

GENERAL STATE FAIR RULES & REGULATIONS

The Maryland State Fair & Agricultural Society, Inc. ("Society") has jurisdiction and control over the operation, conduct and staging of the Annual State Fair. To this end, the following Rules & Regulations have been established to provide guidance to all participants:

1. The Society reserves the right to interpret all Rules & Regulations and resolve situations which may arise and is not restricted by the lack of a rule or regulation.
2. All reasonable precautions will be taken for the safety of people while on the Society's property, but the Society shall not be responsible for injury to any person.
3. All reasonable precautions will be taken for the protection of exhibits, but the Society shall not be responsible for any loss or damage.
4. Appeals to the decision of a judge or to issues relating to eligibility and rule violations as interpreted by the State Fair 4-H/FFA officials or the State Fair 4-H/FFA Review Board must be submitted in writing to the President of the Society before 12 o'clock noon of the day following the making of the judge's decision, or completion of the division/section show or judging. The reasons which prompted the appeal must be clearly stated and supported by facts. Each appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of \$500.00 that will not be returned unless the appeal is sustained.
5. No exhibitor in any division can win more than two monies in any one class. However, in some cases more than two exhibits may be entered and shown. Refer to the Division and Section Rules & Regulations for exceptions.
6. Every purebred animal must be owned and registered in the name of the exhibitor with the appropriate breed association.
7. The Society reserves the right to cancel an event without prior notice and without incurring any liability except the return of a paid entry fee.
8. Participants must comply with the Rules & Regulations listed for each Division, Section and Class.
9. Noncompliance with any Rule or Regulation may result in forfeiture of premiums.
10. If asked to leave the Maryland State Fairground, your premiums will be forfeited.
11. **GRILLS OF ANY TYPE ARE PROHIBITED IN THE COW PALACE!!**

GENERAL 4-H AND FFA RULES & REGULATIONS

The Maryland 4-H Youth Development Program expects all 4-H members to abide by the rules & guidelines presented in the documents "**Maryland 4-H Code of Conduct**", and the "**Maryland 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics**." All documents are available from a County/City 4-H office or the State 4-H Office. FFA members are expected to abide by the "**FFA Code of Ethics**", available from a local chapter or the State FFA Executive Secretary.

1. All 4-H and FFA members exhibiting or participating in Maryland State Fair activities must comply with all Rules & Regulations. **Each exhibitor must identify themselves on online registration as either 4-H or FFA. This identification will apply to all animal shows and livestock entries. General Rules and Dress Codes apply.**
2. Participants in 4-H activities at the Maryland State Fair must be enrolled as a 4-H member in Maryland and his or her enrollment recorded in the 4-H office by July 1 of the current year. 4-H members must have passed their 8th birthday and must not have reached their 19th birthday on January 1 of the current year. To be eligible to represent the State at Regional or National 4-H events, a 4-H member must have passed their 14th birthday by January 1 of the current year.
3. FFA members must have annual dues paid in their local FFA Chapter for the current year and be conducting a supervised farming program under the guidance of the local FFA Advisor. FFA members cannot have passed their nineteenth birthday as of January 1 of the current year when competing in the same class with 4-H members.
4. **Pre-entry is required. YOU MUST USE THE ONLINE ENTRY SYSTEMS FOUND AT www.marylandstatefair.com. Internet entries are due July 15th.** Exhibitors without internet access should contact their County Extension Educator for assistance. All exhibitors must complete and submit a Release of Liability Statement included in the ONLINE ENTRY SYSTEM.
5. Some sections require pre-entry in 4-H Online and approval by the 4-H Extension Educators or FFA Advisors. The deadline for these entries is July 31st. Entries must be submitted using 4-H Online at <https://v2.4honline.com/>. Counties with qualifying events at shows/fairs held after July 31st may contact the 4-H State Fair Coordinator about late entries.
6. Entry tags for exhibits on display at the 4-H/FFA Home Arts Building will be distributed to County Extension offices for further distribution to exhibitors unless otherwise noted in the Division or Section Rules or Department notices to participants.
7. Only entries from individual 4-H and FFA members will be accepted unless otherwise noted in Division/Section Rules.
8. Entries that have won at a previous Maryland State Fair are not eligible for entry. All exhibits must be the exhibitor's work, completed by the 4-H or FFA member, and entries will be accepted only in classes that relate to current year's official project enrollment. Unless otherwise noted in Division or Section, an item may only be entered in one (1) class/section/division.
9. Only animals or items for which classes are provided in the Premium Book will be accepted. Each entry must meet the specifications of the class in which it is entered at the sole discretion of the Superintendent. *Do not enter exhibits in the Award Classes, which are in italics. They are for informational purposes only.*
10. 4-H and FFA members must be dressed neatly, cleanly and attractively at all times. 4-H and FFA members must wear appropriate show attire as prescribed for all fitting & showmanship, breeding and market classes and the Livestock Sale.
11. The Fair does not carry insurance on exhibits. Fair management will not be responsible for items damaged or stolen. Exhibitors may insure their exhibits before bringing them to the Fair.
12. Competent judges as determined by the Superintendent will be selected, and the judges' decisions are final.
13. If asked to leave the Maryland State Fairgrounds, your premiums will be forfeited.
14. Exhibits judged by the group award system of "Excellent", "Very Good" and "Good" will be judged on their own merits against a set standard. Exhibits in the 4-H/FFA Home Arts Building may be judged using a combination of the group award system and the numeric placing system. In most cases, premiums will be awarded for the numerical placings only. Refer to the Division and Section Rules & Regulations for more information.
15. 4-H and FFA members desiring to enter in an Open class must complete a regulation entry blank furnished by the Maryland State Fair and submit the appropriate entry fee. All Rules & Regulations and deadlines for Open Class exhibits must be followed.
16. **Exhibitors who do not obey rules, and/or behavior standards of the Maryland 4-H and FFA Programs will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action as established in the Code of Conduct in effect for each organization. 4-H and FFA members who are disciplined and removed from the fair forfeit all premiums.**

