
CODE OF CONDUCT

Exhibitors of animals at AgFest shall conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education.

Youth leaders and advisors working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts.

Owners, parents, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and responsible persons who violate the AgFest Code of Ethics will forfeit premiums, awards and auction proceeds from exhibitor and all shall be prohibited from future exhibition at AgFest and in accordance with the rules adopted by respective fairs and livestock shows.

Parents of exhibitors are expected to have read the AgFest Code of Ethics and all rules pertaining to AgFest and the use of the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds and understand any violation may result in exhibitor forfeiture of premiums, awards and auction proceeds and expulsion from AgFest and the fairgrounds.

1. Exhibitors are expected to act in accordance with the San Joaquin AgFest's General Rules.
2. Exhibitors must present, upon request of AgFest officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited.
3. Exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at AgFest. Exhibitors must groom and wash their own animals while they are on AgFest grounds. Any assistance must come ONLY from another AgFest Exhibitor exhibiting an animal at the 2026 SJ AGFEST, identified by a wristband issued by AgFest. Parent or adult assistance is allowed.
4. Animals presented at AgFest where they will enter the food chain shall be free of violative drug residues. The act of entering an animal at AgFest is giving of, consent by the owner, exhibitor, leader, advisor and/or responsible person for AgFest to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Animals entered into AgFest which culminates with the animal entering the food chain shall not be administered drugs, other than in accordance with applicable federal, state or local statutes, regulations and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state or local statutes, regulations and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event. If a laboratory report on the analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from livestock indicates the presence of prohibited drugs or medication, this shall be prima facie evidence such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally. It is presumed 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 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 owner, exhibitor, leader, advisor or responsible person to prove otherwise.
5. Any surgical procedure, injections or insertion of foreign material, substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, confirmation or appearance of an animal's body is illegal. This includes vegetable oil, silicone, air or any other substance used to alter the shape of the animal. Acceptable practices of physical preparation, which are allowed, include clipping of hair, trimming of hooves, or dehorning.
6. The balancing of the udder by abnormal means which includes the use of a mechanical contrivance or the injection of fluid or drugs, setting the teats and/or occluding (sealing the ends) with a mechanical contrivance or use of a chemical preparation is illegal. Treating or massaging the udder or its' attachment with an irritant or counterirritant is prohibited. The use of inhumane showing and/or handling practices or

devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivances or other similar practices are prohibited. Other practices, unless under the written authority of a licensed veterinarian, prohibited include, but are not limited to, liquid diets for lambs, excessive shrinking, excessive exercising, tying animals with the feet off the ground, and electric stimulation.

7. Exhibitors, leaders, advisors, parents and siblings will exhibit proper conduct according to the following guidelines:
 - Show respect for the rights of others and be courteous at all times. This includes fellow exhibitors, parents, leaders, committee members and the public visiting AgFest.
 - Respect the property of others.
 - Demonstrate sportsmanship in the show ring, judging contests, and meetings.
 - Be honest and not take unfair advantage of others.
 - Refrain from loud, boisterous talk; foul language; and/or horseplay.
 - Refrain from bullying – both face-to-face and through social media.
 - Consumption of any alcoholic beverages or use of any illicit drugs is strictly prohibited for all person under the age of 21 on AgFest grounds.
 - Use of any tobacco or cannabis products, including smokeless tobacco and vaping, on the grounds of AgFest is prohibited.
8. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited.
9. 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.
10. The application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, parent, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, leader, advisor or participant whether or not they were actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in violation of this code of ethics.
11. The act of entering an animal in at AgFest is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or responsible person they have read the San Joaquin AgFest Code of Ethics and understands the consequences and penalties provided for actions prohibited by the code. It is further consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state, and provincial statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

Exhibitor Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Club/Chapter: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____
Advisor/Leader Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____