



# 2026 NEBRASKA STATE FAIR GENERAL LIVESTOCK RULES & REGULATIONS

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**WELCOME:** The Nebraska State Fair Board welcomes you to the 157<sup>th</sup> Nebraska State Fair, held on the Nebraska State Fairgrounds at Fonner Park. We encourage your participation in the 2026 competitions. The Nebraska State Fair Show Management, here and after referred to Show Management, is pleased to host you and your exhibits at the Fair while you enjoy your stay in Grand Island.

**ADMINISTRATION OF RULES & REGULATIONS:** The Nebraska State Fair Board has delegated the authority to Show Management (Agriculture Director, Executive Director, Chair of the Ag Committee, FFA Superintendent, and 4-H Program Leader) for the final and absolute right to interpret, amend or add to these Rules & Regulations as its judgment may determine, and to settle all disputes and determine all matters, questions and differences in regard hereto or otherwise arising out of, connected with, or incident to the Fair.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** The following General Rules & Regulations apply to all departments including Open Class, 4-H and FFA. Please refer to each department for specific rules and requirements. Exhibitors are required to read ALL rules and regulations which pertain to the division they are entering. In the event of conflict of general and specific rules, the latter will govern. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to be familiar with all applicable Rules & Regulations.

**FAIR LIABILITY:** The Nebraska State Fair Board, Show Management, and their agents and employees shall not, under any circumstances, be responsible for personal injury, and assume no liability for loss or damage of any nature to any property of concessionaires, exhibitors or patrons while on the grounds or at any time or place due to theft, fire, tornado, weather conditions, or other causes, nor be liable for or make any payment for the value thereof.

**EXHIBITOR LIABILITY:** Exhibitors of livestock must exercise due discretion in regard to the animals they are exhibiting, whether in the ring, stall or pen and exhibitor must assume responsibility for any damages caused by or to their animals. The exhibitor will be solely responsible for any consequential or other loss, injury or damage done to, or occasioned by, or arising from any animal or article exhibited by him/her and for its description as given in the Premium Book. Exhibitor shall indemnify the Nebraska State Fair Board, its agents and employees against all legal or other proceedings in regard thereto, as well as any damage or injury to any other person or property, caused by the exhibitor or any of the animals exhibited with the Fair.

**AGREEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY:** At no time will the Nebraska State Fair Board assume care, custody, or control of any animals and/or personal property of any exhibitor, except following the selection of the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion 4-H and FFA Market animals. Furthermore, the official Nebraska State Fair Veterinarian, in agreement with Show Management, reserves the right to treat any animal, if in the opinion of the Nebraska State Fair Veterinarian, it is in the best interest of the animal's health and well-being to be treated. The Nebraska State Fair Board will assume control of these animals using security guards once they are placed in the designated pens. Otherwise, exhibitors will have full custody and control, and will care for, feed and keep safe their animals, livestock and personal property, all in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Nebraska State Fair as implemented by Show Management.

**NEBRASKA STATE FAIR COURTESY STATEMENT:** In any barn where different species are present at the same time, the Nebraska State Fair expects that all exhibitors will extend courtesy to other exhibitors and their animal exhibits. This includes respect for designated areas, informational signage, and division barriers. Any questions regarding this should be referred to the Superintendent of your show.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:** Subject to the limitations set forth in these Rules and Regulations, the Nebraska State Fair provides to all persons the opportunity to exhibit at the Fair without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or other factors protected by applicable law.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:** The Nebraska State Fair reserves the right to cancel events or change scheduling should Show Management deem such necessary in its sole discretion.

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS (IAFE) NATIONAL CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS:** As a member of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE), the Nebraska State Fair follows the National Code of Show Ring Ethics and uses that code as a governing philosophy for all shows hosted during the Nebraska State Fair. For more information, please refer to the IAFE Code of Show Ring Ethics document on the Nebraska State Fair website, which are incorporated into these Rules and Regulations by reference.

**NALS&RMA:** The Nebraska State Fair is a member of the North American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers' Association, whose membership has approved the adoption of The IAFE National Show Ring Code of Ethics. Exhibitors are bound to abide by this Code.

