

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Montana 4-H and FFA are based on principles of positive youth development. We believe that all producers and exhibitors of livestock have an interest in maintaining a reputation of integrity as well as an interest in presenting a positive and progressive image at livestock shows.

Adults have the special opportunity to interact with young people in ways that are affirming, educational and inspiring to young people and other adults. Adults must exercise good judgment and mature wisdom. They should also work with others in a courteous, respectful manner demonstrating behavior appropriate for a positive role model for youth. Adults working with adults in a positive way can set a great example.

### **Junior Livestock Code of Ethics**

**Sportsmanship.** All exhibitors and their families are encouraged to conduct themselves in a positive, honest, sportsmanlike manner during shows. Losing gracefully is just as important as winning humbly. The following practices are prohibited:

- Unsportsmanlike conduct, such as abusive language to show officials, other exhibitors, or spectators is prohibited.
- Misrepresenting the age of the animal for the class in which it is shown.
- Criticizing or interfering with the judge, other exhibitors or show officials while at the show or fair may result in an individual or group being expelled, placed on probation or declared ineligible to exhibit at the show.
- No exhibitor or spectator (i.e. – parents, leaders) will be allowed to interfere with the judge, chairman, show volunteers, clerks or Superintendents in the performance of his/her duties.

**Violations.** Any violation of the rules and regulations may result in forfeiture of all premiums and awards, disqualification, expulsion or probation of the exhibitor or organized groups the exhibitor represents and the exhibit or livestock involved in the violation. Probation, disqualification, expulsion or other disciplinary action of the livestock show committee will be final. Such action will require application for readmission under such terms as the committee may prescribe before the group or individual is allowed to exhibit at future shows. The livestock committee reserves the right to interpret rules and arbitrarily settle all differences and questions not adequately addressed by the above code of ethics. Consequences for misconduct may be serious and have a lasting effect. Consequences may include expulsion, loss of premiums and expulsion from future fairs. The livestock committee has the right to have any animal removed from the MontanaFair. The Livestock Show Committee will consist of Yellowstone County Extension Agent Roni Baker, Department A Superintendent(s) Division Chairperson(s), Jr. Chairs and The Sale Committee president.

### **IAFE (International Association of Fairs and Exposition) National Code of Show Ring Ethics**

Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibitions in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective fairs and livestock shows.

Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock show management or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.

## **Procedure for Reporting Unsportsmanlike Conduct - MontanaFair**

Please use common sense in all situations. Know the whole story and do not make assumptions about what is going on in the incidents you are observing. The committee reviewing the incidents will consist of the 4-H Extension Agent, Department A Superintendent(s) and the Division Chairperson(s). Infractions carry over from year to year – they are cumulative.

The person reporting the unsportsmanlike conduct needs to write up information about the incident including the incident as reported, time, date, species, witnesses, etc. This document will be filed in the 4-H Office. The incident will be investigated. The people involved (member(s), adult(s), leader(s), witnesses, Division Chairperson(s), Superintendent(s) and Extension Agent will discuss the incident.

At the time of the incident, the **4-H/FFA member or adult** needs to:

- A) Contact the Division Chairperson(s) and discuss the incident they observed. The Division Chairperson(s) will then visit with Roni Baker, Extension Agent and/or Department A Superintendent(s) about the incident.  
OR
- B) Contact Roni Baker, Extension Agent, and discuss the incident they observed. This can be done through the 4-H Office in the Expo Center. Roni will then visit with the Division Chairperson(s) in that species and/or Department A Superintendent(s).  
OR
- C) Contact Department A Superintendents and discuss the incident they observed. This can be done through the 4-H Office in the Expo Center. The superintendent(s) will then visit with the Division Chairperson(s) in that species and/or Roni Baker.

### **First Infraction**

The youth and adult need to talk to the person(s) involved in the infraction. The Division Chairperson needs to write up information about the incident as reported, time, date, species, witnesses etc. This document will be filed in the fair Livestock Office. The incident will be investigated. The people involved (member(s), adults, leader(s), witnesses, Division Chairperson(s), Superintendent(s) will discuss the incident.

### **Second Infraction**

A written warning will be given to the person(s) involved – either youth or adult. Depending on the seriousness of the infraction, the fair livestock committee can determine the extent of the consequences for the second infraction. Consequences can include just a warning, no participation in the sale, loss of premiums, adults will be expelled from the barn for the remainder of the fair, etc. The letter from the 2nd infraction must include two signatures. One signature from the Extension Agent and one from a livestock committee chairman or superintendent.

### **Third Infraction**

If a third infraction occurs, the consequences for the adult(s) and youth may be serious and have a lasting effect. Consequences may include expulsion, loss of sale proceeds, losing the option to sell at the fair, expulsion from future fairs or any other consequence determined by the committee.

The fair livestock committee will consist of the 4-H Extension Agent, Department A Superintendent(s), Division Chairperson(s), Jr. Chairs and the Sale Committee president.

### **MontanaFair – General Information**

Page 1 - #6 - Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and the offending exhibitor will forfeit all premiums due and may be immediately dismissed from the fairgrounds.

Page 1 - NATIONAL CODE OF ETHICS - MontanaFair is a member of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) and will abide by the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics when conducting MontanaFair, as printed at [www.fairsandexpos.com/pdf/ShowRingCodeofEthics.pdf](http://www.fairsandexpos.com/pdf/ShowRingCodeofEthics.pdf)