

NATIONAL SHOW RING CODE OF ETHICS

1. All exhibitors must have viable proof of ownership available to prove length of time animals have been owned. The official ownership date is the date shown on the bill of sale, unless the animal was bred by the exhibitor, in which case calving or birth records must be shown. Registered breeding livestock must show the exhibitor as the sole owner of the animal on the breed association papers or certificates.
2. No exhibitor may show an animal that has been previously sold at an auction or sale as a market animal through another fair, livestock show, whether or not there has been an actual change of ownership. 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 livestock class or event is prohibited. **FALSE OWNERSHIP IS ILLEGAL.**
3. Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at the fair or livestock show. (Individual consideration will be given in extenuating circumstances.) Adults will not be allowed to physically assist in the preparation of the animal while at the show. Verbal instructions will be allowed, but no physical assistance is permitted. Physical assistance may be rendered by other junior aged members in good standing in the 4-H and FFA programs. Any violation will result in immediate disqualification from the show.
4. Treating of animals 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 required to reduce edema at the time of calving) or similar 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 beverages as a drench, 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 FDA 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 the show management prior to the 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 FDA is strictly prohibited.** All animals entered into livestock competition shall be subject to testing for foreign substances that exceed acceptable levels established by FDA, FSIS, USDA, or EPA.
6. Surgery, injection or insertion of foreign material under the skin and/or the flesh of an animal to change the natural contour, conformation, 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 a chemical preparation is illegal). Treating or massaging the udder or its attachments with an irritant or counter-irritant is illegal.
8. The use of inhumane fitting showing and/or handling practices or devices shall not be tolerated. For example, breaking of tails, striking of the 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 before, 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 a processing center due to the presence of foreign residues. The seller may be liable to the buyer for an amount equal to three (3) times the purchase price and may 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 inspections and diagnostic tests may be made before or after animals are on the livestock show premises for exhibitor and animal safety, or in the inaugurate disease control procedures which may become necessary in emergencies as determined by animal health officials.
12. Any violation of "The National Show Ring Code of Ethics" 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 livestock show of exhibitors in violation of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act/or the animal mistreatment, neglect, and abandonment laws that apply on the local, state, and national levels.
13. 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 for participation at other shows.

Exhibitor signature

Date