

## **2025 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 is a list of GUIDELINES 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.
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.

#### **4-H MEMBERS AND LEADERS**

1. Adherence to Arrangements: 4-H members exhibiting at the show will be under the direction of their chaperons throughout the period. This rule has been adopted in the interests of the health and safety of the boys and girls. Members failing to observe this rule shall forfeit their eligibility to exhibit or judge.

2. Caretakers: See Caretakers in the Dairy (Youth Classes) and Junior Livestock.

3. Pennsylvania 4-H Code of Conduct: 4-H members participating in or attending club, county, regional, district, state, and national programs, activities, events, shows, and contests sponsored for youth by the 4-H Youth Development program of Penn State Cooperative Extension are required to conduct themselves according to the Pennsylvania 4-H Code of Conduct. The code operates with the rules and regulations of the specific event show, etc. Adults attending or participating in the above are expected to:

1. Conduct themselves according to the code.

2. Assist and support youths in their effort to adhere to the code.

The following are not permitted at 4-H-sponsored programs, activities, or events:

- Possession or consumption of alcohol.

- Possession or use of illegal drugs.

- Boys in girls' rooms – girls in boys' rooms – or lodging areas.

- Willful destruction of property.

- Violation of established curfew.

- Other conduct determined to be inappropriate for a youth development program by the event chairman, designated Pennsylvania Extension Educator, or Penn State Faculty or staff member or 4-H volunteer leader.

Violation of the above code will be handled as follows:

A. The adult chaperon for the youths involved in the violation (Extension Educator or 4-H leader) will be made aware of the situation.

B. The parent(s) can/may be called and arrangements made for transportation home at parent's expense.

C. The 4-Her(s) can/may be barred from participating in national, state, regional, district events for up to one year.

D. When a violation occurs at a competitive event, 4-Her(s) may be disqualified from the contest and be ineligible for any awards.

Competition in later contests may also be barred. Determination will be made by event chairman, designated Pennsylvania Extension Educator, Penn State Faculty member, or 4-H volunteer leader.

**\*\*When warranted (i.e., violation of Pennsylvania Laws) the situation may be turned over to the police.**

#### **The FFA Mission**

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

The FFA Code of Ethics

FFA members conduct themselves at all times to be a credit to their organization, chapter, school, community, and family. As an FFA member, I pledge to:

1. Develop my potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.

2. Make a positive difference in the lives of others.

3. Dress neatly and appropriately for the occasion.

4. Respect the rights of others and their property.

5. Be courteous, honest, and fair with others.

6. Communicate in an appropriate, purposeful, and positive manner.

7. Demonstrate good sportsmanship by being modest in winning and generous in defeat.

8. Make myself aware of FFA programs and activities and be an active participant.

9. Conduct and value a supervised agricultural experience program.

10. Strive to establish and enhance my skills through agricultural education in order to enter a successful career.

11. Appreciate and promote diversity in our organization.

(Adopted by the Delegates at the 1952 National FFA Convention. Revised by delegates at the 1995 National FFA Convention.)