4-H AND FFA STATE FAIR REVIEW BOARD

The 4-H and FFA State Fair Review Board has the authority to rule in the case of violations of all Rules & Regulations pertinent to 4-H/FFA Animal shows, competitions and associated activities at the State Fair. The committee will consist of and be established as follows:

1. The 4-H Animal Science Specialist will serve as Chairperson of the Review Board.
2. 2 regional/state UME/4-H specialists, who are involved with the State Fair. Alternates will replace one of the two selected if the individual is a superintendent and the complaint being reviewed is from the selected superintendent's division.
3. 2 county 4-H Faculty/Staff and an alternate to be selected from the 4-H faculty/staff assigned to animal divisions at the Maryland State Fair.

4. 2 adult volunteers, representative from any division. Superintendents will be responsible for identifying the volunteers. An alternate will also be selected.
5. One member of the "Society" appointed by the President of the Fair Board. This individual will serve in an ex-officio, non-voting status.
6. A quorum will require 5 of the 8 members to be present. Minutes of the Review Board meetings will be recorded.

Violations of the policies contained within the "Maryland 4-H Code of Conduct", "Maryland 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics", "FFA Code of Ethics", or the "Fair Rules and Regulations" may result in one or more of the following immediate actions carried out by the Review Board:

1. Expulsion of the exhibitor as well as animals to be shown by exhibitor in all 4-H/FFA competitions/shows at the current Maryland State Fair.
2. Forfeiture of all State Fair 4-H/FFA premiums for animal entries.
3. The Chairperson will report all decisions to the President of the Maryland State Fair & Agriculture Society.
4. A 4-H/FFA member has the right to appeal the decision in writing to the President of the Maryland State Fair & Agriculture Society and the State Fair 4-H Coordinator within 24 hours.

Additional sanctions for violation of the of the policies contained within the "Maryland 4-H Code of Conduct", "Maryland 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics", "FFA Code of Ethics" may be imposed by the Maryland 4-H and FFA organizations.

ANIMAL RULES & REGULATIONS

In 2025 4-H/FFA Animal Exhibitors may request the opportunity to submit late entries to the Maryland State Fair. Requests for late entries will be accepted from July 16 – 21. There will be a fee of \$10/head for each animal entered late. Call 410-252-0200 ext. 231 for information on late entries.

1. Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their animals while on the grounds. Premiums will not be paid to exhibitors who fail to keep the animals and stables clean and attractive at all times. Superintendents reserve the right to take corrective action in situations where it is believed that the safety and well-being of the animals or the public is affected.
2. The Superintendent reserves the right to interpret all Rules & Regulations and resolve any situations which may arise. The Superintendent is not restricted in any way by the lack of a specific rule or regulation. The Superintendent may request a meeting of the Review Board when necessary to review a complaint of violation of the Maryland 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics.
3. **Animal Husbandry & Quality Assurance Requirement:** All 4-H/FFA members exhibiting animal exhibits in alpacas, beef, dairy, goats, horse and pony, llamas, poultry, sheep, swine and rabbits are required complete the Maryland/West Virginia 4-H and FFA Animal Husbandry & Quality Assurance (AH&QA) on-line training program to be eligible to exhibit their project animals. Members are required to complete the on-line training program when they reach each age division (Juniors (ages 8-10), Intermediates (ages 11-13), Seniors (ages 14-18) – all as of January 1 of the current year) OR when as Intermediates and Seniors, they are new to an animal science project listed above being shown. Thus, each time a member enters a new age division, they will be required to complete the training PLUS if an Intermediate or Senior 4-H or FFA member chooses to show a new species since last completing the program within an age division they must return to the program and complete the program for the new species area. **The completion deadline for the AH&QA is August 10, 11:59pm.**
4. **The fitting and preparation of all animals for exhibit is the responsibility of the Exhibitor. Exhibitors may receive guidance from immediate family members, other Maryland 4-H/FFA youth and appointed UME Volunteers or FFA Advisors.** Violation of this policy may result in immediate disqualification of the exhibitor from all 4-H/FFA livestock shows and competitions at the Maryland State Fair and possible dismissal from the fairgrounds. PDCA fitters or family members will be allowed to assist with toplines only in the breeding shows, not showmanship classes.
5. **Exhibitors must show their own animal.** In cases of illness or emergency, the Exhibitor or the Exhibitor's parent/legal guardian must report to the appropriate Superintendent and the Overall Animal Divisions Superintendent prior to the start of the show. If an Exhibitor desires to simultaneously compete in another 4-H/FFA activity at the State Fair, the Exhibitor must report to the appropriate Superintendents of each activity and the Overall Animal Divisions Superintendent prior to the activities. The replacement showperson must be approved by the overall 4-H/FFA animal science chair and may be used if; a previous injury prevents the exhibitor from exhibiting, (4-H/FFA member/owner must be present at ringside and have an obvious injury or a doctor's note); or If the 4-H member is unexpectedly injured or becomes acutely ill while at the fair. The replacement showperson shall be in the same age division or younger as the exhibitor. In the event than an exhibitor has two entries in the same class, the exhibitor must report to the appropriate superintendent and the additional showperson shall be in the same age division or younger.
6. **Bred and Owned Classes:** Exhibitors in the Bred and Owned Classes in 4-H/FFA animal divisions must be the breeder and the first and continuous owner of the animal entered. "Breeder" is defined as the recorded owner of the dam at the time of breeding/service. "First Owner" is defined as the recorded owner of the dam at the time the animal was born.
7. Exhibitors of Shorthorn cattle may enter an animal in only one division, either Dairy (Milking Shorthorn) or Beef (Beef Shorthorn).
8. Market animals previously sold in County Fair/4-H/FFA Livestock Sales are not eligible to be shown at the State Fair.
9. All animals are subject to blood, tissue, urine and other bodily fluid tests conducted by an official fair Veterinarian.
10. Market animals that do not make minimum Rate of Gain (ROG) and market animals that do not attain minimum weight requirements (UW) or those that exceed maximum allowable weights (OW) will be eligible to exhibit in Market Exhibition classes.
 - a. A Market Exhibition class will be conducted at the start of the Market Show for each respective division. Class can be broken on the discretion of the Division Superintendent.
 - b. Animals must have been entered as a market animal through the State Fair Entry process and meet all other established qualifications (i.e. valid 4-H/FFA membership by exhibitor, ownership, tagging, date of birth, health requirements, etc.).
 - c. Animals cannot be entered directly into Market Exhibition classes. They are placed into the classes by department superintendents at the time of market animal processing prior to the show.
 - d. Animals (that do not meet minimum ROG or are UW or OW) which are shown in Market Exhibition classes are not eligible for Champion Market Awards or participation in the Maryland State Fair Youth Livestock Sale.
11. All animal entries must be housed in the space designated by the Superintendent. Exceptions must be approved by the Superintendent prior to housing of the animal. Once an animal has been checked in, it may not be removed from the fairgrounds prior to the Release Time without the Superintendent's permission. Violation of the Release Time may result in having all premiums and awards forfeited or subjected to other sanctions.
12. Animal washing facilities are located on the North and Southwest sides of the Cow Palace and on North side of the Sheep/Swine Barn. Animals may not be washed in or by any other building or other location. Exhibitors are asked to be mindful of the appropriate use of these facilities and to not waste water.
13. Trimming, blocking or squeeze chutes may only be used in areas designated by the Fair and Animal Division Superintendents.

14. **ONLY scales owned by the Maryland State Fair & Agricultural Society, Inc. are permitted on the Society's property.**
15. Animals will not be permitted in areas immediately outside the show ring except in designated aisles leading to and from the show ring.
16. Only the following bedding materials may be used: Dairy Cattle/Dairy Goats - straw; Beef - tanbark; Meat Goats/Sheep – straw/wood shavings, Swine - wood shavings; Horses - straw.
17. Animals may not be tied out unless specifically allowed per Division Rules.
18. Animals not winning any awards may be paid a transportation allowance at the discretion of the Superintendent.
19. Special recognition will be awarded to the 4-H/FFA County/City maintaining the most attractive and neatest stall and aisles in the Dairy, Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat and Horse Divisions. The total number of counties will be divided into three balanced groups for Dairy and Beef and two groups for Sheep, Swine, Horses and Goats. Superintendents will announce the grouping on Friday. Score criteria: (a) Decoration and attractiveness of exhibit (individual identification 4-H signs) - 20 points; (b) Clean, neat and presentable exhibit (outside, feed aisle, walkway and animal) – 60 points; (c) Cooperation with Fair management and promptness in show ring which contributes to the success of the show - 20 points.
20. Exhibitors must comply with the "Maryland Animal Health Fair and Show Requirements" as determined by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.
21. Exhibitors must comply with the "Maryland 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics"/"FFA Code of Ethics" and the "Fair Rules and Regulations".
22. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to properly feed & water their exhibit animals. The withholding of water from animals is considered unethical and unlawful. Any animal not properly cared for as determined by the fair review board and/or fair veterinarian, may be removed from the fairgrounds, with all premiums and awards forfeited or subjected to other sanctions.
23. If an animal wins a class or division, that animal MUST enter the championship drive/class or will forfeit all premiums and awards. 4-H/FFA Grand Champion Market Beef Steer, Dairy Steer, Market Goat, Market Lamb, and Market Hog, must be sold through the Youth Livestock Sale. Refer to complete Youth Livestock Sale Rules in Division X –Special 4-H Programs.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION (UME) 4-H CODE OF ANIMAL SCIENCE ETHICS

4-H members enrolled in animal science projects (e.g., beef, camelids, dairy, dog, goat, horse, poultry, rabbit, sheep, small pet, and swine) shall, at all times, conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship, including while with their projects and at all 4-H animal science activities and events. Their conduct should always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of 4-H and its animal science program. 4-H members, as well as parents, UME volunteers and others working with them, are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts; and their conduct and values must serve as a positive influence on others.

This Code of Ethics applies to all 4-H members who are enrolled in animal science projects, and to others (4-Hers, parents, volunteers, owners, etc.) who participate in the animal science program; and it covers daily animal care, as well as participation in competitions and other 4-H animal activities and events.

