

# GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL EXHIBITORS AND EXHIBITS

- 1) The Washington County Agricultural Organizations reserves the right to interpret all rules and regulations and resolve any situation which may arise and is not restricted by the lack of a specific rule or regulation.
- 2) All reasonable precautions will be taken for the safety of people, but the Washington County Agricultural Organization shall not be responsible for injury to any person.
- 3) All reasonable precautions will be taken for the protection of exhibitors and exhibits, but the Washington County Agricultural Organization shall not be responsible for any loss or damage.
- 4) No individuals, groups, or organizations shall sell game of chance or raffle tickets on the grounds of the Ag Center during the week of the Washington County Ag Expo & Fair.
- 5) Participants must comply with the rules and regulations listed for each department, section, and class.
- 6) Appeals from a decision of a judge must be submitted in writing to the president of the organization before noon of the day following the making of the decision. The reason which prompted the appeal must be clearly stated and supported by facts. Each appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of \$25.00 which will not be returned unless the appeal is sustained.
- 7) The Washington County Agricultural Organization reserves the right to cancel any event without prior notice and without incurring any liability.
- 8) Any family member of an exhibitor guilty of criticizing or interfering with the judge, show management, or other exhibitors and other conduct detrimental to the operation of the Washington County Ag Expo & Fair, and not limited to unsportsmanlike conduct, shall cause the exhibitor to be disqualified from further participation at the fair. In order to exhibit the following year, the exhibitor must file a written appeal to the Washington County Agricultural Organization Board of Directors within 24 hours of the incident. The exhibitor will be notified of the results of the appeal within 60 days.
- 9) The rules and regulations for premiums are published in each department and are subject to change by the **Washington County Ag Expo & Fair Board without notice.**
- 10) All exhibitors must pre-register their exhibits. See the separate section titled **Exhibitor Registration and Exhibit Submission.**
- 11) There will be no entries added after the closing date for the receipt of registrations and exhibit submissions unless approved by the Washington County Agricultural Organization. See the section titled **Washington County Ag Expo & Fair Schedule.**
- 12) Exhibitors are responsible for registering their animals or articles in the correct Department, Section and Class. Failure to correctly register any animal or article may result in disqualification from judging. Any exhibitor who has

any questions as to the proper Department, Section and/or Class should contact the respective superintendent. See the appropriate section titled **Open Class Department Superintendents or 4-H/FFA Department Superintendents**.

- 13) Exhibit space for articles will be assigned by department superintendent at the time the article is presented for exhibition.
- 14) If any exhibitor has made, or caused to be made, a false statement in regard to any animal or article entered, or if any exhibitor shall attempt to interfere with or influence any judge in the awarding of premiums, such exhibitor shall be excluded from competition, and any premium awarded shall be forfeited.
- 15) No animals or articles can be entered in more than one class, or take more than one premium, unless specified in this catalog.
- 16) Show superintendents reserve the right to interpret all rules and regulations and resolve any situation which may arise in their respective department, section and class and they are not restricted by the lack of a specific rule or regulation.
- 17) All exhibitors will be responsible for helping to clean up and tear down all exhibit areas before any premium checks will be issued.

#### 4-H/FFA Specific

- 1) 4-H/FFA exhibitors must be currently enrolled in a 4-H club or FFA chapter.
- 2) 4-H/FFA exhibitors may not have passed their 19th birthday by January 1 of the fair year.
- 3) All 4-H/FFA exhibitors must register via the Washington County Agricultural Organization on-line internet system. See the section titled **Exhibitor Registration and Exhibit Submission**.
- 4) 4-H/FFA exhibitors may exhibit only in project areas in which they are enrolled, and only current year project work is acceptable.
- 5) If you do not carry the project as a 4-H/FFA registered project, you cannot enter it in 4-H/FFA. It must be entered in the Open Class area.
- 6) 4-H/FFA Overnight Policy for Ag Expo & Fair
  - a) 4-H/FFA department superintendents and/or their designee will determine the number of adults and youth staying in their respective area each night.
  - b) 4-H/FFA youth will stay with an adult (21 years old and older); parents must sign and have on file with their respective superintendent a permission form before 10:00 PM the first night of the fair indicating a responsible adult chaperone for their children during the duration of the fair.
  - c) Adult chaperones must be UME trained volunteers and may sign for a maximum of 4 youths.
  - d) 4-H/FFA members must remain in the same area as their adult chaperone.
  - e) Only 4-H/FFA youths with resident animals may stay overnight.
  - f) Each 4-H/FFA department superintendent will keep a daily roster on individuals in a specific area. The roster will be completed by 10:00 PM each evening.
  - g) Failure to comply with this policy will result in expulsion from the fair.