**FORCE MAJURE & GOVERNMENTAL REGULATION:** The Nebraska State Fair is not liable for delays or failures to perform due to force majeure (e.g. equipment failure, strikes, acts of God, animal diseases, wars, economic downturns) or compliance with governmental regulations (e.g. public health, animal disease prevention, environmental protection).

**ATTENTION!! USE OF DRUGS:** The use by non-veterinarians of animal drugs or substances in any manner other than in accord with the label approved by the FDA is a violation of federal law. Exhibitor and exhibitor's parents/guardians agree (1) they are absolutely and completely responsible persons for the care and custody of their animals, (2) the Nebraska State Fair shall be entitled to disqualify an exhibitor whose animal tests positive for any drug, even if the exhibitor and the exhibitor's parents or guardians are innocent of any wrongdoing and did not administer the drug, (3) the drug test results of the Nebraska State Fair's chosen testing laboratory, here and after known as Laboratory, are final and binding upon the exhibitor and exhibitor's parents and/or guardians. Even if the source of the drug is unknown, the Nebraska State Fair shall be entitled to disqualify the exhibitor. **Abuse of extra-label privilege by veterinarians is unethical and subject to serious consequences, such as license revocation.**

## **RULES & REGULATIONS**

- 1. EXHIBITOR COMPLIANCE:** Exhibitors and their associates must cooperate with all Nebraska State Fair officials including office clerks, grounds, admission, security and parking personnel and volunteers in all matters of policy. The Nebraska State Fair General Livestock Information, Rules & Regulations, Health Requirements, Additional 4-H/FFA General Rules & Regulations, the IAFE National Show Ring Code of Ethics, and the North American Livestock Show & Rodeo Managers Association (NALS&RMA) Rule Infraction Database

(RID) will govern. By submitting an application for entry, exhibitors agree to comply with all Rules & Regulations governing the Nebraska State Fair as referenced in these Rules and available on the State Fair website.

2. **VOLUNTARY WAIVER:** The exhibitor agrees that the interpretation and enforcement of the Rules & Regulations by the Nebraska State Fair and Show Management shall be final, without further complaint, appeal, claim, lawsuit or other recourse against the Nebraska State Fair Board. By submitting an application for entry, all exhibitors waive any right to challenge the Nebraska State Fair's determinations in that regard.
3. **ELIGIBLE TO ENTER:**
  - a. **Competition:** Unless otherwise stipulated, entries and competition are open to the public. No animal or article will be considered unless provided for in the Entry Premium Book
  - b. **Certificate Of Registry:** Original registration papers or electronic document presented using a tablet or smart phone will be accepted if pulled up or downloaded from their respective breed website. **NO PRINTED PAPER COPIES OR SCREENSHOTS ACCEPTED.** In case of inability to get animals recorded before the time limit, a certified copy of the animal's pedigree on a regular breed application blank must also be available for inspection at check-in time. This certificate of application is to be signed by both parties (exhibitor & seller) of the transaction and must agree with breed association records. In case of dispute as to age of an animal exhibited, its certificate of registry shall be required for evidence of its age, and its owner shall be required to file an affidavit that it is the identical animal therein described. Tattoos, ear tags or other identification marks must match registration certificates.
  - c. **Possession Of Livestock: For specific 4-H/FFA ownership deadlines, please refer to the 4-H/FFA General Rules & Regulations section.**
  - d. **Firms & Partnerships:** Animals owned in partnership may be entered in all classes of the Fair in one owner's name. The entry shall carry a footnote showing the actual ownership of the animal as it appears in the respective association's herd book records.
4. **ENTRY PROCEDURE:**
  - a. **Entry Submission:** All applications for entry must be made online at [statefair.org](http://statefair.org) utilizing the entry management software. Entries must be accompanied by all fees and other sums due the State Fair or entry will not be accepted.
  - b. **Group Classes:** Entries for group classes must be shown in their respective single classes. Group Class entries must be made by the appropriate entry deadline and must include the appropriate entry fees.
  - c. **Multiple Entries of Same Animal:** If an exhibitor chooses to enter their 4-H or FFA animal in Open Class separate entries, stalling arrangements, and fees are required.
  - d. **Acceptance Of Entry:** Show Management reserves the right to reject, accept, or accept conditionally an application for entry.
5. **PLACEMENT:** No animal or article will be entitled to a place on the grounds until proper entry has been made. The Nebraska State Fair shall reserve the right to vacate or order the removal of any entry which has been found to be entered in violation of the entry requirements.