4-H members and others who violate this Code of Ethics demean the integrity of 4-H and its animal science program. 4-H members who violate the code of animal science ethics are subject to sanctions including, but not limited to, forfeiture of premiums, awards, and/or auction proceeds and may be prohibited from participation in 4-H or 4-H/UME events or activities; other violators may also be subject to sanction, as appropriate. Infractions may be reviewed by 4-H and/or UME (on the local or state level, as appropriate to the infraction and to the event and/or activity in question), and/or may be subject to a fair oversight committee or other entity that oversees an activity or event. In addition, some acts may also be subject to review based upon the Maryland 4-H Youth Code of Conduct and/or other UME policies.

The following is a list of standards and requirements for all 4-H animal science projects, at all times, whether at home, at animal exhibitions or events, or any other 4-H event or activity.

1. The care of all 4-H project animals is the responsibility of the 4-H member. 4-H members must properly care for and groom their animals for the duration of their project.
2. All project animals must be housed at the 4-H member's residence unless a different location is submitted to and approved in writing by the local 4-H staff. Any change in location must be approved in writing by the local 4-H staff; however, it is not necessary to report direct transport to and from shows or other events.
3. Upon request of 4-H, UME, or other program, fair, event or animal officials, 4-H members must present proof of ownership, length of ownership, identity and/or age of all 4-H project animals owned or leased. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or identity of animal, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited. If a 4-H project animal is sold in a livestock sale, it is no longer eligible to be shown in a 4-H event in Maryland in that year.
4. 4-H members must provide appropriate animal health certificates upon request of 4-H, UME, or other program, fair, event or animal officials.
5. 4-H project animals must be presented to competition, activities and/or events, where they will enter the food chain, free of volatile drug residues. Animals which are presented to competition, events and/or activities that do not culminate with the animal entering the food chain, shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and rules. 4-H project animals shall not be exhibited if drugs administered in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and rules may affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event. At any time after an animal arrives on a fair or other 4-H activity or event premises, a licensed veterinarian must administer or, in consultation with fair, event, UME, or 4-H officials, direct the administration of any treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications. Drenching at any time after an animal arrives on a fair or other 4-H activity or event premises is prohibited, except when performed or directed by a licensed veterinarian in consultation with fair, event, UME, or 4-H officials for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal.
6. The act of enrolling in a 4-H animal science project, and/or entering a project animal in a 4-H competition, show, activity, or other event, gives consent for 4-H or UME or event authorities to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, hair, tissue, or other substance from the animal to be used for testing purposes including, but not limited to, drugs or identification. 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 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 4-H owner to prove otherwise at any review in regard to the matter conducted by a fair or other event or the 4-H program. If the laboratory report on the chemical analysis of saliva, urine, blood, hair, tissue or other sample, taken from a 4-H animal science project, 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.
7. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counter irritant, 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 hoofs or 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.
8. Using ice, ice packs, cold packs, or cold compresses, internally or externally, other than those prescribed to relieve heat stress or a medical condition as diagnosed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
9. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices, such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical devices, or other similar practices, are not acceptable and are prohibited.
10. All judges, fair and event officials and/or UME/4-H staff and volunteers shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect, and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them or toward exhibitors or others participating in the activity. In addition, direct criticism or interference with a judge, fair, show or event official, exhibitor, breed representative, or UME/4-H staff or volunteer before, during, or after an event or other activity is prohibited.
11. No one shall violate this Code of Animal Science Ethics or 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.
12. The application of this Code of Ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition to the 4-H member 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.

13. By enrolling in an animal science project and/or entering an animal in a fair or other 4-H event or activity, the 4-H member, and his/her parent or guardian, consent to have disciplinary action taken by appropriate authorities (including UME, 4-H, fair, event and/or other activity officials) for violation of this Code of Animal Science Ethics and/or any other applicable rules of UME, 4-H, a fair, activity or other event, without recourse against UME, 4-H and/or other authorities. In addition, the 4-H member, and his/her parent or guardian, further understand and agree that any action which contravenes these rules, and is also in violation of federal, state, or local laws, statutes, regulations, or rules, may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

Note: By signing this form the 4-H member and his/her parent or guardian each verify that they have read and understand the UME 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics and the consequences of and penalties provided for violations of the Code.

4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE PROJECT ENROLLMENT STATEMENT

I have read and understand the UME 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics, and I consent and agree to abide by the UME 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics. I understand this Statement must be signed by both the 4-H member and his/her parent or guardian, will be kept on file in the local 4-H office, and will apply to all 4-H animal science activities and events. I understand that if I do not agree to or sign this Code, I/my 4-H youth may not be eligible to enroll in a 4-H animal science project, may not receive associated materials, and/or may not be allowed exhibit or participate in covered activities.

This Code of Ethics has been adapted from the IAFE Code of Show Ring Ethics; LMH; JWS; JWL 2001; JWL 2002; JWL 2007; CWA, Reviewed by DA 3/2009; CWA 11/2009; CWA 2014; CWA, Reviewed by CP 12/2017.

THE PUREBRED DAIRY CATTLE ASSOCIATION SHOW RING CODE OF ETHICS

(Adopted February 2025)

The showing of registered dairy cattle stimulates and sustains interest in the breeding of registered dairy cattle. It is also an important part of the promotion, merchandising and breeding program of many breeders. For these reasons, the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association (PDCA) believes that it is in the best interest of all breeders of registered dairy cattle to maintain a reputation of integrity in dairy cattle shows and to present a wholesome and progressive image of dairy cattle in the show ring.

