Marion County 4-H Animal Science Code of Ethics

Ethics:
- It is a standard of right and wrong and being able to see the difference.
- It is the courage to meet the challenge of doing more than what you have to do. It is doing what you should do.
- It is doing what is right, proper and good.
- It is guiding our choices and modeling them with our actions.
- It is doing the right thing even if it costs us money, prestige, popularity, or pleasure.

Marion County 4-H animal science members are expected to conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship at all times. As exhibitions and shows are public displays of not only husbandry and handling skills but also personal character and discipline, the behavior of exhibitors, as well as that of parents and leaders, is expected to reflect the highest standards of integrity and professionalism at all times.

The following is a listing of guidelines all 4-H Exhibitors must follow to enter any project animal at organized competitive events. Exhibitors who violate the guidelines below may forfeit premiums and/or awards and may be prohibited from participation in future 4-H activities.

1. All exhibitors must be prepared to present, upon request of show officials, viable proof of ownership, transfer of ownership (if any), length of ownership, and age of animal(s). Misrepresentation of any facts requested by show officials is prohibited.

2. No exhibitor may show a market 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 (progress level shows excluded).

Agreement Forms in this publication are adapted from Douglas County, El Paso County and the National Show Ring Code of Ethics. Publication prepared by Pamela Olsen, 4-H Youth Development Educator.
3. Exhibitors are expected to care for, groom and exhibit their own animals while at a fair or animal science show except for normal care given during barn duty. However, because of the educational nature of animal science shows, it is appropriate for parents, leaders, and/or other approved persons to give VERBAL assistance in the preparation of livestock for show. 4-H members in good standing in Marion County may ASSIST each other, but the owner of the animal must do the majority of the work. The project superintendent must approve any exceptions in advance. When safety becomes an issue in the handling of the animal, parent help is acceptable.

4. The exhibitor will be held liable for an animal's condition whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in violation of this code of ethics.

5. (a) The use of tranquilizers, sedatives, or any other drugs which alter the physical or physiological state of the animals is prohibited.

(b) During animal science events, in the case of animals requiring treatment, all medications shall be administered according to label instructions and the animal science show officials shall be notified of the medication given, amount administered, time of administration, and who administered the medication.

(c) Non-market animals shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations label and/or by the direct instruction of a supervising veterinarian. Animals shall not be exhibited if the drug(s) administered affect the animal’s performance or appearance at the event.

(d) Any medications given to market animals will be administered strictly according to the label and/or by the direct instruction of a supervising licensed veterinarian. All drugs administered to meat producing animals must be properly approved for use on the species treated and be approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

(e) Animals shall be presented free of drugs at show events where they will enter the food chain. This includes meat-producing animals, dairy animals producing milk, and poultry producing eggs. By entering an animal in a Marion County 4-H livestock show, the owner, exhibitor, parent and/or absolutely responsible person effectively agrees to abide by the Wholesome Assurance Statement.

6. The use of any surgical procedure, injection of any foreign substance or drug or any external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter it's natural contour, conformation or appearance (including external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance), except substances for practical cleaning purposes and surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
7. The use of inhumane 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. Other practices unless under the written authority of a licensed veterinarian, that are not acceptable or prohibited include, but not limited to, liquid diets for lambs, excessive shrinking, excessive exercising, tying animals with their feet off the ground, and electric stimulation.

8. The balancing of the udder by abnormal means that includes the use of a mechanical contrivance or the injection of fluid or drugs, setting the teats and/or blocked with a mechanical contrivance or the use of chemical preparation is illegal. Treating or massaging the udder or its attachments with an irritant or counter irritant is prohibited.

9. All judges, show officials, other exhibitors and staff shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct a criticism, interference, abusive or threatening language or conduct toward them. Persons failing to show proper courtesy to judges, officials, exhibitors or staff may be removed from the show area.

10. No exhibitor, parent 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. Violations of this rule shall subject such individuals to disciplinary action.

11. Exhibitors must be prepared to provide animal health certificates from a licensed veterinarian if requested in advance by show officials or if an exhibitor’s animal is found to be in questionable health upon arrival at the show. Health inspections and diagnostic tests may be made before or after the animals are on the show premises for exhibitor and animal safety, or to inaugurate disease control procedures which may become necessary in emergencies as determined by animal health officials.