- 7) 4-H/FFA Oversight Committee – The 4-H/FFA Oversight Committee has the overall responsibility and authority to rule on any and all violations of rules and regulations relative to 4-H/FFA events and activities at the Washington County Ag Exp & Fair. Superintendents have the responsibility to deal with violations as they occur; the Oversight Committee serves in an appeal role for decisions made by a superintendent. The Oversight Committee will consist of the following:
- a) One 4-H educator
  - b) One FFA advisor.
  - c) Two members representing the superintendent of the various youth departments.
  - d) One member from Washington County Ag Expo & Fair Board of Directors.
  - e) The process will be as follows:
    - i) Within 24 hours after a violation has been made, it has to be presented to the Oversight Committee in writing by the witness(s).
    - ii) The written complaint is read and reviewed by the Oversight Committee.
    - iii) The Oversight Committee then reviews the rules and regulations pertaining to the incident and/or 4-H/FFA behavior expectations.
    - iv) The witness(s) who reported the violation meets with the Oversight Committee to discuss the incident.
    - v) The person being charged with the violation meets with the Oversight Committee to discuss the incident.
    - vi) A ruling is made by the Oversight Committee which will be the final determination of consequences.
    - vii) The Oversight Committee reserves the right to withhold premium payments for entries involved in a violation of printed Washington County Ag Expo & Fair rules and regulations and/or 4-H/FFA behavior expectations.
- 8) Home Arts – 4-H/FFA specific rules and regulations
- a) All exhibits must be grown and/or the work of the exhibitor.
  - b) Only one entry per exhibitor per class
  - c) Exhibits not meeting quantity and/or specifications of the Department, Section and/or Class will be disqualified.
  - d) Exhibit placing is at the judge's discretion.
  - e) Judges decisions are final.
  - f) Some classes may have age limits and will be noted as such.
  - g) A champion ribbon will be awarded to the best exhibit in each section.
  - h) A grand champion ribbon (selected from the section champions) will be awarded to the best in each department.
  - i) Judging criteria – as applicable to the specific exhibit
    - i) Uniformity – shape, size, color.
    - ii) Quality – at the best edible stage
    - iii) Condition – free from defects, blemishes caused by disease, insects, bruises, sunscald or spray burn, etc.
    - iv) Trueness – as to variety and/or species
    - v) Flavor
    - vi) Presentation
    - vii) Texture and consistency

- j) Exhibits unclaimed after release time will become the property of the Washington County Agricultural Organization and will be discarded or donated as appropriate.
  - k) All exhibits must have been created since August 1 of the prior year.
  - l) Exhibits from previous years will not be accepted.
- 9) 4-H/FFA Animal Exhibits
- a) All 4-H/FFA members must comply with the general and market sale rules and regulations.
  - b) All animals must be registered in the name of the 4-H/FFA exhibitor by July 1st of the current year. A dairy or beef breeding animal must be owned exclusively and individually by the 4-H/FFA exhibitor before the animal becomes 2 years of age to be eligible for exhibition in the 4-H/FFA classes.
  - c) Exhibitors are not permitted to exhibit more than 1 entry in any 1 class, except in Market Steer, Market Swine, Market Lambs, Breeding Sheep, Rabbits, Dairy Steer, Market and Breeding Goats.
  - d) All livestock exhibits must be on the fairgrounds by 12:00 noon the opening day of the fair. All livestock exhibits are expected to stay all week. Dairy cows entered in the dairy show are expected to stay all week.
  - e) Any exhibitor competing for a special showmanship award must be able to certify that he/she cared for the animal from June 1st of the current year and also during the week of the fair, and the animals must be exhibited in a 4-H/FFA class during the current year fair.
  - f) All 4-H/FFA livestock are subject to the same health regulations as the open class exhibits and are subject to inspection for general health upon presentation for admission to all shows. Animals showing symptoms of any contagious or infectious disease, including ringworm, warts, and pinkeye, will be excluded and removed from the fair grounds. In cases where a veterinarian is treating the above cases, the owners should obtain a statement and include that with the health papers. For complete information consult your 4-H educator or FFA Advisor.
  - g) There is no entry fee for showing in any 4-H/FFA classes. Regular entry fees and rules and regulations for showing club animals in open classes apply.
  - h) Adult leaders will be on the fairgrounds at the 4-H/FFA area. These adults will have complete authority to keep control of the area and to discipline all 4-H/FFA members. Any exhibitor not abiding by the rules and regulations can be requested to leave the grounds for the remainder of the fair and premium awards will be forfeited.
  - i) All personal items must be packed neatly away by 8:00 AM each day.
  - j) All pen assignments are permanent and cannot be changed arbitrarily by the 4-H/FFA member.
  - k) All radios, tape recorders, etc., must be turned off by midnight and shall not be played excessively loud at other times.
  - l) Stall and pen areas must be cleaned daily.
  - m) Stall and pen areas must be cleaned and manure removed before animals are released.
  - n) Stall and pen areas of sale animals leaving prior to the end of the fair must be cleaned and manure removed. Failure to do so will result in a \$50.00 cleanup fee. Cleanup should be finished by 10:00 am the following day.