PDCA endorses this Show Ring Code of Ethics for all dairy breed shows and pledges its full cooperative support for its enforcement to show management, show judges, and the national breed associations.

The application of this Code of Ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter 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. Dairy cattle exhibitors shall, at all times, deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship.

It is recognized that there are certain practices in the proper care and management of dairy cattle that are necessary in the course of moving dairy cattle to and between shows that are advisable to keep them in a sound, healthy state so they might be presented in the show ring in a natural, normal condition. At all times, exhibition livestock shall be treated in a humane manner and in accordance with dairy quality assurance practices so as to protect the health, safety and welfare of the livestock and the consuming public. No person shall present for exhibition or exhibit an animal which he or she knows, or has reason to suspect, is affected with or has been exposed to a dangerously contagious or infectious disease, or illegal or nonapproved use of drugs, medication and/or prohibited substance, or residue.

The position of the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association is that all animals presented for exhibition shall be in their natural conformation and structure, free of any alteration or modification by injection or internal or external administration of any substance or by any involvement in unethical fitting.

Grooming and Preparation

Dairy cattle exhibitions are conducted under standards for evaluating conformation established by the PDCA Unified Score Card (2025), with specific breed characteristics taken into consideration by the show judge. In this connection, animals will be groomed and prepared for the judge's evaluation in order to display the animal's natural contour, conformation, performance and mobility. Specifically:

1. Changing the natural color of the animal is prohibited (effective 6/1/2015). However, external applications of cosmetics that affect only appearance may be used, including by way of example hoof polishes and false switches.
2. The maximum allowable length of naturally growing hair anywhere on the topline is not to exceed 1 ½ inches. Exhibitors will be required to comply with this rule before the animal is allowed to enter the ring.
3. Addition of foreign objects, including but not limited to hair or hair substitutes, cloth or fiber, to change the natural contour or appearance of the animal's body is prohibited.
4. Externally sealing the teat end with a preparation that does not harm the animal's skin is permissible.
5. Natural teat placement will be given preference over artificially positioned teats.
6. The practice of over bagging the udder, or allowing excessive fill of milk in the mammary system, is strongly discouraged due to the harmful impact on animal comfort and health. Any signs of this could result in competition disqualification.

Violations: False, Deceptive or Unacceptable Practices

These practices are violations of the Code of Ethics and will be reported to show management and may be reported to the respective national breed associations:

1. Misrepresenting the age, milking status and/or lactation number of the animal for the class in which it is shown.
2. Treating the animal, particularly the udder, internally or externally:
 - a. with an irritant or counterirritant,
 - b. using a device to artificially create or enhance the udder crease,
 - c. using other substances as detected by testing that causes changes in the udder to artificially improve the conformation.
 - d. no substance that is not approved by FDA or prescribed by veterinarian may be administered to the mammary system including the teat canal.
3. Surgical or unethical insertion of any matter under the skin or into body cavities, performed to change the natural contour or appearance of the animal's body (e.g., administration of fluid via a stomach tube or other similar apparatus to fill the rumen), though not to preclude practices required or involved in normal management.
4. Criticizing or interfering with the judge, show management or other exhibitors while in the show ring or other conduct detrimental to the breed or the show.
5. Challenging, threatening or interfering with an ethics committee appointed by show management to monitor the animals on exhibit on the show grounds.

Exhibitor Responsibility

The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter and/or absolutely responsible person (hereinafter referred to as "Exhibitor") for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, milk, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Materials may also be collected by ultrasound and photographic methods and by direct examination of animal.

The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter and/or absolutely responsible person (the "Exhibitor") to have disciplinary action for violation of this Show Ring Code of Ethics taken by show management, the state in which the show occurs, and/or the national dairy breed association without recourse.

Show Ethics Committee

Each show should have an Ethics Committee. The make-up of this committee should include official breed representatives, representative(s) of show management (e.g., dairy cattle show superintendent, General Manager), the official show veterinarian, and Extension representative.

The Ethics Committee will be responsible for monitoring violations of the Show Ring Code of Ethics. The Ethics Committee will investigate the report of any violation and determine the accuracy of the allegation. The Ethics Committee will have the authority to inspect animals and related material to determine if violations have occurred.

Violations: Reporting and Investigation

Complaints of alleged violations can be reported to the breed superintendent, the show superintendent, show management, and/or the Ethics Committee.

Before An Animal is Shown

If the Ethics Committee suspects that a violation of the Show Ring Code of Ethics will occur if the animal is shown, and that violation is reasonably well established before the animal is shown, the Ethics Committee will submit a report to show management.

Show management will discuss the violation with the Exhibitor:

1. If, at the Exhibitor's discretion, the animal in question is not shown, no violation will have occurred.
2. If the Exhibitor wishes to challenge that a violation occurred, he/she/they will have opportunity to appeal to the Ethics Committee. If its decision is not changed, the Exhibitor will be denied opportunity to exhibit the animal in question.

During and After An Animal is Shown

All animals are subject to examination during judging. The judge and Ethics Committee are instructed to examine the top five (5) animals in each class closely for violations of the Show Ring Code of Ethics. When a violation may have occurred, a milkout may be called for. This call may be by breed association rule, or by request of an authorized representative of the national breed association, the judge, the Ethics Committee, or show management.