12. The exhibitor shall be held directly responsible for animals that are rejected at a processing center due to the presence of foreign residues if the animal(s) are shipped directly to processor. The seller may be liable to the buyer for an amount equal to three times the purchased price and may also be liable for attorney's fees and civil penalties. **Show Management may share acceptable intelligence and evidence information with FDA and USDA.** If for any reason, the FDA and USDA inspectors must remove any part of a meat animal carcass, the market price will be discounted.

13. By entering in a Marion County 4-H event, the exhibitor verifies that he or she has read the Marion County Animal Science Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of actions prohibited by the code. The exhibitor furthermore gives consent to have disciplinary action taken by show officials for violations of the Marion County 4-H Animal Science Code of Show Ring Ethics and any other rules of competition of the show without recourse against the show or show officials.

(Adapted from National Show Ring Code of Ethics, 01)
Wholesome Assurance Statement

1. The use by non-veterinarians* of animal drugs or other substances in any manner other than in accord with the labeling approved by the FDA is a violation of federal law. (*Note: Abuse of the extra-label privilege by veterinarians is unethical and is subject to serious consequences such as license revocation.)

2. Any food animal must not exceed FDA/EPA/USDA established tolerances for any foreign substance including drugs, pesticides, feed additives, or other chemicals.

3. Violative results of residue testing are subject to investigation by the USDA and FDA for prosecution.

4. Any misrepresentation of a food animal that can potentially affect the acceptability of the carcass or milk will be considered fraud.

The Wholesome Assurance Statement was developed as a result of efforts taken by participants of the 1995 National Youth Livestock Program Ethics Symposium held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Wholesome Assurance Statement was derived from 244 pages of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) law, which was condensed into four sentences. The purpose of the Wholesome Assurance Statement is to relay FDA food law in a simple and easy to understand manner to the people who raise livestock animals. The statement has been endorsed by industry groups such as U.S. Beef Breeds Council, American Pedi-greed Livestock Council, American Veterinary Medical Association, and by livestock shows nationwide.

Residue Avoidance and Residue Testing

Policy It is the policy and rule of the Marion County 4-H Program that no animal, which is entered for competition in a 4-H sponsored event, shall contain any trace residue of any substance that is not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for slaughter animals. In an effort to increase awareness of the production of consumer oriented products, the Marion County 4-H Program requires exhibitors of market animals to read the Animal Science Code of Ethics. It is the sole responsibility of the 4-H Exhibitor to insure that the animal is free of all drugs or other substances exceeding FDA/USDA established tolerances. This includes substances used per label or in an extra-label fashion. All extra-label drug usage must be done under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian and their contact information is required.
Testing

By entering an animal in a 4-H sponsored event, the 4-H Exhibitor, 4-H Volunteer Leader and Parent/Legal Guardian grants the 4-H Marion County Show Management (employees or contractors), other approved departments within Oregon State University, Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine, FDA, USDA, Oregon Department of Agriculture and/or Oregon Department of Health the right to test any animal officially entered in any division at any time without notice, for any foreign substance including but not limited to drugs, chemicals or feed additives as well as DNA testing. Testing may be performed on any body tissue or fluid on the live animal and/or carcass. Test samples collected from any animal must have zero tolerance for any identifiable or unidentifiable foreign substances including drugs (legal and illegal), chemicals of any kind or feed additives, unless otherwise established as permissible by the USDA or FDA.

The 4-H Exhibitors, by entering his/her animal, expressly agrees that he/she will cooperate with the person(s) charged with the responsibility of taking the sample from the animal at the time of arrival, weigh-in, during the show or any other time the animal is at the Show location. Failure to fully cooperate with testing procedures, and/or representatives collecting samples shall indicate a voluntary withdrawal by the 4-H Exhibitor of the animal from the competition, and result in the immediate disqualification of this project and automatic loss of participation under penalties associated with a positive test.

All samples shall be taken by a person designated by the Marion County 4-H Extension Agent and tested in an approved Diagnostic Laboratory such as Oregon State University in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Reasonable care will be taken with regard to maintaining the purity and identity of the sample. The only chain of custody required would be that routinely relied upon by veterinarians practicing in and around the Marion County, Oregon. 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 preserved and all procedures of said collection and preservation, transfer to the laboratory pertains to the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken from the animal in question. The owner, 4-H Exhibitor, parent or absolute responsible person has the burden to prove otherwise at any hearing in regard to the matter conducted by the 4-H fair or livestock show.

