

# State Fair of Virginia General rules & Livestock Policies - 2023

## ***General Rules and Information***

- 1) Interpretations, Amendments and Violations: Every exhibitor, competitor, concessionaire, employee or any other person having business on the Grounds is required to abide by these or any other rules that may be formulated by the administration; and the administration reserves for itself the sole and absolute right to construe its rules and regulations, and determine and settle all matters and differences in regard thereto.
- 2) Reservation: The State Fair of Virginia reserves the right to extend an invitation to exhibit, and the right to refuse an exhibitor or competitor, without giving reason for such action. Any exhibitor/competitor displaying behavior deemed inappropriate will be removed from the grounds and all premiums revoked.
- 3) Protests and appeals: All protests must be in writing, must state plainly the complaint, be accompanied by a fee of \$50 which shall be forfeited to the Fair in case protest is not sustained, and must be delivered to the Management within twelve hours after the cause of protest.
- 4) Damage or loss: The State Fair of Virginia provides 24 hour security for exhibits. The exhibitor/competitor assumes all risks of damage or loss, either to person or property, for all and every cause whatsoever, including fire, the elements, violation of the law, negligence either on the part of the State Fair of Virginia, its officers, servants, agents or employees, or other person or persons; and it is further expressly understood and agreed between the exhibitor/competitor and management, that the said State Fair of Virginia, incurs no liability or obligation to the exhibitor/competitor, other than to permit them to use the ground or building for exhibits.
- 5) Solicitations: Political solicitation is permitted in paid commercial exhibit space ONLY.
- 6) Competition: COMPETITION IS GENERALLY OPEN TO THE WORLD. Certain departments are limited and this will be indicated in specific departmental rules.
- 7) Exhibitors, Competitors and Entry Forms
  - Exhibitors who participate in the Fair must have a signed (electronic signature accepted) entry form on file with the Fair office or if they show their crafts, farm products, machinery, or livestock, they must have these items entered according to the rules and regulations for the department in which they are participating. Enter on-line at [www.statefairva.org](http://www.statefairva.org) or mail entry forms to address listed in department rules for individual shows.
  - Persons competing in departments other than livestock, may ship their entered items, but the Fair will not be responsible for any loss, damage or breakage. Goods must be addressed to the department in which they are entered.  
Items may be shipped to: SFVA, (department), 13191 Dawn Blvd, Doswell, VA 23047.
  - Packages must be received at least twenty-four hours prior to the time when they are required to be in place. No package will be accepted unless all transportation charges are prepaid. To have your exhibit returned by FedEx, return mailing or shipping instructions must accompany the package as well as \$15.00 to cover handling at the Fair and \$20.00 for return shipping. (Total \$35.00)
  - Items tagged for competition must be delivered to the Superintendent in charge of the Department and must be removed within three days after the Fair unless prior arrangements are made. Certain exceptions to this rule will be found in Special Rules governing departments in which they apply (Example: Vegetables).
- 8) Judging

- The State Fair will contract judges for all departments. Management reserves the right to substitute judges if necessary.
- Judges are instructed not to award premiums unless animal or article is worthy of an award.
- The judge's decision will be final.
- Anyone who interferes with the judging will be promptly excluded from competition; if afterwards, the premiums awarded will be withheld.
- All animals must be available for use in youth judging contests or other educational activities if requested.

#### 9) Premiums and Awards

- The Fair Management reserves the right to reject any exhibit which does not reflect merit and which would not be a credit to both the exhibitor/competitor and the Fair. Also, the right is reserved to reject entries which are deemed objectionable or unsuited for public exhibit. All entries are accepted conditionally pending inspection of the article or animal to be exhibited. Any article or animal which proves to be misrepresented or falsely classed will be rejected and the right of the competitor/exhibitor to further participate in the Fair will be denied.
- In all competitions, prizes will be awarded to the quality of the exhibits and prize money will be paid accordingly.
- An exhibit will not be allowed to compete in more than one class except in the case of group classes or sweepstakes competition.
- No more than two premiums will be paid to a competitor/exhibitor in any one class and only one premium will be paid to a competitor/exhibitor in group classes.
- Premiums will be paid by check as soon as clerical work can be completed. (Should be paid within 90 days of the completion of the fair)

#### 10) Photographic Consent

Anyone participating in any competition at the State Fair of Virginia consents to the use of the Fair's photographic image of them or image of their exhibit by the State Fair of Virginia, agents and licensees and assigns for any and all purposes, including with limitation television, theater, exhibition, website, publication and any trade or advertising purposes. Competitor/exhibitor understands there will be no remuneration for the use of such image.

