

2017 Code of Ethics/Biosecurity WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITOR CODE OF ETHICS

Exhibitors at the Washington County Fair (WCF) shall at all times act with integrity and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of animal and agricultural education. This code applies to 4-H and FFA exhibitors, their parents, family member and leaders, and all Open Class exhibitors who compete or display at the WCF. This Code of Ethics is an addition to Washington County Fair rules and regulations, which still apply.

All youth leaders, parents, family members, superintendents, volunteers, and show officials working with 4-H and FFA exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. They are expected to maintain high ethical values and engage with a positive cooperative manner so that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by exemplary leaders.

Owners, exhibitors, parents, family members, fitters, trainers, superintendents, volunteers, show officials, and responsible livestock persons who violate this code of ethics and/or demean the integrity of the livestock competition may be subject to disciplinary action. Disciplinary action(s) may cause expulsion from participating in current and/or future WCF shows, loss of class placing, forfeiture of premiums, awards and auction proceeds.

Any individuals in violation of the Code of Ethics may be required to appear for disciplinary action hearing to be held with 24 hours of the violation(s). The disciplinary hearing panel will consist of the current WCF livestock committee and at least 2 members of the Fair Board. If applicable, a member of the auction committee and/or 4-H agent/FFA advisor may be included in the panel. The violating individual(s) may appeal the results of the hearing in writing within 24 hours of the final review by the full Fair Board.

The results of disciplinary actions may or may not be kept confidential.

The following is a list of guidelines for all WCF competitive livestock events:

- 1) The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, superintendent, volunteer, show official, or responsible person to have disciplinary action taken by the WCF for violation of this Code of Ethics and any other rules of the WCF show without recourse against the WCF.
- 2) The act of entering an animal at the WCF is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, superintendent, volunteer, show official, or responsible person that he or she has read the WCF Code of Ethics and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions prohibited by the code.
- 3) All exhibitors must present, upon request of WCF officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership, and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age or any related facts is prohibited.
- 4) Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers or responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request of WCF officials.
- 5) 4-H and FFA animals are expected to be cared for, groomed and fit by their exhibitors while at the WCF.
- 6) For animals entering the food chain, (market animals):
 - A) Animals will be free of prohibited drugs and subsequent residues. Animals shall be presented at show events as if they were to immediately enter the food chain.
 - B) Any drug that alters and/or affects the animal's performance or appearance is strictly prohibited. Livestock shall not be exhibited even if these types of drugs were administered in accordance with federal, state and local statutes, regulation and rules.
 - C) The act of entering an animal in livestock show is the giving of, consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer and/or responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the to be used in testing.
 - D) 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 evidence such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally.

- E) Integrity of fluid collection samples and assumption of laboratory accuracy: 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 procedures of said collection and preservation, transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample are from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden of the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to prove otherwise.
- F) Any time after an animal arrives on the WCF 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, the direct owner of the animal or a qualified individual under the supervision or with consent of the owner.
- 7) For Breeding Animals:
- a. 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 local statutes, regulations and rules.
- 8) Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug, or the external application of any substance, which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, conformation, or appearance, is strictly prohibited.
- A) This includes, but is not limited to: irritants, counterirritants, or similar substances;
- B) The excludes; external applications of substances to the hoofs, horns or coat (in accordance of show rules), and the administration of substances during surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal.
- 9) The use of shoeing and/or handling devices that strike animals and cause swelling are not acceptable and are prohibited.
- 10) Direct criticism or interference with the judge, WCF 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, WCF management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect. No person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward another.
- 11) No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or 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.

Biosecurity Recommendations for Livestock Exhibitors at the Washington County Fair

Livestock shows and exhibitions like the Washington County Fair provide a great opportunity not only for the exhibiting of livestock but also provide the opportunity to educate the public about agriculture and food animal production. At the same time, this also creates an environment for the potential exposure and spread of animal disease. The combination of close confinement, comingling of animals from different origins, travel-related stress, and the change in environment all increase the risk of exposure as well as potentially compromise the ability of an animal to resist disease. In addition, the increased interactions with other exhibitors and general fairgoers may also contribute to potential disease exposure. Finally, at the completion of the exhibition, livestock returning home can serve as a source of infection for the animals at home.

All these issues make the implementation of biosecurity and management practices by animal owners and exhibitors before, during, and after the Fair important.

General Requirements for Livestock Exhibitors at the Washington County Fair

- All animals must be examined by the official Veterinarian on the day they are admitted to the Fair.
- No animal may enter, or be on display, that is showing clinical signs of any infectious, contagious, or communicable disease, including ringworm and warts.

Bio-Security Recommendations for before the Fair:

- Only healthy animals should be entered at the Fair. All animals should be carefully evaluated for signs of disease or to going to the Fair. If you have any questions, please have your veterinarian examine the animal.
- Carefully consider whether you want to bring animals that would return home after the fair, consider the risk this may present to animals at home.
- Follow vaccination guidelines (if provide) and give vaccination(s) at least 30 days before the event.
- Disinfect all equipment, such as buckets, shovels, wheelbarrows, halters, lead ropes, etc., before entering the Fairgrounds.
- Vehicles and trailers used to transport animals to and from the fair (private and commercial) should be well-cleaned and sanitized between uses, both inside and out.
- Limit the mixing/commingling of species in the same trailer, at a minimum segregate in different compartments when possible.

