



Monterey County Fair
7th District Agricultural Association
2004 Fairground Road
Monterey, CA 93940

2026 JUNIOR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITOR CODE OF CONDUCT & PARENT/LEADER/ADULT CODE OF CONDUCT

REQUIRED FOR ALL EXHIBITORS

EMAIL TO ENTRY@MONTEREYCOUNTYFAIR.COM, NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2026

This Code of Conduct was developed by the 7th District Agricultural Association (DAA), who operates under the auspices of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Division of Fairs and Expositions, for the primary purpose of producing the annual Monterey County Fair.

The Code of Conduct is further enhanced with additional rules and regulations, including the State Rules.

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITOR CODE OF CONDUCT (PART I)

POLICIES FOR EXHIBITOR CONDUCT

1. 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.
2. Exhibitors shall use respectful language. No foul or abusive language or gestures will be tolerated.
3. All Junior Livestock Exhibitors shall take responsibility for caring and grooming for his/her own animals. If assistance is needed it should be intended to help the exhibitor learn and gain new skills. All Exhibitors can be assisted by immediate family members and other active 4H/FFA members, eligible to show at the 2026 MCF. The Fair's designated Livestock Species Superintendent will oversee barns and enforce all rules.
4. Exhibitors acknowledge that the Monterey County Fair Junior Livestock Auction is a TERMINAL SALE, all Market Acceptable/Market Ready animals judged will be sold through the auction.
5. Possession of any weapon or illegal drugs on the Fairgrounds is prohibited.
6. Possession of alcohol or consumption of alcoholic beverages on the Fairgrounds, and/or being under the influence by any underage exhibitor (minor) on the Fairgrounds is prohibited.
7. Use of fireworks or sparklers is prohibited on the Fairgrounds. Smoking or vaping of any kind is allowed only in the designated location on the Fairgrounds and not allowed by any underage exhibitors.
8. Any exhibitor whose conduct jeopardizes the health and safety of another exhibitor, animal, or the public, will be immediately expelled from further participation in the 2026 Monterey County Fair and possibly future fairs. The exhibitor and their animal(s) are to be removed from the grounds immediately and lose the opportunity to show and sell his/her animal(s) through the Junior Livestock Auction. Health or Safety issues include, but are not limited to, actions involving weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, or fireworks, as mentioned in items 5-7 above, and not caring for, i.e. feeding and watering, the exhibitor's animal project.
9. If animal(s) have been sold in the Junior Livestock Auction and Rule 8 needs to be enforced the animals will remain on the grounds.

POLICIES FOR ANIMAL TREATMENT

1. Any effort to artificially change the conformation or appearance of an animal by treating the animal, internally or externally, with any irritant, counter-irritant, or other substance is considered unethical, inhumane, and is prohibited. Treatments that are prohibited include, but are not limited to, the use of artificial hair coloring (sprays, etc.), excessive use of common products such as fly spray, ointments or liniments, or other similar products. Excessive use is defined as the use of a substance to the point that it irritates the animal. For reference, livestock can be fit with livestock show supply spray paint from the knees and hocks down. Cattle may have livestock show supply spray paint applied to tail heads, tails, and tail switches.
2. Adding false hair or hair-like material, fleece, or skin to any portion of the animal's body is not allowed and will result in immediate disqualification. Causing the animal to ingest any liquid or substance not considered part of an accepted and normal livestock diet, or in quantities not considered normal for livestock, is deemed illegal and inhumane. For example: the use of alcoholic or carbonated beverages as a drench or filler.
3. The use of tranquilizers, sedatives, or depressants, which alter the physical or physiological state of the animal, is not allowed. Exceptions to this rule would be a California Licensed Certified Veterinarian's treatment for recognized disease or injury, or recommendation for tranquilizing breeding animals in heat that might compromise the safety of others. The Livestock Office must receive notification from the Licensed Certified Veterinarian of the details of any such prescribed treatment in writing. The substance used in this treatment must have been approved by The Food and Drug Administration for use in meat producing animals.
4. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to feed, water and care for any animal they have entered in the Fair throughout the entire Livestock Show, including any period following the sale of the animal prior to the end of the Show/Fair (with exception of dates in Section 1, Policy 4). **All market animals must be cared for and are the responsibility of the exhibitor until 5:00 pm on Monday, September 7, 2026.**
5. Any animal that appears ill or injured while at the Fairgrounds must be reported to the livestock office. A veterinarian must check any animal considered unhealthy. If it is determined that the animal is carrying a communicable disease, the animal will be removed from the Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds will not assume the cost for this action. The exhibitor must assume the full expense of the veterinarian's services.
6. Any animal that is determined to be unmanageable, or could be a safety hazard to the public, will be removed

