

SONOMA COUNTY FAIR CODE OF EXCELLENCE ADOPTED 1996

Exhibitors of animals at the Sonoma County Fair 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 all junior exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition of any livestock class offered in any event at the Sonoma County Fair. These include: cattle (beef & dairy) goats (dairy, meat & pygmy), equine (horse, pony), llamas, sheep, swine, rabbits, cavy, poultry.

Owners, exhibitors, leaders, parents/guardians, and absolutely responsible persons found to violate this code of excellence or in violation of rules or in practices unethical or inimical with the show program will forfeit premiums, awards, and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibition according to rules adopted by the Sonoma County Fair. The following is a listing of rules all exhibitors must follow to enter any animal at the Sonoma County Fair.

1. All exhibitors must have viable proof of ownership available to fair and livestock show officials at their request. Documents should include current ownership information, transfer of ownership (if any), length of ownership, and age of animal(s). Misrepresentation of ownership, age, breed, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited. Exhibitors and their agents and advisors agree to comply with the printed exhibitor guidebook rules upon entry.
2. No exhibitor may show an animal which has been previously shown and/or sold as a market animal through another fair or livestock show, whether or not there is an actual change of ownership (progress level shows excluded). 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, groom, and exhibit their own animals while at the Sonoma County Fair. However, because of the educational nature of livestock shows it is appropriate, on occasion, for leaders, parents/guardians, and/or other approved person to assist in the medical care of livestock, or when safety is a factor.
4. The act of entering an animal into the Sonoma County Fair provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by the owner, exhibitor, leader, parent/guardian, or absolutely responsible person whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in, or had actual knowledge of an act perpetrated to misrepresent or mistreat an animal in contravention of this code of excellence.
5.
 - a) The use of tranquilizers, sedatives, depressants, or any other drugs which alter the physical or physiological state of the animals is illegal. Any drug used on any animal must be approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use in meat producing animals. Additionally, all drugs used on a species of animal must be properly approved for use on the species treated. All exhibitors shall advise show management of any drugs and/or medications administered to an animal. 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 the showing and/or sale of the animal. Failure to report this information 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.
 - b) Animals shall be presented free of drugs at the Sonoma County Fair where they will enter the food chain, this includes meat producing animals, dairy animals producing milk, and poultry producing eggs. The act of entering an animal in the Sonoma County Fair gives consent by owner, exhibitor, leader, parent/guardian, or absolutely responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other requested substances from the animal to be used in testing. 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, state, and local statutes, regulations, and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state, local statutes, regulations, and rules affect the animals performance or appearance at the event.

- c) In the case of an animal requiring treatment, all medications shall be administered with written approval by a licensed veterinarian and fair livestock officials shall be notified.
 - d) If the laboratory report of the chemical 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 for the animal in question, its integrity is preserved and all procedures of said collection, preservation, and transfer to the laboratory pertains to the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken from the animal in question. The owner, leader, parent/guardian, exhibitor, or absolutely responsible person has the burden to prove otherwise at any hearing in regard to the matter conducted by the Sonoma County Fair.
6. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or external application of a substance (irritant, counterirritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter it's natural contour, confirmation, 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.
 7. The use of inhumane showing and/or handling practices of devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited. Other practices unless under the written authority of a licensed veterinarian, that are not acceptable or prohibited include, but are not limited to, liquid diets for lambs, excessive shrinking, excessive exercising, tying animals with their feet off the ground, icing animals down and electric stimulation.
 8. 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 with a mechanical contrivance or the use of chemical preparation is illegal. Treating or massaging the udder or its attachments with an irritant or counterirritant is prohibited.
 9. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair personnel, 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 personnel, or other officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.
 10. No owner, exhibitor, leader, parent/guardian, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this code of excellence or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of excellence. Violation of this rule shall subject such individuals to disciplinary action.
 11. Fair management reserves the right to require animal health certificates. Health inspections and diagnostic tests may be made before or after the animals are on the livestock 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.

In addition to these rules, all exhibitors are responsible for compliance with any federal, state, county, or local rules.

SONOMA COUNTY FAIR EXHIBITOR CODE OF EXCELLENCE

As a youth participant at the Sonoma County Fair & Exposition:

I believe my participation in the youth program should demonstrate my own ability, knowledge and skill, and my own investment of time in the project I am exhibiting. I will do my own work and accept only advice and support from others.

I will read and understand the rules and regulations found in the Code of Excellence as well as those rules and regulations found in the Sonoma County fair Exhibitors Guidebook and the state rules for California Fairs. I ask that my parents and supervisor/leader of my project not break any rules or make exceptions on my behalf. I wish for my 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 will not use abusive, questionable or unethical techniques in the preparation, presentation, or handling of my project. I will not resort to fraudulent, deceptive, or illegal practices when preparing my project for exhibition. I will also not allow my parents, advisor, supervisor/leader, or any other adult or minor to employ such practices to my project.

I realize I am responsible for:

- the proper care and treatment of my project,
- the presentation of my exhibit at the fair,
- the production of wholesome food, fiber, clothing, and textiles,
- and the development of sound moral character in myself and others.

I understand that when I, my parent/guardians, my supervisor/leader, or any other adult or minor connected with my project break the rules, I must live by the decision of the fair management.

This form **MUST** be on file with the Entry Office prior to the opening day of the fair. Failure to return this form will result in an exhibitor not being able to show his/her animal (s) at the fair.

Exhibitor (PLEASE PRINT) _____ Date _____

Exhibitor signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Project Supervisor _____ Date _____