6. **SUBSTITUTION:** Open Class Breeding substitutions within the same age, same class and same owner will be accepted at check-in. Only one substitution for the original animal will be allowed. There will be no substitutions allowed for different age classifications or owners. NO EXCEPTIONS. See 4-H/FFA Rule Section for Substitution Rules regarding 4-H and FFA exhibitors.
7. **ERRONEOUS ENTRY:** Participants are responsible for their own entries, and those of their representatives, in preparation of entries. Animals that have been erroneously entered may be transferred, at the discretion of the Superintendent of the department, to their proper class, prior to judging, upon application to the Nebraska State Fair, who will determine the matter upon its merits. If such classes have been judged, they shall not be reopened.
8. **ENTRY DEADLINE:** All Open Class Livestock entries must be made electronically through the State Fair website by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on August 10<sup>th</sup>. All 4-H and FFA livestock entries are due electronically by 8:00 p.m. Central Time on August 10<sup>th</sup>.
9. **LATE ENTRIES:** Open Class Livestock may enter after August 10<sup>th</sup> up until August 15<sup>th</sup> at midnight for double the entry fee. **Absolutely no late entries for 4-H or FFA Livestock.**
10. **ENTRY FEES:** Correct entry and miscellaneous fees must accompany entries. Stall requests made upon entry will be considered by the respective superintendent, but not guaranteed.
  - a. **4-H & FFA**
    - i. Beef - \$50/entry
    - ii. Goat - \$22.50/entry
    - iii. Sheep - \$22.50/entry
    - iv. Swine - \$22.50/entry
    - v. Rabbit - \$5/entry
    - vi. Poultry - \$5/entry
  - b. **Open Class**
    - i. Beef Cattle - \$50/entry
    - ii. Boer Goat - \$20/entry
    - iii. Cattle Dog Trials - \$100/entry for All Divisions
    - iv. Dairy Cattle - \$50/entry for Open & Regional Youth Dairy
    - v. Dairy Goat - \$9/entry and \$5/entry for Youth Show
    - vi. Llama and Alpaca - \$15/class
    - vii. Poultry - \$3/entry
    - viii. Sheep - \$10/entry
    - ix. Swine - \$17.50/entry
11. **MISCELLANEOUS FEES:**
  - a. **4-H & FFA**
    - i. Beef Blocking Chute Permit - \$25/chute
    - ii. Sheep & Goat Stand Permit - \$10/stand
    - iii. Extra Cattle Stall - \$50/stall
    - iv. Extra Sheep, Goat & Swine Pens - \$25/pen
  - b. **Open Class**
    - i. Beef Exhibitor Extra Stalls (up to 3 per exhibitor) - \$50/stall
    - ii. Beef Blocking Chute Permit - \$25/chute
    - iii. Boer Goat, Dairy Goat and Sheep Pens - \$10/pen
    - iv. ALSA - \$5/animal
    - v. ILR - \$3/animal
    - vi. Non ALSA Member Fee - \$50 for adults and \$15 for youth
    - vii. Llama/Alpaca Stall - \$15/stall