If an animal is exhibited and a violation of the Show Ring Code of Ethics is subsequently suspected, investigated, and determined to have occurred, the violation will be reported to the Ethics Committee and show management for action. The Exhibitor will be notified of the violation and the supporting evidence and invited to defend or explain the allegations.

Violations are subject to the disciplinary provisions of show management, the state in which the show occurs, and the national dairy breed association. Sanctions may include any one, or combination of the following:

- forfeiture or return of awards, prizes, premiums or proceeds;
- written letter of reprimand to the owner, exhibitor, fitter and/or absolutely responsible person (the "Exhibitor");
- disqualification of the exhibition livestock from an exhibition;
- disqualification of the Exhibitor from the show;
- publication of offense.

Disqualification may include any or all shows and classes and may be for any number of years.

History: Adopted by PDCA in March 1969, revised March 1971, February 1977, February 1981, February 1986, February 1988, February 1989, February 1992, February 1993, November 1995, April 2002; April 2004, May 2015, February 2025.

About PDCA: The Purebred Dairy Cattle Association, Inc. is a federation of the national dairy breed registry associations serving breeders and owners of Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey, Milking Shorthorn and Red and White dairy cattle. PDCA and its member organizations promote the added value and profitability registered dairy cattle offer all dairy business owners.

STAYING OVERNIGHT IN THE BARN

University of Maryland Extension/4-H and/or the Maryland State Fair are not responsible for individuals staying overnight in the barns. Individuals under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian to stay overnight. Parents/Guardians are responsible for their children at all times. Exhibitors and their parents/guardians should consider the risks associated with this activity, including but not limited to: possible injury from animals since the sleeping areas are next to or inside the animal pens, possible injury from other people since the facilities are accessible to the public, including the sleeping areas, restrooms and shower facilities (please note that the sleeping areas are not segregated by gender or age); possible aggravation or onset of respiratory conditions or health problems due to the high levels of dust, dirt and bacteria from animal feces, bedding, shedding, etc. There will be State Fair Security Guards posted throughout the fairgrounds that will make every attempt to guard the safety of all fair participants and visitors; however, staying overnight is "at your own risk". The University of Maryland Extension/4-H and/or Maryland State Fair will not assume any liability for personal injury or damage to personal property of any person staying in the barns.

Exhibitors, their parents (if Exhibitor is a minor) and legal guardians hereby release, hold harmless and forever discharge the Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society, Inc., University of Maryland Extension, 4-H, their affiliates, agents and employees, from any and all claims, demands, liabilities (including fines and civil penalties) and cause of action including, but not limited to personal injury (including death) and loss or damage to personal property arising out of or in connection with Exhibitors' entries and presence on the fairgrounds and surrounding areas.

4-H AND FFA SHOWMANSHIP REGULATIONS

General Regulations

1. The fitting and preparation of all animals for exhibit is the responsibility of the Exhibitor. Exhibitors may receive guidance only from immediate family members, Maryland 4-H/FFA Members and appointed UME Volunteers or FFA Advisors. In Dairy Classes PDCA fitters or family members will be allowed to assist with topline only in the breeding shows, not showmanship classes.
2. Previous Showmanship Grand Champions are not eligible to compete in the same division again (i.e., a Beef Showmanship Grand Champion may not compete again in Beef Showmanship but may compete in Goat Showmanship). Grand Champions are encouraged to compete in the Dean's Champion Challenge.
3. In addition to the designated placings (1st, 2nd, etc.) an honorable mention group may be recognized by the judge.
4. Unless otherwise indicated in the division or section, the following categories will be considered in the Showmanship classes: (a) Fitting of animal; (b) Performance in the show ring; (c) Knowledge, (d) Personal appearance. See Division and Section Rules & Regulations for more information.
 - a. Fitting of Animal
 1. Cleanliness - the animal should be clean and free from manure, stains, dirt, old hair, etc.
 2. Clipping/Grooming - the animal's hair should be properly clipped/groomed to enhance the general appearance of the animal as appropriate for the species.
 3. Condition - a slight to serious discrimination may be given to an animal if the body condition is over-conditioned or under-conditioned. No consideration is given to general type conformation.

- b. Performance in the Show Ring
 - 1. Presentation of animal -- minimizing the minor faults of the animal (i.e. weak loin, too much set to legs, etc.)
 - 2. Performance of animal - being able to start, stop and pose quickly and correctly.
 - 3. Show person alert, doing the right thing at right time; following the judge's instructions; paying attention to your animal and the judge.
 - 4. Show person able to handle, with ease, any properly trained animal.
 - 5. Good sportsmanship and courtesy (i.e. do not crowd other animals in the show ring, friendly personality, etc.)
 - c. Knowledge
 - 1. Show person should know information about his/her animal (i.e. birth date, management practices, breeding, production, strong and weak physical type traits, etc. as appropriate for animal).
 - d. Personal Appearance
 - 1. Exhibitor should portray a clean, neatly groomed and attired appearance.
 - 2. Attire should reflect proper safety considerations, including footwear appropriate for show ring condition.
5. An animal that does not meet minimum rate of gain requirements for market classes remains eligible to be shown in Showmanship classes.