- from the Fairgrounds. The Livestock Superintendent/Fair Management makes this decision final.
7. It is considered abuse to excessively shrink or excessively exercise an animal.
 8. Other than to reduce higher than normal body temperature of an animal that is overheated, ice is not to be applied to the body of an animal. Ice in a bucket of water is permitted. No cooling devices, electrical stimulation tools or shockers may be used. Ice used to cool down the body temperature of a hog is acceptable.
 9. Physical abuse of an animal will not be tolerated. For example: when moving hogs, care should be taken not to excessively beat or hit an animal (either by a person or with an object).
 10. For the safety of the animal and the public, animals are not to be left unattended on fitting tables or in blocking chutes.
 11. All lambs and goats must be shown with their front feet on the ground as practiced by acceptable showmanship procedures. If this policy is not followed, the judge may ask the exhibitor to leave the ring.
 12. During animal weigh-in, while at the scale, or any time during the Fair or on arrival times, all sheep and goats will be checked for any infectious disease, open sores, abscesses, injury, parasites, or any unhealthy condition. Those animals determined to have an infectious disease will be asked to immediately leave the fairgrounds. For example: animals found to have live active Ringworm, or active Sore Mouth will be asked to leave the fairgrounds. It is strongly suggested that the health of each animal be evaluated prior to coming to the Fair. The Fair Association is not responsible for any costs associated with the transfer or care of these animals.
 13. Exhibitors should remember that the cost of the junior livestock programs are offset in part by the general public, therefore the livestock area needs to be presentable at all times. All livestock stalls/pens must be cleaned out daily before 8:00 AM and exhibitors should make every effort to keep the barns clean at all times for the public.
 14. Exhibitors shall be responsible for the security of their animals in stalls or pens. All beef cattle and dairy cattle shall be securely tied with a neck rope in addition to a suitable halter. All sheep, goat, and swine pens shall be securely closed and fastened before the exhibitor leaves the barn area. Please do not put padlocks on any gates or pens.

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATION OF EXHIBIT POLICIES

1. If any violation of policy occurs prior to the junior livestock auction, the exhibitor will not be allowed to sell his/her animal.
2. If the violation occurs after the Junior Livestock Auction, the exhibitor will receive only market resale value (as determined the day of the auction) for the animal. Any remaining money paid by the buyer in purchasing the animal through the auction will be placed into a general scholarship fund or put towards educational purposes at the Fair. The buyer will receive the animal.
3. If it is determined that an exhibitor has violated the Fair's Code of Conduct or other exhibit policies, the exhibitor will be removed from the grounds and may not exhibit livestock at the following year's fair. For example: An exhibitor who violates a rule and is removed from the grounds in 2026 will not be allowed to exhibit livestock at the 2026 Fair. The exhibitor may then request in writing to exhibit livestock at the 2027 Fair. This request will be reviewed by the Board of Directors prior to an official entry being accepted.
4. Direction shall be focused more on the exhibitors excelling in leadership, education, and citizenship with their livestock projects.

5. Minor violations of exhibit conduct, not involving health or safety concerns, may be given one (1) verbal warning. This verbal warning will be documented and noted by a signature from the exhibitor and Livestock Superintendent or Fair Management. On the second violation, the exhibitor will be asked to leave the fairgrounds, and any awards and/or auction check will be withheld.

ELIGIBLE ENTRIES

1. All 4-H, FFA and Independent entries must be submitted online and must have an electronic approval as designated by management. Entries also must have electronic approval by the exhibitor, his/her parent or guardian, and leader/advisor.
2. All Code of Conduct Agreement Forms must be signed by exhibitors and their parent/guardian to be considered eligible.

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION

The auction is a privilege, not a right. You are producing a product that will enter the food chain. The Fair's goal is not only to provide a seller with an avenue to sell, but also provide a consumer/buyer with quality, healthy, produced products from knowledgeable and responsible producers.