- 12. LIVESTOCK EXHIBITOR PASSES:** A wristband or daily ticket will be required for entry onto the grounds. Livestock exhibitor wristbands allow entrance onto the grounds for the duration of the fair. **4-H and FFA Livestock Exhibitors will receive one free wristband.** Open class exhibitors can purchase a wristband for \$25 with entries or at the check-in trailer. Daily admission tickets at a discounted price (\$5) may be purchased with entries. General State Fair admission tickets are available in the check-in trailer. Absolutely no refunds will be given on admission tickets or wristbands.
- 13. EXHIBITOR PARKING:** Parking will be distributed as follows:
- a. **Lot 1** This is for llama and alpaca exhibitors ONLY and is only good for the duration of the llama and alpaca show.
  - b. **Lot 3A/3B** This is the livestock exhibitor parking lot, with overflow in Livestock Trailer Lot.
  - c. **Lot 9** This is parking for Texas Longhorn exhibitors only and is only good for the duration of the Texas Longhorn Show
  - d. Purchasing exhibitor parking is optional, however exhibitors wishing to park in designated livestock parking areas will require a permit to enter. This permit may be purchased at time of entry (\$25 for exhibitors) or at the Livestock Check-In Trailer and is for the sole use of the exhibitor. **PARKING PERMITS MUST BE SECURELY ATTACHED TO THE REARVIEW MIRROR.**
  - e. A parking space is not guaranteed, no matter the lot assigned.
  - f. It is recommended that livestock exhibitor vehicles park in places designated by the Show Management. The Show Management assumes no obligation and no liability for any theft or damage that may occur to the vehicle or its contents. No vehicles will be allowed to park for the sole purpose of advertising. All trucks ½ ton or larger and livestock trailers will be required, immediately after unloading, to park in designated areas. Trailers will be parked in the Livestock Trailer Lot, which is located south of the Fairgrounds.
- 14. CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS:** All cancellations for Open Class must be submitted in writing (email or mail) no later than August 15. Entry fee refunds may be allowed in the case of a personal emergency, at the discretion of the Agriculture Director or Executive Director.
- 15. JUDGES:**
- a. **Selection of Judges:** Show Management is solely responsible for selecting judges and determining judging systems. Judges will be familiar with all rules, regulations and procedures of the Nebraska State Fair. No person shall be permitted to judge a class in which he/she may be competing for an award or have ownership of any animal or article entered in such class.
  - b. **Judges' Decision:** The judges' decisions are final. If fraud, misrepresentation, error or collusion is discovered after awards have been given, the Agriculture Committee of the Nebraska State Fair Board will make a decision regarding final placement. Such decisions may be appealed to the full Nebraska State Fair Board following the procedure found in rule #17. Protests alleging that the judges overlooked exhibits will not be considered.
  - c. **Interfering with Judges:** An exhibitor or their representative who interferes with or displays disrespect to a judge or the show could forfeit any monies earned and be subject to other penalties assessed by the Nebraska State Fair. They shall also be excused from competition and exhibition for such period of time as Show Management may determine any person, not an exhibitor, who interferes with the judges in any manner during the performance of their duties, shall be asked to leave the judging arena.
- 16. SECURITY PERSONNEL:** Exhibitors not cooperating with security personnel or Nebraska State Fair personnel in all matters of policy, including parking, will have their entries

canceled and will be ordered to remove themselves and their exhibit from the grounds immediately for the duration of the Nebraska State Fair and future fairs.