4-H AND FFA ANIMAL SHOW ATTIRE

General Requirements

1. The following prescribed show attire is required for all Exhibitors in Fitting & Showmanship, breed classes, market classes and Livestock Sale.
2. No farm names or other identification shall appear on show uniforms. Safe appropriate attire, including footwear is required at all times. Shirts must have collars. No spaghetti straps, tank tops, or exposed midriffs. Shirts must be tucked in and no undergarments may be showing. No shorts will be allowed. Caps or other headwear shall not be worn in the show ring, except for approved headgear in the Horse Division.
3. **Exhibitors not adhering to the Show Attire Requirements will be excused from the Show Ring (See below for appropriate attire).** Please note that girls may choose to wear a skirt of an appropriate length, instead of slacks. They must be in the appropriate color. See Division Rules & Regulations for more information.

4-H:

Dairy Cattle, Dairy Steers & Dairy Goats - 4-H: white slacks with white shirt. Neckpieces are optional. Approved neckpieces include: neck tie, bow tie, bolo tie or a tied bandana. Jewelry does not qualify as a neckpiece - no exceptions.

Beef, Meat Goats, Sheep & Swine - 4-H: green or tan slacks, white or tan shirt with green or black neckpiece. Approved neckpieces include: neck tie, bow tie, bolo tie or a tied bandana. Jewelry does not qualify as a neckpiece - no exceptions.

Horses - appropriate riding clothes and headgear as defined in the MD 4-H Horse & Pony Rule Book, available at <http://www.4horse.umd.edu/resources/index.html>

Dogs - attire that is suitable for showing a dog – i.e. Boys: slacks, shirt and tie; Girls: skirt of an appropriate length or slacks and blouse or shirt.

FFA:

Dairy Cattle - The official dress for FFA members exhibiting dairy cattle is white pants, white shirts, blue FFA tie, scarf and official FFA jacket.

All Other Livestock - The official dress for FFA members exhibiting livestock (except dairy cattle) is black pants, white shirts, blue FFA tie or scarf and official FFA jacket.

Note – Jackets may be dismissed at judges' discretion. Jackets should be worn when selling their animals at the market sales.

4-H/FFA EXHIBIT ENTRY INFORMATION

NOTE: DO NOT BRING ANY EXHIBIT, INCLUDING ANIMAL EXHIBITS, BEFORE THE DATES OR TIMES LISTED BELOW!

Trucks/Trailers: All trucks/cars with trailers must enter the fairgrounds via the Land St. Entrance, which is located at the north end of the fairgrounds. All traffic will flow in one direction from the Land St. Entrance towards the back of the Cow Palace and out towards the Timonium Rd. Exit. Immediately upon unloading, all trailers will be required to exit. This system will be in effect for the duration of the fair. Trailers will not be permitted to park anywhere on the fairgrounds. Cars and trucks must park in the designated lot for which they have a parking pass/permit. ***Violators will be towed at their own expense and without warning.***

***** Exhibitor's animals, tack and decorations must remain in the space assigned to them by the superintendents. Space is limited! *****

Division A (Dairy Cattle) Location: Rear of Cow Palace

Entry: 8AM – 2PM, Saturday, August 30. All animals and Tack/Décor must be in place by 2PM, Saturday, August 30.

Parking: Exhibitors will be issued a Parking Permit for LOT A. Only passenger cars/trucks (without trailers) will be allowed to park in LOT A.

Release: Superintendents will announce release times.

Division B (Beef Cattle & Dairy Steers) Location: Rear of Cow Palace

Entry: 12PM – 9PM, Wednesday, August 20; 7AM – 12PM, Thursday, August 21. All animals and Tack/Décor must be in place by 12PM, Thursday, August 21.

Parking: Exhibitors will be issued a Parking Permit for LOT A. Only passenger cars/trucks (without trailers) will be allowed to park in LOT A.

Release: Animals being sold in the Livestock Sale will remain in the Cow Palace until the sale.

Beef & Dairy Steers: 8PM, Sunday, August 24th, Sale Animals must remain in their respective barns until the sale.

Divisions C1 & C2 (Meat Goats & Dairy Goats) Location: Sheep Barn

Entry: Meat Goats: 7AM – 9PM, Thursday, August 21. All animals and Tack/Décor must be in place by 9PM, Thursday, August 21.

Dairy Goats: 9AM – 9PM, Friday, September 5. All animals and Tack/Décor must be in place by 9PM, Friday, September 5.

Exhibits must be unloaded at the rear of the appropriate barn.

Parking: Exhibitors will be issued a Parking Permit for LOT A. Only passenger cars/trucks (without trailers) will be allowed to park in LOT A.

Release: Animals being sold in the Livestock Sale will remain in their respective barns until the sale.

Meat Goats: Beginning at 5:00pm, Sunday, August 24. (If the Meat Goat Market & Breeding Show runs past 6:00pm, then animals are not released until the conclusion of the Show.)

Dairy Goats: Beginning at 6:00pm, Sunday, September 7. (If the Dairy Goat Breeding Show runs past 6:00pm, then animals are not released until the conclusion of the Show.)

Divisions D & E (Sheep & Swine) Location: Swine Barn/Cow Palace

Entry: Swine: 12PM – 9PM, Wednesday, August 20; 7AM – 9AM, Thursday, August 21. All animals and Tack/Décor must be in place by 9AM, Thursday, Aug 21.

Sheep: 12PM – 9PM, Wednesday, August 20; 7AM – 9AM, Thursday, August 21. All animals and Tack/Décor must be in place by 9AM, Thursday, Aug 21.

Exhibits must be unloaded at the rear of the appropriate barn.

Parking: Exhibitors will be issued a Parking Permit for LOT A. Only passenger cars/trucks (without trailers) will be allowed to park in LOT A.