#### 11) Alcoholic Beverages

In accordance with Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board regulations, consumption of alcoholic beverages on the property is limited to the designated areas of licensed vendors.

#### 12) Animals

Only animals that are entered and in competition or other approved activities will be allowed on site. **Any animal who's behavior is deemed to be unsafe for public exhibition by show management or State Fair officials may be eliminated from the show & or removed from the property.**

#### 13) RV SPACE RENTAL/CAMPING

- A limited number of RV spaces are available for rent near the Equine & Livestock Complex.
- RV Space rental of \$35.00/night. Some spaces are full hook-ups (electric – 30 / 50 amp), water, sewer and partial hook-ups (electric – 30 / 50 amp, water. We also have a limited amount of dry camping spots
- Advance registrations will be taken due to large demand.
- Electrical hook-ups are allowed at designated camping spaces only – **NO trailers, campers, RVs, etc will be allowed to plug into barn, stable or ring hook-ups.**
- **Alternative Camping Facility - Kings Dominion.** Call Kings Dominion directly for your campground reservation at their campground. It is less than 1 mile from the Meadow Event Park.
  - Phone: 804-876-3006 or 1-800-922-6710
  - Email: [kdcamper@kingsdominion.com](mailto:kdcamper@kingsdominion.com)
  - Website: [kingsdominion.com](http://kingsdominion.com)

**PARKING:**

- TICKETS:**

- 1 parking decal per family or farm
- **LIVESTOCK & EQUINE AREA EXHIBITORS:** *parking details will be included with exhibitor passes. Your complementary passes will be distributed to you from the respective show staff.*
- **SMALL ANIMAL (RABBITS, POULTRY AND PIGEON & DOVE) EXHIBITORS:** *delivery instructions will be included by mail with entry confirmation.*
- **Admission credentials are required for gate entry at all times,** No one will be admitted through gate without proper credentials! Please do not block traffic and delay others with discussions with ticket-sellers, gatemen and ticket-takers who are working on strict orders from the management and are not allowed to vary from them. If, for any reason, there is a misunderstanding about admission at gates or elsewhere, please pay the admission price asked, take a receipt for same, and come directly to Fair officials. Please report any discourtesies by gatemen, concessionaires, showmen, or others connected with the Fair.
- **Noncompliance:** Exhibitors not cooperating with security personnel or Fair officials in all matters of policy, including parking, will have their entries cancelled and will be ordered to remove their exhibit from the grounds immediately.

- See our website, [www.statefairva.org](http://www.statefairva.org), for complete information on tickets and promotions contact the State Fair of Virginia Office at 804.994.2800.

## SAFETY PROCEDURES:

- Cooking is NOT permitted in livestock barns or tents.
- For the health and safety of fair visitors and livestock, we discourage food consumption inside livestock barns or tents.
- Exhibitors are encouraged to bring generators to run fans, etc. for livestock. All such equipment, regardless of source of power must comply with all national, state and local safety codes. All exhibitors' electrical cords must be the 3-wire grounded type. All exposed non-current carrying metal parts of fixed equipment, which are liable to be energized, will be grounded.
- The Fair will provide large, portable containers or designated location for the disposal of manure. No bedding or manure is to be heaped in the show area or barn, or left in wheelbarrows at any time. It must be put into the assigned container/location, which will be removed when full and replaced by another receptacle. Help us keep our livestock area clean!
- Aisles must be clear at all times. Stalls, pens and tack areas must be kept neat and clean. Grooming chutes, milking stands, etc. may be set up in designated areas only. Bedrolls and tents are to be taken down and stored by 8:00 a.m. each morning. You may setup tents and bedrolls after 9:00pm. each evening.
- **All Exhibitors who wish to have additional power at their stalling location will be required to have stalls on the edge or end of barns (No cords running across aisles)**