17. **PROTESTS:** The Nebraska State Fair will retain exclusive jurisdiction over ALL protests. Verbal protests will be directed to the proper specie superintendent and if necessary, brought to the Livestock Manager. All formal protests must be submitted in writing to the Livestock Manager. All forms must be signed and be accompanied by a monetary fee of \$300.00, cash or certified check. Such written protests must state plainly the cause of complaint or appeal and must be filed with the Livestock Manager immediately upon the occasion of the protest. No complaint or appeal based solely upon the statement that a judge is incompetent will be considered. This complaint, along with supporting documents, will be submitted to the Agriculture Director and Executive Director. The report of wrongdoing will then be presented to the Nebraska State Fair Board Agriculture Committee for review. The panel shall review the form, the allegations, and the supporting documents or evidence and report its findings and proposed decision to the Agriculture Director and the Executive Director. At no time will any exhibition, judging event, or any other ongoing event be delayed, stopped, or interrupted as a result of any allegation of wrongdoing. Any decision rendered by the Agriculture Director and Executive Director shall be the final decision. Protests must be filed within 24 hours of the conclusion of the Nebraska State Fair.
18. **PHOTOGRAPHS:** The Nebraska State Fair will hire a photographer who will take the official livestock photographs for the Fair. Exhibitors wishing to purchase photographs must contact the Official Livestock Photographer. As a Nebraska State Fair exhibitor, you acknowledge that your photograph may be taken by the official Nebraska State Fair Photographer for use by the Nebraska State Fair and agree to release and hold harmless the Nebraska State Fair Board, their officers, employees and agents and any and all parties to whom this or any photograph may be released and may be used in any manner for any purpose whatsoever without compensation.
19. **PREMIUMS:** Premium monies will be distributed by the Nebraska State Fair. They will be paid as outlined by each department. Payment of awards will be made as soon as possible after the last day of the Fair. **NO AWARD CHECK WILL BE ISSUED BY THE NEBRASKA STATE FAIR FOR LESS THAN \$2.00.** The Nebraska State Fair Board must be notified of any discrepancies in the amounts of premium checks before November 1<sup>st</sup> in the calendar year of the Nebraska State Fair at issue.
  - a. Special premiums or prizes may be listed in the Premium Book. The Nebraska State Fair will not be held liable for any award or premium offered by an individual or company, separate from the Nebraska State Fair, should that individual or company fail to provide the offered award or premium. Not all departments will award all ribbon places.
  - b. **No 4-H or FFA award money or premiums will be sent to the exhibitor for market animals until they have cleared drug testing protocol, DNA verification or until harvested animal carcasses have been cleared.**
  - c. **Any rule violations may result in forfeiture of all livestock premiums for that exhibitor.**
  - d. **No premium or distinction of any kind will be given to any exhibit deemed unworthy by the judge, or any exhibitor who has conducted herself or himself in a manner inconsistent with the goals and values of the Fair. Such conduct may include, but not be limited to, theft of fair property, crude or crass behavior toward fair personnel, exhibitors, judges or spectators, or other actions amounting to moral turpitude on the part of the exhibitor or otherwise inconsistent with the spirit of fair competition as determined by Show Management in its sole discretion.**
  - e. **The Nebraska State Fair is required to report payments of \$600 or more to the Internal Revenue Service. Any exhibitor receiving \$600 or more will be required**

to provide the Nebraska State Fair with a completed IRS Form W-9 providing a taxpayer identification number. **NO CHECK WILL BE ISSUED UNTIL THE COMPLETED W-9 FORM IS IN THE LIVESTOCK OFFICE.**

20. **SHOW BACK NUMBERS:** Exhibitors at the Nebraska State Fair must be wearing an official back number in the show ring, except for Open Class Poultry and Cattle Dog Trials. These numbers will be in the exhibitor packet. 4-H and FFA back numbers correspond to the exhibitor. Open Class back numbers correspond to each individual entry. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to have the correct back number displayed on their back or in a holder attached to the waist before entering the show ring. If the back number does not correspond with the original entry on the official judge's sheet, the result may be disqualification of that animal.
21. **CLASSIFICATIONS:** No new livestock breed classifications shall be considered for Open Class Livestock competition until such livestock classification has had a bona fide national association in existence for at least five (5) years, a bona fide state association for at least three (3) years, and a guarantee of five (5) or more exhibitors with at least twenty (20) head to show in the proposed classification for two years. Livestock classifications that have less than five (5) exhibitors and twenty (20) head exhibited for two (2) consecutive years will be placed on probation at the discretion of the Show Management, and the state breed association will be informed in writing. If there are less than five (5) exhibitors and/or twenty (20) head are exhibited the following year, that breed will lose its classification at the Nebraska State Fair.
22. **STALLS, TACK STALLS AND TIE OUTS:** All "stall with" requests must be submitted online with the entry. **There is no guarantee the request can or will be honored.** The Superintendents will assign stall space, as well as tack spaces, within the barns at the time entry fees are paid in full. Any tampering with other exhibitors' stalls or tie-out stalls will not be tolerated.
23. **ARRIVAL:** All Open Class animals are to required to arrive during their designated arrival time. Failure to arrive within the window without prior approval, will result in withheld premiums and awards at the discretion of Show Management.
24. **CHECK IN PROCEDURES:** All Livestock will be vet checked, and health certificates examined at the Check-In Trailer prior to any animals entering the Nebraska State Fairgrounds. All necessary paperwork must be in order to complete the check-in process. Prior to showing, all animals must be checked in by an authorized State Fair representative. Tattoos, ear notches and/or ear tags will be read and registration papers checked.
25. **HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:** All exhibitors must comply with the respective Livestock Health Requirements (see Livestock Health Requirements Section). All livestock are subject to examination, upon arrival, for evidence of infectious or contagious diseases and if such is found, they will not be allowed entrance onto the grounds. Failure or refusal of all animals to be examined will result in grounds for immediate removal and disqualification. They will be held in quarantine and treated at owner's expense or sent home. Diseased or injured animals may be removed from the grounds upon recommendation of attending veterinarian and release signed by the Department Superintendent and the Ag Director. **Additionally, all market lambs and goats must be shorn sufficiently short to allow inspection for club lamb fungus at any time of the fair.** Any decision by the State Fair inspectors is final.
26. **REMOVAL OF ANIMALS:** The Nebraska State Fair can remove any exhibit, animal or display that they deem unsuitable or objectional, without furnishing reasons for the action. The decision of the show management is final and exhibitor has no recourse.
27. **ANIMAL WELFARE:** The Nebraska State Fair is committed to the humane treatment of all animals exhibited at the Fair. Every possible precaution is taken to ensure the animals' safety and well-being. The production practices in the livestock industry are based on good principles of animal husbandry. It is the responsibility of all exhibitors to provide proper care and treatment to animals. Abuse of animals in any form will not be tolerated. No electric prods will be allowed to be used on any animal at any time. Muzzles may be allowed for sheep or goats only for the safety and well-being of the animal. No show halters with spikes, except in