- o) Animals must be dry when weighed.
- p) 4-H/FFA Herdsman Award – Criteria:
  - i) Sportsmanship in winning or losing.
  - ii) Showing project in most advantageous manner.
  - iii) Displaying project animal or animals in an attractive, neat, and clean manner.
  - iv) General courtesy to show officials, leaders, and judges.
  - v) Helpfulness to other 4-H/FFA members, particularly those exhibiting for the first time.
  - vi) In general, exemplifying those personal qualities befitting a 4-H/FFA member.
- q) 4-H/FFA Livestock Show Attire
  - i) The prescribed show attire is required for all showmanship of livestock.
  - ii) No farm names or other identification shall appear on show uniforms.
  - iii) Adhere to 4-H dress code for summer activities.
    - (1) Closed toed shoes (no flip flops or sandals)
    - (2) Shorts must be fingertip length
    - (3) No tank tops or t-shirts with explicit logos/sayings.
  - iv) Exhibitors will not be permitted to show if dress code is violated.
  - v) Show attire must be worn for champion/reserve champion publicity pictures.
  - vi) Dairy & Dairy Goats
    - (1) 4-H Boys – white slacks with white collared shirt. Neck pieces are encouraged. Caps shall not be worn in the show ring.
    - (2) 4-H Girls – white slacks, capri or skirt with white collared shirt. Neck pieces are encouraged. Caps shall not be worn in the show ring.
    - (3) FFA Boys – white slacks with white collared shirt. Neck pieces are encouraged. Caps shall not be worn in the show ring.
    - (4) FFA Girls – white slacks or skirt with white collared shirt. Neck pieces are encouraged. Caps shall not be worn in the show ring.
  - vii) Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy Steers, Meat Goats, Rabbits, Cavy, Dogs, Cats & Alpaca.
    - (1) 4-H Boys – green or tan slacks, white collared shirt with green or black tie.
    - (2) 4-H Girls – green or tan slacks, capri or skirt, white collared shirt with green or black neck piece.
    - (3) FFA Boys – tan or black slacks, white collared shirt with blue or black tie.
    - (4) FFA Girls – tan or black slacks or skirt, white collared shirt with blue or black neck piece.
  - viii) Horse & Pony
    - (1) Boys and Girls – appropriate riding clothes for the division of 4-H showmanship uniform outlined in 4-H Horse and Pony Department.
- r) All livestock must be kept in their designated areas.
- s) In all classes, 4-H/FFA members must show their own animals.

- t) Replacement of an exhibitor can only happen if:
  - i) The owner is simultaneously participating in another 4-H/FFA event or activity that is approved by the animal science committee.
  - ii) The exhibitor was previously injured and is prevented from handling the animal however; the owner must be present at ring side or in the ring and must have a doctor's note.
  - iii) If the exhibitor becomes ill or injured at the event and can not continue in the class, a replacement exhibitor must be the same age or younger than the owner.
- u) Showmanship – Participants will be judged strictly on their showmanship in the ring. Showmanship animals will not be fitted and are to be washed, clipped and blown out prior to entry into the ring. No fitting products such as show foam, adhesive, show glo, etc. may be used. The judge may ask questions of the exhibitors during the class. Proper showmanship attire is required. Judging criteria will be: Performance in the show ring 60%, Knowledge 30% and personal appearance 10%.
- v) 4-H Maryland Code of Animal Science Ethics
  - i) Exhibitors of animals (beef, dairy, goat, horse, poultry, rabbit, sheep, camelids, dog, swine, and small pets), at all animal science activities and events shall at all times conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to all 4-H'ers who participate in structured classes of competition and animal science activities and events in 4-H. This code applies to all animals offered in any animal science activity, event, or show.
  - ii) All youth leaders (including parents and UME volunteers) working with 4-H exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Owners who violate the code of animal science ethics will forfeit premiums, awards, and auction proceeds and may be prohibited from future participation. 4-H exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all animal exhibitors.
  - iii) Infractions will be reviewed by a 4-H Board of Review, on the local or state level, as appropriate to the event in question and may be subject to a fair oversight committee. In addition, some acts may be subject to review by the State 4-H Office based upon the 4-H Behavioral Expectations (4-H 418) and/or UME policies.
  - iv) The following list of standards for all exhibitors and all animals in competitive events and activities:
    - (1) All exhibitors must present, upon request of fair and livestock officials, proof of ownership, identity of animal, length of ownership, and age of all animals owned. Misrepresentation of ownership, identity of animal, age or any facts relating thereto is prohibited.
    - (2) Owners shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by fair or animal officials.
    - (3) Exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at fairs or animal science activities and events.

