

**IAFE (International Association of Fairs and Expositions)  
CODE OF SHOWRING ETHICS**

**shall govern all Rockingham County Fair 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 Rockingham County Fair. 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 Rockingham County Fair, 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.
  - i) 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.*
  - ii) 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.*

### **Rockingham County Fair:**

- *If, in the opinion of the Department Superintendent, an exhibitor who violates any of the rules governing the Fair or any violation of this Code 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 Rockingham County Fair or other penalties as deemed appropriate by the Department Superintendent, Fair President and the General Manager.*
- *An overview committee consisting of at least three people 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.*
- *The Board of Directors of the Rockingham County Fair Association reserves the right to interpret all rules and regulations and resolve any situation which may arise and is not restricted by the lack of an omission of a specific rule or regulation.*

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WHOLESOME MEAT ACT**

*The United States Department of Agriculture Wholesome Meat Act applies to the sale of market livestock sold during the Rockingham County Fair as follows:*

- a. Animals must be in good health and carcasses free of drugs or chemical residues.*
- b. Antibiotics, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and sulfonamides have required withdrawal periods.*
- c. Drug label directions for use and withdrawal periods must be followed.*
- d. If drug or other chemical residues are found in tissue of carcasses, the entire carcass may be condemned.*

*If drug or other chemical residues are found in tissue of carcasses of animals sold through sale or sales connected with the Rockingham County Fair, said show will in no way be liable or responsible for condition of carcass or sale price of animal. Exhibitor forfeits all rights to premiums and the sale price. Before administering antibiotics and/or sulfonamides, consult a licensed practicing veterinarian, or label directions of the drug.*

***Animal Rights Demonstrations:***

*Should a demonstration occur during the Rockingham County Fair, PLEASE follow these guidelines:*

- DO NOT debate with demonstrators*
- REMAIN CALM if an event is disrupted*
- DO NOT talk to the media regarding the demonstration.*

*A direct confrontation with demonstrators only provides them with the attention they seek. Please alert Fair officials to any questionable activity.*