As samples are taken, the 4-H Exhibitor, a parent/legal guardian and/or a 4-H Volunteer leader shall be present to view the procedure. Upon collection of a sample, the 4-H Exhibitor, and a parent/legal guardian or 4-H Volunteer leader shall provide their signatures to acknowledge that the sample was collected from the 4-H Exhibitor’s animal. Compounds tested for may include but are not limited to:

- Antibiotics/Sulfa Medications
- Diuretics
- Local Anesthetics
- Sedatives/Tranquilizers
- Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Agents
- Anthelmintics
- Steroids/Growth Promotants/Corticosteroids
- Antihistamines
- Miscellaneous Compounds/Medications
- Feed Additives/Medications
**Penalties**  
If the laboratory report on the chemical analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from livestock indicates the presence of violative residues, forbidden drugs or medication, this shall be sufficient evidence that such substance has (1) been administered to the animal either internally or externally, and (2) been improperly or unlawfully administered to the animal. Extent of knowledge on the part of the 4-H Exhibitor with regards to the drugs or substance found in an animal is not relevant to any issue, and it shall not be the defense that person or persons unknown introduced the proscribed substance into the animal prior to, or at arrival, or after arrival on the show property.

Animals testing positive to an unapproved foreign substance, including but not limited to drugs, chemicals or feed additives, will be disqualified by the Marion County 4-H Show Management. The animal will not be exhibited and entered in competition in any classes or sell at auction and will be declared ineligible to receive awards, premium money or sale proceeds. The 4-H Exhibitor will be responsible for payment of any fees, fines due or costs incurred by the show management as a result of the disqualification. The test results shall be final and unappealable and the animal will not be exhibited and entered in competition.

If an entry is disqualified due to (1) an illegal or prohibitive substance or (2) an illegal use of a legal substance without proof of legal use as established by the USDA or FDA, the entry and/or the 4-H Exhibitor will have the following stated sanctions imposed. The 4-H youth owner/Exhibitor will not be eligible to compete in the Marion County 4-H Fair for one full year (July through the following July).

If the 4-H Exhibitor wants to participate in the Marion County 4-H Fair the following year (after the mandatory penalty year), the 4-H Exhibitor must submit a written request prior to purchasing a market animal and voluntarily submit to drug residue testing all market animal entries for that year. The 4-H Exhibitor and/or his/her immediate family will be responsible for all expenses associated with the testing of his/her exhibit(s). The Marion County 4-H Extension Office will keep a list of youth that are involved in the penalty stages of this program. Once a 4-H Exhibitor has satisfactorily completed his/her active year of participation without having animals disqualified due to testing positive to unapproved foreign substances including but not limited to drugs, chemicals or feed additives, their name will be removed from the county penalty list.

If foreign substance residues, including drugs, chemicals or feed additives, are found in tissues of any animal carcass sold through the 4-H/FFA Jr. Market Auction, the Marion County 4-H Fair and Marion County 4-H Extension will in no way be liable or responsible for condition of carcass or sale price of animals. Carcass of disqualified animals will be disposed of per written instructions from USDA or the FDA at the exhibitor’s expense.
Marion County 4-H Animal Science Code of Ethics

Member Agreement

As a youth participant in the Marion County 4-H Program, I acknowledge and accept my role as a 4-H youth representative. I count it a privilege to represent 4-H and will endeavor to uphold the integrity of the program that I represent by not allowing or participating in activities that serve to discredit the 4-H program or its members.

I believe my participation in 4-H should demonstrate my own ability, knowledge and skill, and my own investment of time in all my 4-H projects. I will do my own work and accept only advice and support from adults and other persons. I understand that 4-H members in good standing in Marion County may ASSIST me, but I must do the majority of work myself.

I will not use abusive, questionable or unethical techniques in the construction, preparation, presentation or handling of my projects. I will not resort to fraudulent, deceptive or illegal practices when preparing my project for exhibition. I will also not allow my parents, leader or any other adult or minor to employ such practices to my project.

