

2026 YORK STATE FAIR CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

Exhibitors of animals at the York State Fair shall always exhibit 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 REQUIREMENTS for all exhibitors & 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 there- to is prohibited.
2. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible persons shall provide CVI's 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 show events where they will enter the food chain free of volatile drug residues.
 - a. 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 and state statutes, regulations and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal and state statutes, regulations and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event.
 - b. 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 reserved 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.
 - c. At any time after an animal arrives on the York State Fair 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 or owner in consultation of a 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 hooves 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 the 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.
11. The act of entering an animal in the show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, filter, 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 which 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 infraction.

**2026 YORK STATE FAIR
CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS
REQUIREMENTS FOR CARE OF ANIMALS:**

It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to care for animals in a manner that is responsible and ethical. Following are some requirements for the treatment of animals exhibited at the show:

1. Restraining Animals

- a. Animals will be tied or penned in a manner that will not hurt the animal or restrict its breathing in any way.
- b. Animals will be tied so that all four feet are firmly on the ground and they have enough room to stand & lie down comfortably.
- c. Animals should be tied so that they are not able to injure animals tied near them.
- d. Animals unaccustomed to each other should not be penned together.

2. Handling - Any type of rough handling which could harm the animals is prohibited. The use of whips, canes, and show sticks should be restricted to showing only and then be used only to guide the animals, not punish them. Remember, animals will respond quicker and better to quiet, gentle handling, than loud, rough handling.

3. Bedding - All animals should have bedding that is dry & clean. Pens should be cleaned regularly to keep the animals clean & comfortable. If non-traditional bedding such as carpeting is used, it should be regularly cleaned (at least 2x/daily) to keep the pen free from manure.

4. Feeding & Water - Animals should be well fed and have access to clean water regularly. Realizing that market animals must have restricted amounts of feed to maintain the proper weight, animals must be fed adequate amounts of feed to meet the animal's basic requirements. Animals not allowed reasonable access to feed and water will be disqualified from the show.

5. Transportation - Animals should be transported in a way that is both safe and considerate of the animal's well-being.

6. Blanket/Sweat Collars - Any type of material such as blankets or sweat collars should be large enough to permit normal body functions such as breathing, eating, drinking or lying down.

7. Health - It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to provide proper health care for their animals through routine inspection and consultation with health care professionals. The improper or illegal use of drugs or antibiotics prohibited. If medication is indicated, be sure to follow the label directions and allow more than the state withdrawal time. **The exhibitor is responsible for all veterinary services during the fair.**

8. Market Animals – Animals consigned for slaughter during or immediately following the show shall not receive any treatment with drugs or biologics within in the withdrawal time prior to slaughter. Withdrawal times for drugs and biologics are all stated on the directions for use. Label directions must be followed at all times.

9. Unethical Grooming & Fitting: All EXHIBITORS ARE PROHIBITED FROM USING ANY COLORING AGENTS, ADHESIVES, PAINT, OR POWDERS OR GRAPHITE, HEMP (OR SIMILAR SUBSTANCES) ON ANY ANIMAL EXHIBITED. ***Dairy Cattle (Dept. 2 & 10-2) & Dairy Goats are exempt and allowed to use adhesives only. Any animal showing any evidence of unethical fitting practices such as tampering with the natural fleshing and muscle development (including but NOT limited to drenching and pumping of fluids) will be barred from the show and no premiums will be awarded. **No aerosol cans or other pressurized containers will be allowed outside of stall/tack/fitting areas (i.e. not allowed ringside).** Altering the conformation and/or appearance of an animal for exhibition is prohibited, this includes the covering of white skin, false tail heads (or use of any false hair or other material), with the exception of false tail switches. Other prohibited products include those used internally such as steroids, illegal or unlicensed pharmaceuticals, or artificial filling. Any animal found to be in violation will be barred from showing.

*****IMPORTANT*** If upon slaughter, treatment with drugs, biologics, or any chemical from fitting products, is the cause of condemnation of a carcass, the loss of the carcass and any other damages will be borne by the exhibitor.** In an effort to provide consumers with a safe, high quality product, the Junior Show Committee & the York State Fair, approve of the above statement. All 4-H & FFA market animals that will be sold at the Junior Livestock sale, should not use any fitting material that does not have USDA approval. Animals may be washed and blown dry but should not have any spray or substance that might be illegal. Any terminal animal that is found to violate this rule may not be sold on Friday, July 31, 2026.

By signing, exhibitor(s) verifies that they have read, understand, consent to, & agree to abide by the terms & conditions stated herein in the 2026 York State Fair Code of Show Ring Ethics, failure to follow the rules listed above will result in either an official written warning (only 1 written warning before excusal) or an immediate excusal from the fair &/or withholding of all premiums for the 2026 York State Fair & the exhibitor may be prohibited from exhibiting at the York State Fair for up to three (3) years. All decisions will be made by the York State Fair Livestock Executive Members.

Youth (1) Exhibitor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Youth (1) Exhibitor **Print Name:** _____

Youth (2) Exhibitor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Youth (2) Exhibitor **Print Name:** _____

Youth (3) Exhibitor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Youth (3) Exhibitor **Print Name:** _____

Parent (Father/Guardian) Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent (Mother/Guardian) Signature: _____ Date: _____

ALL YOUTH EXHIBITORS MUST SIGN A COPY OF THE 2026 YORK STATE FAIR CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS & RETURN IT TO THE LIVESTOCK OFFICE BY:

**10 PM – Thursday, July 23 for Sheep & Dairy Cattle
10 AM – Wednesday, July 29 for Terminal Swine**

**10 PM – Monday, July 27 for Goats, Beef, Dairy Beef, Breeding Swine
7 PM – Saturday, August 1 for Dairy Goats**