Release: Swine: Beginning at 4pm, Sunday, August 24. Animals being sold in the Livestock Sale will remain in their respective barns until the sale.

Sheep: Beginning at 6pm, Sunday, August 24. Animals being sold in the Livestock Sale will remain in their respective barns until the sale.

Division F (Horses & Ponies) Location: Horse Stable

Entry: Exhibits in the show on Thursday, August 21 will be accepted 4PM – 9PM, Wednesday, August 20. All others will be accepted 7PM – 10PM the day before show day. Exhibits may be unloaded next to the Horse Stable. Exhibitors must follow the directions of the Stable Manager and/or Superintendent.

Parking: Exhibitors will be issued a Parking Permit for LOT A. Only passenger cars/trucks (without trailers) will be allowed to park in LOT A.

Release: Animals will be released at the end of their last class and may not remain in the stable longer than 2 hours after the end of the show.

Division G (Poultry) Location: Cow Palace

Entry: 4PM – 8PM, Thursday, August 21; 8AM – 10AM, Friday, August 22 in the Cow Palace. **DO NOT BRING ANIMALS BEFORE THAT TIME/DATE!** Animals must be in place by 10AM, Friday, August 22. The Poultry show will begin at 10AM, on Friday, August 22.

Parking: Exhibitors will be issued a 1-day Parking Pass for LOT A. Only passenger cars/trucks (without trailers) will be allowed to park in LOT A.

Release: Poultry* will be released at the end of the show. Animals being sold in the Livestock Sale will remain in the Cow Palace until the sale.

*Animals on Extended Exhibition will remain in the Cow Place for the duration of the fair.

Division H & J (Rabbits & Cavies) Location: Cow Palace

Entry: 8AM, Saturday, August 23. The show will begin at 10AM. This is a carrier show. Exhibitors may unload their exhibits at the Cow Palace but must then park in LOT A. Please note that only Rabbits entered in the Show are allowed on the fairgrounds - there is to be **ABSOLUTELY NO SELLING** of rabbits on the fairgrounds.

Parking: Exhibitors will be issued a 1-day Parking Pass for LOT A. Only passenger cars/trucks (without trailers) will be allowed to park in LOT A.

Release: Rabbits/Cavies* will be released at the end of the show. Animals being sold in the Livestock Sale will remain in the Cow Palace until the sale. *Animals on Extended Exhibition will remain in the Cow Palace for the duration of the fair.

Division I Alpacas & Llamas

Entry: 9AM - 9PM, Friday, September 5 at the Cow Palace. All animals must be in place by 9 PM on Friday, September 5.

Parking: Exhibitors will be issued a Parking Permit for LOT A. Only passenger cars/trucks (without trailers) will be allowed to park in LOT A.

Release: Animals will be released Sunday, September 7 at 6:00 PM.

Division K (Dogs) Location: Cow Palace

Entry: 9AM Saturday, September 6. Show begins at 10am. This is a carrier show. Exhibitors may unload their exhibits at the Cow Palace but must then park in LOT A

Release: Animals will be released at the end of the show.

Divisions L-T (Exhibits) Location: 4-H/FFA Indoor Exhibits Building

Entry: 2PM – 8PM, TUESDAY, August 19 – THE DOORS WILL OPEN AT 2 PM. Exhibitors must park in LOT A and carry their exhibits to the back entrance.

Parking: Parking Permits will not be required on Tuesday, August 19. Only passenger cars/trucks will be allowed to park in LOT A.

Release: Exhibits will be released from 8PM - 10PM on Sunday, September 7 and 9AM – 7PM on Monday, September 8.

Division V (Tractor Operators Safety Event) Location: Racetrack Infield

Entry: 12PM Thursday, August 21. Exhibitors are encouraged to enter the fairgrounds via the Timonium Rd. Entrance

Parking: Exhibitors will be issued a 1-day Parking Pass for LOT G. Only passenger cars/trucks (without trailers) will be allowed to park in LOT G.

Division V (Lawn Tractors, Small Engines) Location: North End Cow Palace

Entry: Bicycles: 10AM, Saturday, September 6. North End Cow Palace.

Lawn Tractors: 1PM, Saturday, September 6. North End Cow Palace.

Small Engines: 6PM, Saturday, September 6. North End Cow Palace.

Parking: Exhibitors will be issued a 1-day Parking Pass for LOT A. Only passenger cars/trucks (without trailers) will be allowed to park in LOT A.

Release: Exhibitors will be released at the end of the event.

Division V (Drone Challenge) Location: North End Cow Palace

Entry: Drone Challenge: 12PM Check-in/Practice, 1PM Contest, Saturday, September 6. North End Cow Palace.

Parking: Exhibitors will be issued a 1-day Parking Pass for LOT A. Only passenger cars/trucks (without trailers) will be allowed to park in LOT A.

Release: Exhibitors will be released at the end of the event.

PARKING & ENTRY PASS INFORMATION: Exhibitors eligible for a parking pass will receive one from the State Fair 4-H Office in mid-August. ****Only 1 Parking Permit will be issued to each family regardless of the number of exhibitors in the family.* ***

VEHICLES (WITH OR WITHOUT A PERMIT) PARKED NEAR BUILDINGS OR OTHERWISE BLOCKING THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC WILL BE TOWED WITHOUT NOTICE AND AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE.

4-H/FFA Members and Leaders may use their current membership card to gain entry to the fair. All others, including parents not registered as leaders, will be required to pay the entrance fee.