

# MINNESOTA STATE FAIR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS

**\*\*\* IF YOU CHEAT - YOU WILL BE CAUGHT! \*\*\***

The Minnesota State Fair takes very seriously the rules and ethics concerning animal welfare and will penalize exhibitors when rules are broken. Punishable offenses include violation of the rules and ethical code practices described in the Minnesota State Fair Open and FFA Livestock Premium Books including the International Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (IAFE) National Code of Show Ring Ethics. Use of non-approved medications and feed additives, or improper withdrawal periods on approved medications, have resulted in penalties. Artificial enhancements, surgeries or injections that alter or enhance an animal's phenotype are also prohibited.

**Penalties for violations include any or all of the following:**

- Expulsion from entry at any Minnesota State Fair livestock show (including 4-H, open, FFA or MN Beef Expo);
- Suspension from entry for a period of years;
- Surrender of all premiums, awards and/or sale proceeds;
- Reimbursement of all associated costs incurred by the Minnesota State Fair;
- Referral to the NALS&RMA Rules Infraction Database;
- Referral to law enforcement for violations of the U.S.D.A. Meat Inspection Act;
- Notification of code of conduct violation to school authorities;
- Other penalties as determined by the Minnesota State Fair.

It is the exhibitor's responsibility to read and understand all the requirements of the Minnesota State Fair Premium Book. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Penalties may also be assessed against family members and/or any fitters of the animals of the violating exhibitor. Violators of the U.S.D.A. Meat Inspection Act are subject to significant fines and/or prison sentences if convicted in a court of law.

**Substance Testing:**

Minnesota State Fair conducts tests on all market livestock champions. Additionally, random tests are conducted on various livestock exhibited at the Minnesota State Fair. The tests are conducted by a federally approved laboratory. If a positive initial test is found, a confirmation test is performed to confirm the results. The testing procedures are very sensitive and can identify substances of less than one nanogram. The laboratory can and does test for a wide range of legal and illegal substances.

**No Self Administration of Medicine on Livestock on Fair property:**

While on Minnesota State Fair property, do not administer any medication or calming agents without permission of state fair officials. The state fair veterinarians are here to help when you have a health issue with your livestock. They charge a minimal fee to consult with and/or treat the livestock. Exhibitors are required to use the services of the state fair veterinarians and should not take chances by self-administration of medications of any sort. Leave needles and syringes at home!

**Minimize Risk of Rules Violations:**

- **Know what is in your feed.** Check all labels before use of any product. Certain products approved for one species may not be approved for all species. For example, Beta Agonist products like Optiflex are approved for cattle and Paylean is approved for hogs; however, neither of these products are approved for lambs or goats. Make sure your show feeds and show feed supplements do not contain violation-causing ingredients for your species.
- Follow all withdrawal requirements of any additive to the full extent of the label on the product. Penalties may be assessed on the exhibitor for improper withdrawal.
- Be sure that all family and others assisting with care of your animals are aware of the rules you as an exhibitor are subject to. Remember, you are responsible for what is in the animal and not someone else; the legal responsibility rests on your shoulders.
- Maintaining the integrity and safety of the meat derived from the livestock in competition is the primary reason for the policies and procedures referred to above. We cannot lose sight of the fact that we have a moral and ethical responsibility to produce meat that will be totally safe for the consuming public. **Those who disrespect these responsibilities can and will suffer the consequences.**

FFA Member \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ FFA Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian (F) \_\_\_\_\_ Parent or Guardian (M) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**I certify that this FFA Member is in good standing with the Chapter and School; and that they have attested to me that their animal(s) is/are their project and is/are eligible to be shown in accordance with the rules of this show. Furthermore, I am aware of the expectations and consequences this member has agreed to in order to exhibit at the State Fair as a representative of our FFA Chapter and school; and I will support the State Fair's actions to carry out the penalties mentioned above if this member is found to be in violation of the rules of this show.**

FFA Advisor Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ FFA Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

School Administrator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Administrator's Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_