

OCEANA COUNTY 4-H ANIMAL PROJECT
CODE OF ETHICS

Introduction:

The Oceana County 4-H Program is an educational and youth development organization. All individuals involved with the program need to understand and support the ethical treatment of animals and the strict adherence to the principles of fair play. It is the expectation of the 4-H Youth Council that this document serve as a minimum guide in determining what is acceptable treatment of animal projects and what behavior is expected of participants while representing 4-H. Violation of this code is punishable by forfeiture, fines or expulsion from the program at the discretion of the 4-H Youth Council and a member of the Committee (4-H Market Livestock Committee/Horse Developmental Committee/4-H Small Market Animal Association/4-H Dairy) responsible for that project area. If an animal does not directly fall under one of the above mentioned Committees, 4-H Youth Council will consult with a member of the Committee that is most closely affiliated to the situation in question.

1. The 4-H Member is to be the primary person responsible for the care and well-being of the animal.
2. The fitting of animals will take place in areas designated by the Superintendent during the Fair. Parents, guardians, sibling, club leaders, Extension Educators and FFA Advisors may assist and are encouraged to assist the younger exhibitors. Any other must be pre-approved by the governing Committee. However, each exhibitor must be working with the project animal and be in attendance with the animal during the entire fitting process.
3. The use of tranquilizers, sedatives or depressants, which alter the physical or physiological state of the animal, is illegal. The use of calf calm, pig calm or other similar products is allowed. Any such substance must be approved by The Food and Drug Administration for use in meat animals. It is unethical and in most cases unlawful to administer drugs to livestock within 20 to 30 days of slaughter. Animals too unmanageable to show should be withdrawn from the class rather than be tranquilized. The 4-H Youth Council and the Superintendent will monitor this situation. By Federal regulations, random testing will occur at slaughter and animals will be condemned which have been given any injection or oral dosages of tranquilizer, pain killers, antibiotics, diuretics, steroids, or other foreign substances during withdrawal periods before slaughter. All sales money will be withheld in such cases. Bloat medicine and medication with no withdrawal requirements may be permissible.

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4. 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, silicon or any other substance used to alter an animal's shape. Acceptable practices of physical preparations which are allowed include: clipping of hair, trimming of hooves, dehorning or removal of warts.
5. The use of inhumane fitting, showing and handling practices or devices shall not be tolerated. For example: breaking of tails, striking the animal to cause swelling or for bracing purposes, use of an electrical contrivance, muzzles, mouth/lip chains, nose leads etc. is not acceptable.
6. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, show management, other exhibitors or show officials before, during or after the competitive event is prohibited. (Does not refer to educational inquiries).