I realize I am responsible for the following:
* The development of sportsmanship and sound ethical character in myself.
* The proper care and treatment of my project.
* The proper presentation of my project at any 4-H sponsored event or show.
* The production of wholesome food, fiber, clothing and textiles.
* The proper administration of drugs and the avoidance of drug residues and illegal drug use in animals.

I understand that I have an important role in educating the public about my projects. I take this responsibility to 4-H and my industry seriously. I am confident in my own abilities to learn how to exhibit my projects. I do not need nor will I tolerate coaching from the sideline at any event/show. I will quickly follow the instructions of the officials and do my best to make any event or show better for everyone. Because my project is an example of my personal growth and development of character, I will persevere through good and bad times, and accept the outcome with grace.

I have read and do understand the rules and regulations stated in the "Marion County 4-H Animal Science Code of Ethics" and the "4-H Code of Conduct". In consideration for being permitted to participate in any 4-H program, event, or show, I agree and consent to abide by these rules and ask that my parents and leaders of my project not break any rules or make any exception on my behalf.

I understand that when I, my parents, my leader or any other adult or minor connected with my project do not adhere to the rules and regulations, I must live by the decision of the OSU Marion County Extension 4-H Staff. I give consent to have disciplinary action taken by the 4-H staff for violations of this "Marion County 4-H Animal Science Code of Ethics" and any other rules pertaining to any 4-H event or show without recourse against the Marion County 4-H Program, staff, or any officials.

Furthermore, I understand that if I am not in agreement with all policies, guidelines and show rules as set forth in this document, and do not initial the Animal Science Statement on the 4-H member enrollment form, I will not be eligible to participate in the Marion County 4-H Animal Science Program.
As a leader and representative of 4-H, I pledge to uphold the purpose and goals of the 4-H program. I understand that my role is that of an educator and guide, recognizing that the program focus is “youth development”, not projects. I further acknowledge that the program objective is to teach life skills so that our youth can develop integrity, responsibility, citizenship, and sportsmanship to assist them in becoming productive citizens in society. To that end, I pledge the following:

I will demonstrate and maintain high standards of personal behavior and conduct as a representative of 4-H. I will strive to be objective, honest, fair, and steadfast in all my words and actions.

I will encourage a positive attitude while endeavoring to teach by word and example all aspects of ethics and quality assurance.

I will share the following questions with the youth members to help them discern if a particular practice is the right ethical choice.

1. Does the practice violate USDA/FDA standards/laws?
2. Is it a fraudulent misrepresentation of the animal?
3. Is this practice done to gain an unfair advantage?
4. Does the practice compromise the welfare of the animal?
5. Does the practice have anything to do with the real world of commercial agriculture?
6. Will the public stand for it or does the practice need to be done in secrecy?

I will assist in ensuring that the 4-H members enrolled in market animal projects are producing a safe and edible product for the consumer. I will do so by sharing with the youth members in the livestock program the following links to protect the integrity of the food chain.

1. Proper Facilities; 2. Proper Nutrition; 3. Proper Handling and Care; 4. Proper uses of animal health care products, ie. reading and following the labels, avoiding extra label use, etc.; and 5. Proper Injection Sites

I will set forth a good example and demonstrate good sportsmanship techniques before, during, and after competitive programs.

I will read and understand all policies, guidelines, show rules, and expectations as set forth in the following:

“4-H Code of Conduct”
“Marion County Fair 4-H Exhibitor Handbook”
“Marion County 4-H Animal Science Code of Ethics”
“Oregon State Fair 4-H Exhibitor Handbook”

I will endeavor to instruct all members on the above-mentioned policies, guidelines, show rules, and expectations.

I will respect and hereby consent to abide by and enforce all policies, guidelines, and show rules as set forth in this document. I understand and do accept that any leader/volunteer who violates any above stated policy, guideline, show rule, or expectation may be prohibited from further participation as a representative of the 4-H program. The OSU Marion County Extension 4-H Staff will determine and administer any resultant consequence or penalty for a violation.

Furthermore, I understand that if I am not in agreement with any above stated policy, guideline, show rule, or expectation and do not initial the Animal Science Statement on the 4-H Leader enrollment form, I will not be eligible to be approved or to continue as a 4-H leader/volunteer in the Marion County 4-H Animal Science Program.