

## 2023 Rockingham County Fair General Rules

- All exhibits must be recorded, tagged, and placed by the Department Superintendents before the exhibitor leaves the grounds.
- All exhibits must be the property of the individuals exhibiting them.
- Only exhibits from Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg are eligible.  
SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS APPLY AS FOLLOWS:  
Livestock Departments – others outside the city or county may be invited.
- Prizes will not be paid on exhibits not listed in the catalog.
- It is especially understood that if weather conditions are such that the Fair Association finds they cannot pay their premiums in full, the exhibitors agree to accept such a portion of the premiums as the Board of Directors of the Fair association find they are able to pay, and such payment shall be considered full settlement of whatever premiums are due.
- Livestock: *Premiums and ribbons will be withheld on animals leaving the grounds prior to release time.*
- The decision of the judges and graders is final.
- Departments and Fair Management will not be responsible for articles exhibited. *All owners and those in charge of property or livestock shall care for, guard, protect and preserve the same. Rockingham County Fair will not be responsible for any loss or damage.*
- Passes will be issued to commercial exhibitors as per their contract. Extra passes may be purchased.

### GENERAL RULES

- No equipment or decorative materials may be nailed, tacked, screwed, taped, or bolted to any part of the Fair Association's buildings or any of the fixtures therein. The Fair Association reserves the right to charge the exhibitor for any damage.
- NO AISLE (BUTT) FANS PERMITTED.
- Use of alcoholic beverages, drugs, abusive language, or other abusive conduct is prohibited.
- NO PETS ALLOWED ON FAIRGROUNDS.

### LIVESTOCK

- If a youth is a member of 4-H and/or FFA in one or more of the following counties (Rockingham, Augusta, Page & Shenandoah), then the 4-H/FFA member must choose to participate in only one county's 4-H/FFA Market Livestock Show and Sale for that project year.

### HEALTH

- CATTLE
  - (1) Virginia is considered to be a free state of tuberculosis and brucellosis; therefore, cattle which originate from Virginia may be exhibited without additional testing.
  - (2) No cattle shall be exhibited unless they are accompanied by a health certificate signed within thirty days of the exposition by a licensed veterinarian. *Animals must be free of infectious and contagious disease, including Ringworm, Warts, Foot Rot, and Pinkeye. Animals currently being treated for any of the listed conditions that are visibly responding to treatment must have a written statement to that effect added to the CVI by the issuing veterinarian.*
  - (3) All cattle, except for beef feeder cattle less than 18 months of age, are required to have official identification (metal ear tag or RFID button).

- HORSES
  - (1) Each animal must have a negative Coggins test conducted within 12 months of the show.
- SHEEP
  - (1) A clean bill of health must accompany all sheep being shown, signed by a licensed veterinarian. Animals are not to be unloaded until the Department Superintendent has checked animals and papers and approved unloading. Sheep diagnosed with lamb fungus, sore mouth or any other contagious will not be allowed on the fairgrounds and NO muzzles on sheep.
  - (2) All sexually intact sheep, must have a scrapie tag.
- GOATS
  - (1) A health certificate must accompany all goats being shown and signed within 30 days of exposition by a licensed veterinarian showing they are healthy and free of communicable diseases. Animals are not to be unloaded until the Department Superintendent has checked papers and approved unloading.
  - (2) Rabies shots are recommended for owner's and public's safety.
  - (3) All goats must have official identification. All goats must have a scrapie tag or they must have a readable tattoo in the ear plus matching registration papers.

*ANIMAL WELL BEING: Management reserves the right to remove any exhibitor from the grounds who is deemed to be mistreating any animal.*

- No icing is allowed. This includes the use of wet towels. In the event of overheating, contact the specie chair or a veterinarian.

