

Polk County Youth Fair, Inc.

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Polk County Youth Fair Market Steer Ethics Policy and Statement of Understanding

This ethics policy applies to any 4-H/FFA/FCCLA student planning to exhibit a market steer in the Polk County Youth Fair.

The following practices or procedures are unacceptable and are defined as being deceptive, fraudulent, unethical, and inhumane in the care, fitting, preparation and showing of all classes of market steers. The use of any illegal drug is prohibited. Any substance used to phenotypically alter the appearance of an animal entered in the Polk County Youth Fair is prohibited.(see Guideline #5).

Proof of any animal being subjected to illegal and/or unethical practice(s) and/or procedure(s) described herein subjects the animal to immediate disqualification. The animal is ineligible for exhibition at the Polk County Youth Fair. The exhibitor will forfeit any premium, awards, or auction proceeds, and may be prohibited from future competition at any Polk County Youth Fair, as well as being subject to potential criminal prosecution.

The following is a listing of guidelines all 4-H/FFA/FCCLA student exhibitors must follow to enter a market steer in the Polk County Youth Fair.

1. Exhibitors must be bonafide members of a 4-H Club, FFA Chapter, FCCLA Chapter and care for their animal(s) under the direct supervision of a 4-H Leader, Agriscience Teacher or Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher. Exhibitors must be enrolled in, and attending, public or private and/or home school, elementary, middle schools in Polk County. Exhibitors must be 10 years old and in grades 4 through 12.
2. All exhibitors must have viable proof of ownership available to prove length of time animal(s) have been owned. Market steers must be owned and under exhibitor's daily care by July 24, 2009. The official ownership date is the date shown on the bill of sale or receipt of sale, unless the animal was bred by the exhibitor, in which calving or birth records will be utilized.
3. Exhibitors must continuously own and personally feed and care for their animal(s) throughout the entire feeding period. The feeding period begins with the initial weigh-in date in August through the check in of animals in January. Prior approval must be granted by the Market Steer committee in the event the animal will be outside the direct care of the exhibitor. The animal(s) may not be out of the exhibitor's care for a period exceeding 48 hours. Exceptions may be made with approval from Polk County Youth Fair Market Steer committee.
4. No exhibitor may show a market steer which has been previously sold at a county, regional, or major livestock show auction or sale in which the ownership of the animal has changed hands after the ownership deadline and initial weigh-in for that market steer. Any method used to misrepresent the age of an animal for a class in which it is shown is deceptive and considered a violation of the rules and regulations. Showing an animal for another individual by claiming ownership in order to show in a specific livestock class or event is prohibited. False ownership is a violation of the rules and regulations.
5. Treating an animal internally or externally, with any irritant, counter-irritant, or other substance used to artificially change the confirmation or appearance of an animal for show is considered unethical, inhumane, and is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the use of graphite, air, powders, hemp, artificial hair coloring, common products such as fly spray, ointment or liniment used to the point that is irritating, (unless required to reduce edema at time of calving) or similar type products. The use of dyes, spray paint or other artificial coloring which

result in altering an animal's true and natural appearance and/or color is prohibited. Adding false hair or hair-like material, fleece, or skin at any point, spot or area of the animal's body is illegal and will result in immediate disqualification.

6. Surgery, injection or insertion of foreign material under the skin and/or into the flesh of an animal to change the natural contour, conformation or appearance of an animal's body is illegal. This includes vegetable oil, air, silicon or any other substance used to alter the shape of the animal. Acceptable practices of physical preparation which are allowed include trimming of hooves and dehorning.
7. The use of inhumane fitting, showing and/or handling practices or devices shall not be tolerated.
8. The Polk County Youth Fair reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these guidelines and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of or connected with or incident to "Polk County Youth Fair Market Steer Ethics Policy and Statement of Understanding".

Any violation of the "Polk County Youth Fair Ethics Policy and Statement of Understanding" or specific rules as designated in the 2010 Polk County Youth Fair Rules and Regulations may result in forfeiture of premiums and awards, disqualification, and may result in probationary status and/or loss of eligibility for future participation in the Polk County Youth Fair. **Possible civil penalties may be imposed by the proper authorities based on evidence provided by the livestock show of exhibitors in violation of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act/or the animal mistreatment, neglect, and abandonment laws that apply on the local, state, and/or national levels.** All rule violations will be dealt with on an individual basis by the Polk County Youth Fair.

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I am verifying that I have read the "Polk County Youth Fair Market Steer Ethics Policy and Statement of Understanding" and understand the consequences of and penalties involved for illegal, unethical, inhumane, and unfair practices in livestock competition. I am also verifying knowledge that my family and I may be prohibited from future participation in the Polk County Youth Fair, and could face possible criminal prosecution and/or civil penalties if implicated in any of the aforementioned acts.

_____	_____
Exhibitor Signature	Date
_____	_____
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
_____	_____
Teacher/Leader Signature	Date
_____	_____
Market Steer Committee Chairman Signature	Date