goats. There will be no needles or acupuncture allowed anywhere on the fairgrounds. Any medication needed must be approved and administered by the Show Veterinarian. Anyone found in violation will be disqualified and forfeit any awards and premiums. Show Management reserves the right to disqualify and remove any exhibitor deemed in violation of the basic principles of animal husbandry, with no recourse. Animal care procedures are outlined in our “Animal Welfare Policy”.

**28. ANIMAL/EXHIBITOR DISQUALIFICATION:** To foster fair competition, to provide a level playing field and to protect the safety of food, the following will be prohibited: the showing of unethically fitted animals, animals in violation of rules on prohibited substances, and/or falsification of records. The exhibitor certifies that this entry is free and clear of drug and chemical residue that exceeds allowable limits set by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for class and species of animals. If an exhibitor discloses use of a substance that does not meet the withdrawal time per the determination of the State Fair Veterinarian, then that animal is subject to disqualification. All animals must remain free and clear of all drug and chemical residues while on the grounds.

**a. Unethical Fitting:**

**i. Description:** Unethical fitting means any attempt to alter the natural appearance, conformation, musculature or weight of an animal by any unnatural means, as well as changing the normal conformation of any part of an animal’s body or using drugs, medications, chemicals, or other substances (including over the counter and extra-label substances and uses), or mechanical devices to alter the physical makeup or performance of the animal. Unethical fitting includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Treating or massaging any part of the animal’s body, internally or externally, with an irritant, counterirritant or other substance to temporarily improve conformation. This includes the application of any substance per rectum.
2. Balancing the udder by any other means than natural milk left in any or all quarters.
3. Blocking the nerves to prevent limping or switching of the tail.
4. Bruising or blemishes to the animal, especially those that negatively impact food safety or marketability of an animal’s carcass.
5. Surgery or other practices performed to change the natural contour or appearance of an animal’s body, hide, hair or feet (this includes materials added to the feet of an animal) except the removal of warts or horns and the permitted clipping of hair and trimming of hooves.
6. Insertion of foreign material under the skin, whether gas, solid or liquid.
7. The addition of any hair or hair like material to an animal’s body will not be permitted, except for false tail switches in cattle.
8. The act of artificially filling animals internally, which would include stomach pumping, drench tubes or any other method per esophagus.
9. The use of diuretics.
10. Administration of an illegal, unapproved or performance enhancing drug internally or externally.