## **FEES**

- Fees for the use of stalls and pens are as follows: **NO REFUNDS. NO EXCEPTIONS**
  - (1) \$5.00 for each hog, sheep and goat in the market animal departments.
  - (2) \$5.00 for each hog, sheep and goat for open and junior breeder departments.
  - (3) \$5.00 for each dairy and beef cattle tie stall.
  - (4) \$80.00 fine will be assessed to an exhibitor showing in the Open Goat or Open Sheep Shows whose animal damages a pen.
  - (5) \$50 per head late fee on all livestock entries postmarked after registration deadline for a grace period of 7 days. After 7 day grace period no registrations will be accepted.

## **CAMPING**

- Camping available only to livestock exhibitors.
- A camping fee of **\$200.00** for the week will be charged for electricity.
- There will be an area for pop-ups and tents with **NO** electricity for a fee of \$50.
- A parent or guardian of a participant in a junior show shall sign a contract for each camper unit and designate a parent or guardian to be present from 12 midnight to 6:00 a.m. A parent or guardian can be responsible for up to three camping units.
- A camping pass will be issued to each camper.
- Campers are expected to be quiet and lights out at 1:00 a.m.
- **ABSOLUTELY NO GENERATORS.**
- Campers will be allowed entry for setup in the campground beginning at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, **August 10**, and **MUST** be setup by Sunday, **August 13**.

## **BARN AREA**

- All activities in the barn shall cease at midnight.
- All bedding is to be provided by the exhibitor.
- The storage of excessive amounts of hay, feed and straw will not be permitted in the barns.
- *For the health and safety of Fair visitors and livestock, we discourage food consumption inside livestock barns.*

- The display of farm signs, banners, etc. over exhibits is encouraged. However, these displays must not block across the barn vision, interfere in any way with other exhibitors, or with the conduct of the show. Neither shall they create a safety hazard to animals or people.
- All livestock exhibitors are required to furnish feed, water buckets, troughs, and all bedding for the week. Exhibitors must maintain their respective area and keep their stalls, pens and aisles reasonably clean and in an orderly condition at all times.
- No automatic watering system for livestock is permitted.
- All livestock must be purebred except in special classes.
- Dual registered animals may be shown only in the fair department of their primary use.
- In short leg species, tack space, **if** available, will be assigned by each department chair after 2:00 p.m. on Monday of Fair Week. Violations may result in removal of tack and/or animals from fairgrounds.
- Absolutely no smoking will be permitted in the Cattle Barns by exhibitors. Any violation to this rule can lead to dismissal of the exhibitor from the barn. In this event, no entry fees will be refunded or any compensation made. Premium money will also be forfeited.
- There will be NO gate panels available for exhibitor personal use.
- **The tie-out area is located South of the barn only.** No market livestock shall be tied or penned outside their designated barn or tent or pen.
- No animals in the show ring before 10 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.
- Movement of livestock to and from the wash rack area is restricted between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. This would exclude animals in the process of showing during this time period.
- Open livestock exhibitors who register animals and are a no show will be banned from showing at the following year's fair unless notification is given to the specie chair prior to barn set up on Wednesday prior to fair week.

#### **PASSES/PARKING**

- Passes will be distributed and sold to the livestock exhibitors from the Barn Office on Monday, August 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. as follows:
  - 1) 1 to 5 animals: 1 armband and 1 book of passes and 1 parking pass
  - 2) 6 or more animals: 1 armband and 2 books of passes and 1 parking pass
  - 3) Parking passes will be limited to 2 per family regardless of the number of exhibitors and will be in the form of a decal. The decal will be affixed to the driver's side window toward the left side as you are looking out, as not to hinder vision in the rear-view mirror.
  - 4) Additional passes will be sold to livestock exhibitors at \$4.00 per day. No extra barn parking passes available.
- Parking cars and trucks in barn area will be limited. No parking for trailers and trucks. Trailers will park in designated area outside fence. *After unloading livestock, vehicles must be moved to the parking area. All vehicles without proper credentials will be towed.*

#### **POULTRY, RABBITS AND PIGEONS**

- All exhibits will be fed and cared for by the Fair Management.

#### ***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.*