## GENERAL LIVESTOCK RULES:

- After unloading livestock, vehicles must be moved to the parking lot. All vehicles without proper credentials will be towed.
- Premiums and ribbons will be withheld on animals leaving the grounds prior to release time. Premiums and ribbons will be withheld if pens are not left in original configuration.
- To compete for premiums, all livestock must take part in the demonstrations, parades or judging contests whenever requested by the Superintendent.
- ANIMAL WELL-BEING: Management reserves the right to remove any exhibitor from the grounds who is deemed to be mistreating any animal.
- All owners and those in charge of property or livestock shall care for, guard, protect and preserve the same. The State Fair of Virginia will not be responsible for any loss or damage.
- Please continue to honor tie-out and release times. Thanks to you, livestock exhibits are cited as the top attraction by State Fair visitors year after year!
- THE FIRE MARSHALL WILL ISSUE CITATIONS & TOW ANY VEHICLE PARKED IN A FIRE LANE!
- Muzzles are not permitted on any animal.
- **Only dogs and other pets that are participating in competitions or other approved activities will be allowed on the grounds. Dogs must be on a leash at all times**, except as required when participating in a competitions, demonstrations or shows.
- All animals are subject to be used for educational purposes (stockman's contest, judging classes, etc.) upon request by State Fair staff or livestock superintendents. Upon entry, exhibitors agree to providing animals for these purposes upon request.

## PHOTOGRAPHY:

- The State Fair will have a photographer and a designated photography area for livestock shows.
- Anyone participating in any competition, event or demonstration at the State Fair of Virginia consents to the use of the Fair's photographic image of them or image of their exhibit by the State Fair of Virginia, agents and licensees and assigns for any and all purposes, including with limitation television, theater, exhibition, website, publication and any trade or advertising purposes. Competitor/exhibitor understands there will be no remuneration for the use of such image.

**BEDDING:**

- First bedding will be furnished free for all livestock exhibits.
- Shavings will be available on the grounds for \$7.00/bale

**HEALTH REGULATIONS GOVERNING ADMISSION OF LIVESTOCK TO FAIRS:**

- All animals to be exhibited must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) issued within the past 30 days that is signed by an accredited veterinarian and states that the animals are free of infectious and contagious diseases. All animals are required to be individually identified and listed on the CVI (health certificate).
- Representatives of the State Veterinarian's office will check all health certificates for validity and completeness. Additionally, all animals will be subject to individual inspection upon arrival by representatives of the State Veterinarian's office working in collaboration with the State Fair staff.
- Any animals not meeting entry requirements and/or found to have an active case of an infectious or contagious disease or condition will be eliminated from the show and will not be permitted in animal stalling or exhibit areas, and may be required to return to the premises of origin.
- All health regulations will be strictly enforced, and all decisions of the State Veterinarian or his/her designated representative are final.

**BEEF AND DAIRY CATTLE:**

All cattle entered in the show must meet the following requirements:

- CVI shall list each animal's official identification number (see A above), age, sex, breed, Brucellosis vaccination status, and any test results and dates of test.
- Animals must be free of infectious and contagious disease, including Ringworm, Warts, 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.
- The above CVI's accompanying each animal will be inspected by VA Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (VDACS) personnel at the arrival on the fairgrounds or at a time designated by the State Fair of Virginia. Failure to provide proper documentation and/or identification of show animals may result in failure to show. Any animal without a CVI will not be eligible to show. Any animal with a CVI, but without proper identification will be required to be tagged on-site. If the owner refuses to allow the animal to be tagged, then that animal will be ineligible to show. All decisions of the State Fair of Virginia are final.
- **YOUTH BEEF CATTLE** – must be officially identified with an "840" RFID button issued by a state or federal animal health program or a metal ear tag (a bangs vaccination or silver metal tag) and entered on a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI – aka "Health Papers") issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days of the show

Respiratory Disease Requirements: All cattle should be vaccinated in the current show year against the respiratory complex (shipping fever), including IBR, not less than 15 days prior to the show. Type of vaccination and date of administration should be noted on health certification.

**Out-of-State Consignments:****I. Tuberculosis**

- A. Originate from a free area or
- B. Originate from accredited or negative herd or
- C. Individuals tested and negative within 30 days

**II. Brucellosis**

A. Cattle for dairy or breeding purposes which originate directly from officially classified states may enter Virginia provided they are accompanied by an official health certificate and also meet the following requirements:

1. Class Free States
  - (a) No herd status
  - (b) No individual test
  - (c) No permit
2. Class A States
  - (a) Negative herd status or

- (b) Individual tested within 30 days
- (c) No permit

III. Steers must comply with all health rules except brucellosis

Virginia Consignments: Virginia is considered to be a free area of tuberculosis and brucellosis. Therefore, cattle which originate from Virginia farms may be exhibited without additional testing. However, a health certificate must accompany each consignment.