**ii. Verification:** All 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors must agree to the terms and statement of disclosure online at the time of entry. This agreement shall serve as an acknowledgement of having read the fair/entry book and a willingness to abide by it. By agreeing to the Nebraska State Fair 4-H/FFA Livestock Ethics and Statement of Disclosure, the exhibitor and parent/guardian certify that the entry has not been administered or that the exhibitor and/or parent/guardian do not have knowledge that this entry has

received any substance not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for food animals. Furthermore, by agreeing to the statement, the exhibitor and parent/guardian certify that this entry is free and clear of drug and chemical residue that exceeds allowable limits set by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for class and species of animals.

- iii. **Approved Medication Prior to the Show:** In instances where an animal has been administered a drug that is FDA-approved for its species, the exhibitor must be aware that the time it takes for all drug residue to completely clear the system is **generally longer than labeled withdrawal time** for most drugs and varies from animal to animal. Adequate time must have passed so that an exhibitor's animal is outside the withdrawal time of the medication. Once the animals arrive on grounds, they must remain free and clear of all residues of medications, drugs, chemicals and other substances. It will be considered a violation if a test result indicates the presence of an approved drug, additive or contaminant that exceeds a residue limit (tolerance) set by the FDA and applied by the FSIS.
- iv. **Unapproved Medication:** Those animals that have consumed or been given, even under the care of a licensed veterinarian, any type of unapproved drug, chemical or medication are prohibited from showing. Such drugs include, but are not limited to any diuretic, unapproved growth stimulant, steroids, caffeine, and other unapproved medication. Unapproved means not approved by the Food and Drug Administration and/or US Department of Agriculture for animals. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to be aware that federal law prohibits the use of certain drugs, families of drugs, and substances for extra label use. It will be an increased penalty if a market animal tests positive for any of these prohibited drugs or drug families.
- v. **Medication during the Show:** The Nebraska State Fair Veterinarian Office is located on the East side of the Sheep Barn. For the convenience of our exhibitors, the Nebraska State Fair arranges to have veterinarians available; however, they do not donate their services or medications. Fees should be discussed before treatment. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the exhibitor to communicate if the animal is eligible for further competition. **All medication and treatment administered during the livestock show must be administered by the official Nebraska State Fair Veterinarian and a written medication record filed.** Animals which are administered treatments with a withdrawal period beyond the time of show will be disqualified from 4-H or FFA competition. Furthermore, the official Nebraska State Fair Veterinarian, in agreement with show management, reserves the right to treat any animal, if in the opinion of the Nebraska State Fair Veterinarian, it is in the best interest of the animal's health and well-being to be treated.
- vi. **Beta-Agonists:** The Nebraska State Fair will not tolerate the presence of ractopamine hydrochloride (i.e. Optaflexx, Paylean) in market entries other than market beef or market swine, respectively. The Nebraska State Fair will not tolerate the presence of any other beta-agonist.
- vii. **Inspection/Testing:**
  1. Each exhibitor, by entering or exhibiting an animal at the Nebraska State Fair, agrees that any animal entered by him or her may be subjected to inspection or examination by any veterinarian appointed by the Nebraska State Fair. The Nebraska State Fair may subject any animal to tests, sample-takings, or inspections the Nebraska State Fair

deems necessary and appropriate, including but not limited to testing for drugs or other substances at any time. The Nebraska State Fair reserves the right to conduct or have conducted for all its tests, inspections, or analyses it deems appropriate, including blood, urine, hair, fiber, tissue, milk, saliva and/or fecal. Any samples taken for testing become property of the Nebraska State Fair. Positive test results may be made public. The Nebraska State Fair may impound any animal for testing. Refusing such tests shall be cause for disqualification.