1. Every market animal exhibitor at Monterey County Fair is required to complete a Declaration of Animal Medication prior to selling an animal at the Junior Livestock Auction. Animals will not be eligible to sell if the Medication Form is not completed and properly signed.
2. Exhibitors, as owner of their market animals, acknowledge that they will be responsible for their animal if rejected at a harvesting plant due to the presence of drug or other residue. If drug or other residue is detected, the exhibitor understands that he/she may be liable to the buyer and/or Fair for an amount equal to three (3) times the purchase price and may also be liable for any attorney's fees and civil penalties.

SELLER'S RESPONSIBILITY

1. All animals must follow the sale order as determined and compiled by Fair staff. Failure of the exhibitor to be present and ready to enter the ring with their animal will automatically disqualify the exhibitor from the sale.
2. No advertisement will be permitted on animals. Do not ask the auctioneer for special announcements. Adornments are permitted on Champion and Reserve Champion Market animals only. No exceptions.
3. All exhibitors must write Thank You letters to their auction buyers and turn them in at the Exhibitor's Awards Breakfast on Monday, September 7th.
4. Exhibitors selling livestock through the Auction are solely responsible for feeding, watering, and general well-being of their own animals until the animals are loaded onto trucks for transport.
5. No parent, leader/advisor or exhibitor shall contact buyers for the purpose of purchasing, re-purchasing or giving back an auctioned animal.

CONDEMNED CARCASS

1. In the case of a condemned carcass due to drug or chemical contamination, contagious disease, or sign of genetic disease syndrome exhibitors will forfeit earnings and all premiums and pay all costs associated with expenses.

SOLICITATION OF BUYERS/NON-SALE MARKET ANIMALS

1. Absolutely no "For Sale" signs will be allowed in the barn area. Any exhibitor found soliciting buyers for non-sale market animals before or during the Auction will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by Fair Management.

PARENT/ADULT CODE OF CONDUCT (PART II)

As a Parent or Guardian of a Livestock Exhibitor at the Monterey County Fair, you are expected to adhere to the following Code of Conduct. Failure to do so will jeopardize the participation of your club, the exhibitors, your child, or any member of your family.

1. As a Leader/Advisor or parent, I acknowledge that the child must demonstrate his or her ownability, knowledge, and skill as an exhibitor of show animals, and that the assistance of an adult in the washing, grooming, fitting, or showing of his or her animal while at the Fair is prohibited. Verbal assistance by an adult is acceptable.
2. As a Leader/Advisor or parent, I acknowledge that 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. All judges, Fair and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect, and as a Leader/Advisor or Parent I will not allow any person connected with my exhibitor's or child's animal project to direct abusive or threatening conduct toward any show official.
3. Leader/Advisor and Parents shall use respectful language. No foul or abusive language or gestures will be tolerated in the Livestock Area or on the fairgrounds.
4. Possession of any weapons or illegal drugs on the fairgrounds is prohibited.
5. As a parent, I/We are aware that responsible alcohol use is allowed on the Fairgrounds, and I/We will limit use of alcohol so that a proper example is set for my exhibitor child, or children of others around us. Any child/student or children/students of other club/chapters around us. Any abuse of alcohol or public intoxication by Parent in or around the Livestock facility is PROHIBITED. This type of activity is further monitored by law enforcement.

6. As a parent, I/We agree not to bring or store any outside alcohol in the livestock area. ONLY alcohol provided by the Master Concessionaire is allowed on the grounds. If caught with outside alcohol Parent will be removed from the fairgrounds for the remainder of the Fair.
7. As a Leader/Advisor or Parent I acknowledge that the use of fireworks or sparklers is prohibited on the fairgrounds.
8. Smoking or vaping is allowed only in the designated smoking area. Smoking or vaping of any kind is PROHIBITED in the livestock area.

Any Parent/Guardian whose conduct jeopardizes the health or safety of an exhibitor, animal, or the public, will be immediately expelled from the Monterey County Fair and will jeopardize the participation of their club/chapter's exhibitors or any member of the Parent's family. The Parent is to be removed from the grounds immediately and could jeopardize their club's exhibitors or child's opportunity to show and sell through the Junior Livestock Auction. By signing this Agreement, all parties (livestock exhibitors of market, breeding, and small animals and their parents or guardian), do hereby agree to the Junior Livestock Exhibitor and Parent/Adult Code of Conduct as expressly stated above. All Code of Conduct forms are to be viewed at submission of Fair Entry, which is on or before August 1, 2026. Code of Conduct forms must be signed and submitted by August 10. Failure to read and submit the signed agreement causes ineligibility to show at the 2026 Fair.

Exhibitor's Name (Print): _____ Club/Chapter: _____

Exhibitor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____