Bio-Security During the Fair:

- Do not share equipment with other exhibitors unless it is cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
- Minimize animal-to-animal contact.
- Minimize animal to human to animal contact
- Avoid use of communal water sources.
- Minimize animal stress by keeping them cool, well bedded and comfortable.
- As much as possible, minimize feed and water changes from home to fair.
- Keep unused equipment and feed, bagged or covered to reduce the risk of contamination.
- The person caring for animals at the Fair should not perform animal related chores at home. If the same person must do both, do chores at home first. Do not wear the same clothes to care for the animals at home and animals at the fair.
- If an animal becomes ill at the Fair, consult the fair veterinarian.

Bio-Security Recommendations for After the Fair:

- Clean and disinfect all items at the end of the Fair before taking them home.
- Properly dispose of unused bedding, hay and feed after the Fair. Do not bring it home.
- The most bio-secure way to transport your animal home is in your own vehicle and /or trailer. Mixing animals from other farms increase the risk of exposure to diseases.
- After arriving home, keep fair animals isolated from other animals and pets for at least 30 days. Check these isolated animals every day for any signs of illness. Care for isolated animals separately, then change your clothes, clean and disinfect your boots and wash your hands before tending your other animals.
- Contact a veterinarian right away if you see any unusual symptom in any animal.

Bio-Security Procedures for Managing Livestock Contact

In an effort to reduce exposure for animals to person diseases at the Washington County Fair, the following procedures shall be enacted.

Three major areas of focus:

1. Exhibitor Outreach
2. Reduction in Contamination
3. Public/Customer Outreach

1. Livestock Exhibitor Outreach

Livestock Exhibitors have been provided the opportunity to attend Bio-Security training, these practices must be implemented by the exhibitor.

The Fair will provide a safe barn, pen layout and show rings to prevent animals and the public from crossing paths (foot traffic).

The Fair will provide signage in the barns including signs for each pen requesting that the animals not be touched. Exhibitors are expected to keep their areas clean, remove manure as soon as possible, throughout the day wipe down panels with bleach wipes, keep pathways misted to prevent dust, keep all fans at least 3 feet off the ground and not point toward the ground.

Prevent cross-contamination between animals.

Exhibitors are expected to not allow, to the best of their ability, anyone to touch their animals. If contact does happen, the exhibitor must immediately intervene and take action by requesting the person to immediately wash their hands with soap and water (not hand sanitizer), and to not touch their mouth or face until they have washed. This is a good opportunity to also educate the person about the importance of not touch the animals.

Exhibitors are expected to educate the public and fellow exhibitors regarding animal to person health and safety procedures.

Exhibitors are required to use the separate animal travel paths to prevent the public from crossing paths (foot traffic) with animals.

Exhibitors are strictly prohibited from eating inside the barns and showrings and may only drink beverages from containers with a twist off cap while in the barns and showrings.

2. Reduction in Contamination

Where possible, show rings will be located away from areas where the public will cross paths with animals. For show rings where that is not possible, the Fair will provide one location where animals are allowed to cross. This designated crossing area shall be managed by the Livestock Supervisor, and Livestock Superintendents, who will ensure that during livestock crossing the public will not be allowed into the area and the area will be completely sanitized with Virkon-S, and logged, prior to opening the area back up to the public.

In the livestock barns, the pens and barns will be configured by the Fair, in such a way that the public does not cross paths (foot traffic) with animals. Animals will have their own traffic paths that are separate from those of the public.

Handwashing Stations will be inspected and serviced hourly by Fair staff to ensure that they are operational and stocked with supplies.

3. Public Outreach

Signage explaining the risks of animal to human disease will be posted at the main entrances to the Fair, at the entrances to Livestock Zone in both English and Spanish.

Signage on how to prevent diseases associated with animals and animal areas will be posted on the outside and inside of the barns in both English and Spanish.

Signage at the exit areas of the Livestock Zone will request the public to wash their hands, shoes and stroller wheels prior to leaving the area, in both English and Spanish.

If available, trained volunteers will be available at the entrances and exits of the Livestock Zone to educate the public on staying healthy around animals.

Foot Pump Handwashing Stations will be located at the entrance/exit of each barn.

Handwashing Trailers will be located at the exits of the Livestock Zone with signage in English and Spanish encouraging those handwashing.

WASHINGTON COUNTY LIVESTOCK PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

I have read and understand, and in consideration for being permitted to participate at this event, agree and consent to abide by the rules of competition, WCF Code of Ethics and Bio- Security procedures for managing Livestock. I further understand that violation of any WCF rules the WCF Code of Ethics or the Bio-Security Procedures may cause disciplinary action that may result, but not limited to in expulsion, forfeiture of premiums, awards and auction proceeds as well as future participation at the WCF.

Owner, Exhibitor, Fitter, Trainer, Leader, Superintendent, Show official

Date

Guardian/Parent of the above Exhibitor if under 18

Date

4-H Club Leader or FFA Advisor

Date