

Exhibitor/Parent Code of Conduct

PROJECT ANIMAL CERTIFICATION: We certify that we will not have administered to the animal(s), nor has it received, any substance not approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and/or the County the exhibition is being held in, or at the Western Michigan Fair for slaughter/breeding/stock/exhibition animals. This includes, but is not limited to, diuretics, steroids, repartitioning agents, tranquilizers and analgesics. We also certify that, with a respect to any drug, chemical, or feed additive approved by the FDA and/or USDA for slaughter animals that no illegal use of approved chemicals/compounds has taken place and that the applicable withdrawal period recognized by the FDA has expired prior to shipping out of market livestock or any and all approved chemicals/compounds administered.

We acknowledge and accept the fact that all animals entered at the Western Michigan Fair may be subject to blood, urine, and tissue tests, and that the Fair reserves the right to disqualify any animals, either live or slaughtered, found in violation of the use of drugs, chemicals, or feed additives as described above in the Western Michigan Premium Fair Book. Disqualifications will result in the placing(s) of the animal in question being voided, the forfeiture of any and all ribbons/trophies/special awards earned with the animal(s); the assessment of a fine against the total premiums due equal in the amount to the premiums(S) earned and with the animal(s): voiding of the sale(s) if the animal(s) has been sold at any sale that occurs at the Western Michigan Fairgrounds. We will allow the designated tester/veterinarian to draw any and all samples deemed appropriate from our animals.

We will indemnify and hold harmless the Western Michigan Fair and all of its sponsors and assisting organizations and their employees and agents, against all legal or other proceedings in connection with said testing procedures. We will indemnify and hold harmless the Western Michigan Fair and its sponsor and assisting organizations against all claims of injury to the animal and any damage or injury to any persons or property caused by the animal.

PROJECT ANIMAL CARE: We the signed exhibitor, leader, parent/guardian, have read and acknowledge, accept and will abide by all the animal care, housing, and maintenance rules set forth in the Western Michigan Fair Premium Book, all rules, set forth by the department and the appropriate species rule books.

We acknowledge that the above-mentioned animal(s) have been under proper daily care since the initial tagging or project registration date. Proper care (feeding, handling, etc.) of the project animals and maintenance (cleanliness, neatness, etc.) of the assigned fair housing is the responsibility of the exhibitor. Project animals must be cared for in accordance with the commonly accepted feeding/handling practices, and the animals pen/stall cleaned and bedded by 10:00 AM daily and additional cleanings if needed. Proper care and maintenance of all animals and their assigned housing area will be monitored by the appropriate species Department Superintendent of the Fair.

EXHIBITOR CODE OF CONDUCT: We agree to conduct ourselves with honesty, integrity, and good sportsmanship. We will treat all fair and livestock show management personnel, fair officials, judges, and exhibitors with courtesy, cooperation and respect, and shall not direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them. Furthermore, we will not direct criticism or interference with fair and livestock show management personnel, fair officials, judges, and exhibitors in conducting the activities associated with the event. We understand that any conduct that is contrary to these items will be brought before the Fair Board for review and may result in the disqualification of individual people and the animals(s) from the activities associates with the Western Michigan Fair.

ETHICAL AND HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS: We acknowledge that the inhumane fitting, showing and/or handling practices or devices shall not be used. Furthermore, surgery, injection, or application of a foreign material under and/or into the flesh of the animal to physiologically of physical change the natural contour of conformation of the animal is illegal. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, insertion of foreign material in the animal, or other such practices (icing) are not acceptable and will be prohibited. Violation of the above mentioned items could result in the disqualification of the animal and/or the exhibitor.

We acknowledge and accept the fact that the Department Superintendent for a given animal species and the Western Michigan Fair Board may authorize the examination of a given animal for the identification purposes and/or health related concerns in our absence, including obtaining the temperature of the animal.

EXHIBITOR AGREEMENT:

I certify that all my animal projects are drug free by Federal Food and Drug Administration standards. I have followed all withdrawal substances used, practiced good animal husbandry, and my project has been ethically and humanly cared for. I acknowledge and accept the fact that my animals may be subject to drug residue testing. Upon a positive confirmation, forfeiture of all prize monies, sale and/or market value, premium(s), and trophies will be the forfeiture penalty. My youth leader, parent(s), or guardian(s) assume equal responsibility for following these and the other prescribed guidelines set by the Western Michigan Fair Board of Directors and Superintendents for these projects

Youth Member Signature:

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian/Leader/Advisor Signature:

Date: _____

Adopted by the Western Michigan Fair March 2015

COMPLAINT APPEALS PROCESS

Any exhibitor may file a written complaint regarding any of the following:

- Conflict of interest of the judge
- Disqualification of an exhibit or exhibitor
- Exhibitor, group leader or superintendent's behavior
- Eligibility of exhibit
- Leader, Parent or Exhibitor may not file a complaint or appeal on judging results. All judging results are final.

The procedure for filing such a complaint/appeal shall be:

1. Exhibitors are allowed to file a written complaint within 10 days after the end of fair, mailed to Western Michigan Fair P.O. Box 153 Scottville, MI 49454, accompanied by a complaint fee of \$25.00, which is non-refundable.
2. The exhibitor will be notified in writing by the Western Michigan Fair of receipt of his/her complaint/appeal.
3. The complaint/appeals committee shall consist of the Executive Board and the Area Superintendent or Chairperson of the West-

ern Michigan Fair.

4. The committee shall meet to review all written complaints/appeals within 15 days of receipt.
5. The committee shall investigate on a per case basis by contacting all parties involved to ask questions and clarify details of the incident, as well as, reviewing rules and pertinent documentation.
6. The committee shall meet within 15 days of the review meeting to discuss the information obtained through the investigation process and will make a final decision regarding the complaint/appeal. The exhibitor will be notified in writing of the committee's decision within 5 days of this meeting.
7. The leader, parent, or exhibitor may make an appeal to the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Department of Fairs, Exhibitions, and Racing, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909 within 45 days of filing the initial complaint/appeal if the exhibitor is not satisfied with the Western Michigan Fair's decision. The department shall have 60 days after the receipt of any appropriately filed complaint/appeal to investigate the complaint/appeal, and shall issue a finding of the fact and notice of department action and pay recommended actions for the Western Michigan Fair.