



# 4-H/FFA/YOUTH ANIMAL EXHIBITOR CODE OF CONDUCT



This Code of Conduct is an agreement, formal or implied, between the participant and the Rockbridge 4-H/FFA Livestock Advisory Council. Its purpose is:

- To ensure the overall well-being of animals exhibited.
- To ensure the use of commonly accepted practices in preparing and exhibiting animals for show.
- To maintain a safe and wholesome food supply.
- To maintain the intent and integrity of animal competitions and displays for future generations.

Exhibitors participating at the Rockbridge County Fair agree to the following guidelines:

1. No exhibitor may show an animal that has been previously sold at an auction or sale as a market animal through another fair or livestock show, whether or not there is an actual change of ownership.
2. Animals must be transported to and from the Rockbridge County Fair in accordance with all transport regulations and standards.
3. Intentional misrepresentation of an animal in any way including age of the animal, ownership, prior show activity, altering of the pedigree, or other misinformation provided by the exhibitor is prohibited.
4. Animals must be treated and handled in a responsible manner. They will be fed and watered at least twice daily.
5. All exhibitors are expected to be the primary caregiver for their animals. Assistance may only be provided by the parents and family members, a bona-fide 4-H Volunteer Leader enrolled in Virginia, a Virginia Extension Agent, a Virginia FFA Instructor, or another 4-H/FFA/Youth with animals entered in the show.
6. Market animals can only be exhibited if they will enter the food chain free of drugs or foreign substances. The act of entering an animal in the Rockbridge County Fair is the giving of consent by the owner to have the specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other samples from the animal or carcass taken to be used for testing. All animals entered into competition shall be subject to testing for foreign substances that exceed acceptable levels established by the FDA, FSIS, USDA or EPA.
7. The use of tranquilizers, sedatives, or depressants is prohibited.
8. Treating an animal internally or externally with any substance or procedure used to artificially change the conformation, appearance, or handling characteristics of the animal for show is prohibited. This does not apply to accepted methods of clipping or combing an animal's hair.
9. The use of abusive showing and/or handling practices such as striking animals, or administering an electrical shock to cause swelling, or to affect the bracing behavior of an animal is prohibited.
10. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after a competitive event is prohibited.

Any violation of this 4-H/FFA Animal Exhibitor Code of Conduct will result in forfeiture of premiums and awards, disqualification, possible loss of sale proceeds, probationary status, and/or loss of eligibility for future competition at the Rockbridge County Fair.

The Rockbridge 4-H/FFA Livestock Executive Committee is responsible for the administration of this 4-H/FFA Animal Exhibitor Code of Conduct. Their decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

I have read the 4-H/FFA/YOUTH Animal Exhibitor Code of Conduct and discussed it with the exhibitor,

\_\_\_\_\_. I understand the 4-H/FFA Animal Exhibitor Code of Conduct and  
 (Child's Name)  
 give my permission for my child to participate in the 4-H/FFA/YOUTH livestock events at the Rockbridge County Fair.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

As the Exhibitor, I have discussed this 4-H/FFA Animal Exhibitor Code of Conduct with my Parent/Guardian and agree to abide by it while participating in the 4-H/FFA/YOUTH events at the Rockbridge County Fair.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Exhibitor's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)