#### **SHEEP:**

Sheep must have been recently shorn prior to arrival at the State Fair of Virginia to accommodate veterinary inspections. Fleece length shall not exceed 1/4" at arrival (exception provided for breeding sheep shown in fleece or with fitted fleece).

Club Lamb Fungus- Sheep must be free of clinical symptoms of club lamb fungus (ringworm). Any healed club lamb fungus lesions must demonstrate healthy skin. Sheep with active lesions will not be permitted on the fairgrounds, animal stalling or exhibit areas. An animal that has had a contagious disease and has been successfully treated but still has physical evidence of the disease must be accompanied by a note from an accredited veterinarian on that animal's health certificate regarding the successful treatment of the disease.

Certificate of Veterinary Inspection: On arrival, all animals must be accompanied by an official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection issued within 30 days by an accredited veterinarian. Identification of sheep (scrapie ID, flock tag, tattoo) must match identification listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or the animal will be rejected and not allowed to exhibit.

Scrapie: All sheep must comply with federal regulations pertaining to official scrapie identification, which specify that sheep be identified with USDA scrapie tags prior to exhibition. All sexually intact sheep (rams and ewes) must carry an official scrapie identification tag. Scrapie identification tags must be listed on Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

Sheep must be free of clinical signs of sore mouth, foot rot, and Caseous Lymphadenitis. Animals showing clinical symptoms of this disease will be moved from the exhibition grounds. With reference to caseous lymphadenitis, "clinical symptoms" is used to define abscesses of the lymph nodes, whether draining or not.

#### **SWINE:**

Health certificate will be required.

Swine must be free of clinical symptoms of infectious and contagious disease.

#### **GOATS:**

Goats must have an approved health certification signed within 30 days by an accredited veterinarian. Identification of goats (ear tag, tattoo, microchip with accompanying reader, etc.) must match the identification indicated on the accompanying health certificate or the animal will be rejected and not allowed to exhibit.

Scrapie: All goats must comply with federal regulations pertaining to official scrapie identification, which specify that goats should be identified with USDA scrapie tags prior to exhibition. Scrapie identification tags must be listed on Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. **Dairy Goats from Virginia farms are not required to have ear tags but tattoo #s are required on CVI.**

Goats must be free of clinical signs of sore mouth, foot rot, and Caseous Lymphadenitis. Animals showing clinical symptoms of this disease will be moved from the exhibition grounds. With reference to caseous lymphadenitis, "clinical symptoms" is used to define abscesses of the lymph nodes, whether draining or not.

In addition:

Out-of-state consignments:

I. Tuberculosis

- A. Originate from a herd tested and negative within 12 months or
- B. Individual tested and negative within 30 days or
- C. Originate from a State considered free of Tuberculosis

II. Brucellosis

- A. Originate from a herd tested and negative within 12 months or
- B. Individual tested and negative within 30 days or
- C. Originate from a State considered free of Brucellosis

III. Caseous Lymphadenitis

A. Goats must be free of clinical symptoms of caseous lymphadenitis. Animals showing clinical symptoms of this disease will be moved from the exhibition grounds. With reference to caseous lymphadenitis, "clinical symptoms" is used to define abscesses of the lymph nodes, whether draining or not.

IV. Other Diseases

- A. Goats must be free of symptoms of all other contagious and infectious diseases, whether or not such diseases are herein specifically named.

Virginia Consignments: Virginia is considered to be a free area of tuberculosis. Therefore, goats that originate from Virginia farms may be exhibited without additional testing. However, a health certificate must accompany each consignment and the goats must be free of symptoms of all other contagious and infectious diseases, whether or not such diseases are herein specifically named.

**IAFE (International Association of Fairs and Expositions)  
CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS  
*shall govern all State Fair of Virginia 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 State Fair of Virginia. 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 State Fair of Virginia, 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.

### **State Fair of Virginia:**

***Any violation of this Code or Policies 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 State Fair of Virginia.***

***An overview committee consisting of at least three people (Show Superintendent, Director of Livestock & Equine Events & The State Fair Programs Committee Chairman) 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.***

## **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 State Fair of Virginia as follows:

- a. Animals must be in good health and carcasses free of drugs or chemical residues.
- b. Antibiotics 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 State Fair of Virginia, 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 State Fair of Virginia, 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 State Fair officials to any questionable activities.