

MERCED COUNTY FAIR JUNIOR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Exhibiting livestock at the Merced County Fair is a privilege and must be respected as such. To that end, all junior exhibitors who wish to sell and/or show at the Merced County Fair must adhere to the Code of Conduct to be eligible to participate at the Fair. This Code of Conduct covers the conduct of the exhibitor from the Sunday before the opening day of the fair through Sunday, the last day of the fair. Violations of the Code of Conduct will not be tolerated. An investigation of alleged violations will be conducted, and a decision rendered by the appropriate involved parties according to the Code of Conduct protocol. Violations may result in loss of premium, awards, and/or the right to sell animal(s) at the auction.

- Exhibitors will refrain from any use of alcohol, drugs, vaping, or tobacco during the Merced County Fair.
- Exhibitors may not use obscene or discriminatory language.
- Exhibitors are to be good citizens by helping those around them have positive experiences.
- Exhibitors are to demonstrate caring for people other than themselves. Know that harassment of any type is illegal and prohibited.
- Exhibitors must practice good sportsmanship behavior.
- Exhibitors will treat their animals safely and kindly. Animals will have the necessary feed and water the entire time they are at the fairgrounds.
- Exhibitors will always keep their animal pens clean and free of hazards.
- Exhibitors will treat adults, especially those in authority, with respect.
- Exhibitors will follow all State and Local rules that apply to your particular project(s)
- Exhibitors shall fit and groom their own animals for the show. Exhibitors may receive *limited assistance* from their parents, guardians, other exhibitors, Leaders, and Advisors.
- If Exhibitors are staying in the fair camping area, or visiting friends in the fair camping area, you will abide by all curfews and other camping area rules.

MERCED COUNTY FAIR JUNIOR LIVESTOCK PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

As a parent of a Livestock Exhibitor at the Merced County Fair, you are expected to adhere to the following Code of Conduct. Failure to do so will jeopardize the participation of your child, or family member.

- The livestock show and sale is an educational experience for your child and as such, exhibitors shall fit and groom their own animals for the show. Exhibitors may receive *limited assistance* from their parents, guardians, other exhibitors, Leaders, and Advisors. No Professional Fitters.
- As a parent/guardian, you acknowledge that direct criticism or interference with the judge, show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, auctioneer, 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 parent/guardian, I will not allow any person connected with my child's animal project to direct abusive or threatening conduct toward any show official.
- Parents/guardians shall champion equality and respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all people involved in the Merced County Fair livestock program, regardless of gender, race, marital status, color, disability, sexuality, age, occupation, religion, or political opinion.
- Parents/guardians should use respectful language. No foul or abusive language or gestures shall be directed toward a judge or staff member at any time. Such conduct will not be tolerated.
- Parents/guardians should limit their use of alcohol in the barns to set a proper example for their child and the children of others.
- Parents/guardians shall not provide alcohol to anyone under 21 years of age.
- Parents/guardians shall not have any alcohol in a child's showbox in the barns.
- Parents/guardians shall not use any drugs that are considered illegal while on the grounds.
- There is no smoking or vaping permitted in or near the barns.
- I will follow the procedures and chain of command if there is a conflict.

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITOR CODE OF CONDUCT PROTOCOL

Violation: Fair Camping Area Curfew
Report to: Livestock Superintendent
Final Decision: Fair CEO

Violation: Fair Camping Area Disturbance
Report to: Livestock Superintendent
Final Decision: Fair CEO

Violation: Code of Conduct
Report to: Livestock Superintendent/Fair CEO
Final Decision: Board of Directors

Violation: State or Local Rules
Report to: File a formal protest with the Livestock Superintendent. See local rules for protest procedure.
Final Decision: Fair CEO and/or Board of Directors, and/or Division of Fairs & Expositions

Violation: Auction Rules
Report to: Livestock Superintendent
Final Decision: Auction Executive Committee

- All alleged violations will be reported in writing to the Livestock or Fair Office. No oral complaints will be investigated unless reported by fair security staff to Fair Management.
- Witnesses to the alleged violations will be contacted and interviewed. For Code of Conduct violations, witnesses may be asked to appear before the Board of Directors in front of the accused. It is in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors whether to hold a hearing.
- All decisions made by the Fair CEO regarding the RV Park may be forwarded to the Merced County Fair Board of Directors at their next meeting. To be placed on the agenda, contact the fair office immediately to meet the State of California open meeting notification requirements.
- Concerns regarding the board's decisions may be forwarded to the Merced Fair Board of Directors at their next meeting. To be placed on the agenda, contact the fair office immediately to meet the State of California open meeting notification requirements.
- All decisions by the Junior Livestock Auction Committee are final. Concerns regarding the committee's decisions may be forwarded to the full 35th District Agricultural Association, Merced County Fair Junior Livestock Auction Committee for their next regular meeting.
- All judge's decisions are final and cannot be protested.

As the **Parent/Guardian of the Exhibitor**, I acknowledge I have read and understand the State and Local Rules posted on the following website State Rules: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/FairsAndExpositions/exhibit_and_livestock.html, Local Rules www.mercedcountyfair.com.

Print your name

Print your name

Exhibitor's Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date