

Livestock Exhibitor Code of Conduct

The proper care of animals is just as important at a show or exhibition as it is on the farm. Proper management is important for the animals, and it also presents the positive image to the fair visitor that farmers care for their animals.

As a proactive step, your fair board or committee should attempt to establish an "Exhibitor Code of Practice/Conduct" which could be sent out to exhibitors with registration information and posted in barn areas for visitor information. If such a Code is put in place, the Board must be prepared to take action when it needs to be enforced. Examples of items which could be included in such a code are illustrated as follows:

- As an exhibitor, you represent your livestock's particular commodity group, and the agriculture industry as a whole. It is very important that you portray the positive face of agriculture to the public and to fellow exhibitors. Therefore, the following "Exhibitor Code of Practice" has been developed to aid in your approach.
- This Code of Practice explains what is expected of exhibitors who are handling animals, as well as attendants of animal displays. It is expected that the Exhibitor Code of Practice will be strictly followed. If exhibitors do not adhere to the code they will be asked to leave the fairgrounds and further actions will be left to the discretion of the Board.



Sample Code on Conduct

Livestock Exhibitor Code of Conduct

The _____ Fair is committed to responsible animal care and treatment. This Code of Conduct outlines what is expected of livestock exhibitors in the handling and exhibiting of all animals involved with our Fair.

This Code has been developed to meet the following objectives:

- To ensure the health and well being of all animals at the fair
- To demonstrate an accurate and responsible animal care message to the public
- To maintain the integrity of all livestock competitions, displays, and sales

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- Livestock and poultry must be transported to and from the fair in accordance with all humane transport regulations and standards.
 - Loading and unloading must be undertaken using proper equipment and procedures.
 - All animals must be treated and handled in a responsible manner. The well being of the animals shall take precedence over the demands of owners, sellers, buyers, organizers, sponsors, and officials.
 - The care of all animals must be as consistent as possible with their normal schedules and standards. High standards of nutrition, health, sanitation, environment and safety must be met at all times. All handling, housing and veterinary treatment must ensure adequate animal care.
 - Livestock should be prepared with proper training, fitting and grooming prior to the fair. Excessive disciplining of animals at the fair is unacceptable.
 - Exhibitors are expected to provide adequate training for anyone handling their livestock. Untrained individuals, including fair personnel and visitors, should not be permitted to handle animals or equipment.
 - Exhibitors should take every opportunity to enhance public awareness, education and appreciation of proper livestock management and handling practises.

There will be no tolerance for any mistreatment of animals. Any unacceptable exhibitor conduct will be subject to action including possible elimination from the competition(s) and/or exhibit, at the discretion of the Board.

