect and abandonment laws that apply on local, state, and national levels.**

Other cooperating shows will be notified of the action taken by show management, which may affect the eligibility of the individual, group, or sponsoring organization at other shows.

The decision of Dane County Fair Management will be final.

All youth animal exhibitors must complete and sign the Dane County Fair Code of Practice to be eligible to compete. A parent/guardian's signature and contact information must be included, along with the exhibitor's signature. Failure to complete and sign the Code of Practice will result in losing the right to exhibit at the Dane County Fair.

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I believe that my participation in the Junior Animal Program should demonstrate my own ability, knowledge, and skill as a feeder and fitter of animals. I will do my own work, and only accept advice and support from others.

I will not use abusive or questionable techniques in the feeding, fitting and showing of my animals. I will not resort to fraudulent, illegal, or deceptive practices when fitting them for show. I also will not allow my parents, my supervisor, or any other person to employ such practices to my animal.

I will read and understand the rules of all animal shows in which I am a participant. I ask that my parents and the supervisor of my project animal not break the rules or make exception on my behalf. I wish for my animal project to be an example of how to accept what life has to offer--good and bad--and how to live with the outcome.

I realize that I am responsible for:

- The proper care and treatment of my animals,
- The production of wholesome food,
- The development of sound moral character in myself--and others.

_____ _____
Exhibitor Date

_____
Exhibitor Phone Number (Preferably Cell Number) to Contact During the Fair

_____
Club

_____ _____
Parent or Guardian Date

_____
Parent/Guardian Phone Number (Preferably Cell Number) to Contact During the Fair

_____ _____
Project Leader, Organizational Leader, or FFA Advisor Date