

# 4-H & FFA Youth Exhibitor and Parent Code of Conduct

## **Purpose:**

To ensure that all participants in 4-H and FFA activities at the Kissimmee Valley Livestock Show & Osceola County Fair conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the integrity, mission, and values of 4-H, FFA, and agricultural youth development programs.

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## **General Expectations (Youth & Parents/Guardians):**

1. **Respect:**
    - Treat all fair officials, volunteers, judges, staff, other exhibitors, and animals with courtesy and respect.
    - Refrain from abusive, threatening, or harassing behavior.
  2. **Sportsmanship:**
    - Display good sportsmanship at all times — before, during, and after competitions or events.
    - Accept judge's decisions with grace and dignity.
  3. **Honesty & Integrity:**
    - All entries, including livestock, must be the bona fide property and work of the exhibitor as per the rules.
    - No unethical, fraudulent, or illegal practices will be tolerated (e.g., altering animals or misrepresenting entries).
  4. **Responsibility:**
    - Youth are responsible for the care, handling, and presentation of their animals and/or projects.
    - Parents and advisors may assist, but excessive parental involvement in youth projects undermines the educational value.
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## **Livestock Exhibitors:**

1. **Animal Welfare:**
  - Proper care and humane treatment of animals is required at all times.
  - Exhibitors are responsible for feeding, watering, and maintaining clean stalls/pens throughout the fair.
2. **Show Ring Conduct:**
  - Exhibitors must follow all ring procedures and directions given by officials or judges.
  - Appropriate dress code for each livestock event must be observed.
3. **Preparation & Grooming:**

- Only legal and ethical grooming practices may be used. No use of prohibited substances or practices.
  - Any animal found to be tampered with or treated unethically may be disqualified.
4. **Animal Removal:**
- Animals may not be removed before the official release time without written permission from fair management.
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### **Non-Livestock Exhibitors:**

1. **Project Integrity:**
    - Projects must be the work of the exhibitor and completed according to 4-H/FFA guidelines.
    - Plagiarism, misrepresentation, or falsification is not allowed.
  2. **Exhibit Area Etiquette:**
    - Respect other exhibits and refrain from touching or tampering with displays.
    - Keep project areas clean and remove all materials upon completion of the fair.
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### **Parent & Guardian Responsibilities:**

1. **Role Modeling:**
    - Demonstrate positive behavior and support youth development goals.
    - Avoid confrontational behavior or undermining fair staff, judges, or other families.
  2. **Encouragement & Support:**
    - Encourage youth to be independent, responsible, and self-directed in their project work.
    - Respect the learning process and encourage youth to handle both success and disappointment constructively.
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### **Consequences for Violations:**

Violations of this Code of Conduct may result in:

- Verbal or written warnings
  - Disqualification from current or future fair activities
  - Forfeiture of awards, premiums, or sale proceeds
  - Removal from the fairgrounds
  - Referral to 4-H or FFA officials for further disciplinary action
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**Acknowledgment:**

All youth exhibitors and their parent/guardian are required to read and sign this Code of Conduct prior to participating in the fair.