- (4) Animals shall be presented to activities and events, where they will enter the food chain, free of drugs. The act of entering an animal in an animal show, activity, or event is giving the consent by the owner for event management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, hair, tissue, or other substance from the animal to be used in testing. Specimens may also be utilized to determine the identity of the animal. Animals entered shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state, and provincial statutes, regulations and rules. Animals shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state, and provincial statutes, regulations and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event.
- (a) If the laboratory report on the chemical analysis of saliva, urine, blood, hair, tissue, or other sample, taken from livestock, 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. 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 owner to prove otherwise at any review in regard to the matter conducted by the fair or livestock event or 4-H. At any time after an animal arrives on the fair or animal science event premises, a licensed veterinarian shall administer all treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications.
- (5) 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 substance 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 animals, is prohibited.
- (6) 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.
- (7) It is recommended that swine have a minimum of one-half inch of hair at market weight.

**Open Class Specific**

- 1) Home Arts – Open Class specific rules and regulations
  - a) All exhibits must be grown and/or the work of the exhibitor.
  - b) Only one entry per exhibitor per class
  - c) Exhibits not meeting quantity and/or specifications of the Department, Section and/or Class will be disqualified.
  - d) Exhibit placing is at the judge's discretion.
  - e) Judges decisions are final.
  - f) Some classes may have age limits and will be noted as such.
  - g) A champion ribbon will be awarded to the best exhibit in each section.
  - h) A grand champion ribbon (selected from the section champions) will be awarded to the best in each department.
  - i) Judging criteria – as applicable to the specific exhibit
    - i) Uniformity – shape, size, color.
    - ii) Quality – at the best edible stage
    - iii) Condition – free from defects, blemishes caused by disease, insects, bruises, sunscald or spray burn, etc.
    - iv) Trueness – as to variety and/or species
    - v) Flavor
    - vi) Presentation
    - vii) Texture and consistency
  - j) Exhibits unclaimed after release time will become the property of the Washington County Agricultural Organization and will be discarded or donated as appropriate.
  - k) All exhibits must have been created since August 1 of the prior year.
  - l) Exhibits from previous years will not be accepted.
- 2) Every open class purebred animal must be owned and registered in the name of the exhibitor by the appropriate breed association at least 30 days before the opening day of the fair.
- 3) Original livestock registration papers must be presented if requested by the superintendent.
- 4) An entry fee for each Open Class animal must be remitted to: Ag Expo, P. O. Box 681, Sharpsburg, MD 21782-0681 on or before show date. The Open Class entry fees are as follows:

a) Dairy Cattle	\$5.00
b) Beef Cattle	\$5.00
c) Sheep	\$3.00
d) Goats	\$3.00
e) Swine	\$3.00
f) Cats	\$1.00
- 5) Prior to show, livestock exhibitors must provide a copy of their approved Maryland show/interstate papers.
- 6) No animal which has not been pre-registered for exhibition may be brought onto the fair grounds.
- 7) All animals must be unloaded and loaded in designated areas.
- 8) Pen space will be assigned by the department superintendent at the time the animal arrives at the fair grounds.

- 9) Exhibitors are responsible for the care, feeding and watering of their animals while on the fair grounds. Premiums will not be paid to exhibitors who fail to keep the animals and pen area clean and attractive at all times.
- 10) All animals must be kept under control at all times. Should an animal become unmanageable it will be removed from competition and all entry fees shall be forfeited.
- 11) No animals may be moved in between the hours of 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM.
- 12) All animals must be bona-fide property of the exhibitor and will be exhibited exactly as ownership is registered with the breed association. All registration papers must be in order and all registrations and transfers properly executed by the breed organizations. No signed transfers accepted. No photocopy, fax, or e-mail of registrations – originals only.