- a. All 4-H and FFA Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Beef, Market Lamb, Market Swine & Market Swine animals will be tested under the terms of the Nebraska State Fair Market Animal Drug Testing Policies and Procedures immediately following the final selection of that species. During the collection procedure, the exhibitor and a designated responsible adult must be always present, unless a substitute exhibitor is approved by the Superintendent. Following the collection, the exhibitor and a parent/guardian MUST complete and sign the Nebraska State Fair Drug Use Notification and Test Sample Collection form.
  - b. All other market animals will be subject to random testing. Random tested animals will not be harvested but will be subject to all sanctions including but not limited to disqualification, forfeiture of monies, and the exhibitor may be banned from future participation at the Nebraska State Fair.
2. The animal owner, exhibitor, fitter and associated participants bear absolute responsibility for an animal's condition, whether he or she was actually instrumental or had actual knowledge of the administration of drugs or medication or treatment of the animals.
- viii. Wholesome Meat Act:** The United States Department of Agriculture Wholesome Meat Act applies to ALL market livestock exhibited at the Nebraska State Fair.
1. Animals must be in good health and carcasses free of drug or chemical residues.
  2. Antibiotics and sulfonamides have required withdrawal periods.
  3. Drug label directions for use and withdrawal periods must be followed. Please note that elimination time (the time it takes for no drug residue to be found in the system) is generally longer than the labeled withdrawal period for most approved drugs.
  4. If drug or other chemical residues are found in tissue of carcasses, the entire carcass may be condemned.
  5. **The Nebraska State Fair Board shall not be liable or responsible for the condition of the carcass or the sale price of the animal.**
  6. Wholesome Assurance Statement:
    - a. The use by non-veterinarians\* of any animal drugs or other substances in any manner other than in accord with labeling approved by FDA is a violation of federal law. \* Note: Abuse of the extra label privilege by veterinarians is unethical and is subject to serious consequences such as license revocation.
    - b. Any food animal must not exceed FDA/EPA/USDA established tolerances for any foreign substance including drugs, pesticides, feed additives, or other chemicals.

- c. Violative results of residue testing are subject to investigation by USDA and FDA for prosecution.
    - d. Any misrepresentation of a food animal that can potentially affect the acceptability of the carcass or milk will be considered fraud.
  - b. **DNA:** The Nebraska State Fair may test any 4-H or FFA market animal DNA sample collected at the Nebraska State Fair against the DNA submitted by the exhibitor as part of the 4-H/FFA state fair animal nomination process. It is a violation if a DNA sample collected at the Nebraska State Fair does not match the DNA sample submitted by the exhibitor as part of the animal nomination process.
  - c. **Falsification of Records:** It is a violation to falsify or alter official entries, records or registration on animals, including age.
  - d. **Unmanageable Animals:** The Nebraska State Fair may disqualify an animal deemed unmanageable.
  - e. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** It is a violation for an owner, exhibitor, fitter, and associated participant to act in any way that is outright discourteous or disrespectful to other exhibitors, judges, fair personnel or fair visitors, or to deliberately place or cause to be placed any animals or other person in a potentially harmful or disadvantageous position.
  - f. **Non-adherence to the Rules:** Any person found guilty of misrepresentation or not abiding by the Nebraska State Fair rules will be disqualified and denied the privilege of showing at the Nebraska State Fair.
  - g. **Consequences:** Exhibitor compliance with all applicable rules and regulations is essential to the integrity of the State Fair and its shows, programs and exhibitions. Violation of any applicable rule or regulation may result in exhibitor sanctions. Sanctions may include, but not be limited to disqualification of animal, withholding of premium money, withholding of payment for animal carcass, required payment of carcass disposal fees, return of all trophies and non-monetary awards, forfeiture of all titles, and potential exclusion from future participation in the Nebraska State Fair. These sanctions will be determined by the Nebraska State Fair Board Agriculture Committee. The conclusions reached by the Laboratory shall be final and binding without recourse against the Nebraska State Fair. Rule violations may be reported to law enforcement agencies when appropriate. The Nebraska State Fair reserves the right to report any exhibitor found in violation of the show rules to the Rule Infraction Database (RID) administered by the NALSARMA.
  - h. **The Process of Sanctioning:** The Nebraska State Fair, in its sole discretion and judgement, shall evaluate and assess appropriate sanctions for any such violations on a case-by-case basis. The following process will be used to determine sanctioning:
    - i. Agriculture Director & Executive Director makes initial determination and proposed sanctions. Notification will be sent to the exhibitor and the right to appeal to the Nebraska State Fair Board Agriculture Committee.
    - ii. Nebraska State Fair Agriculture Committee hears appeals (public meeting), and makes recommendation to the full Nebraska State Fair Board for vote.
    - iii. Nebraska State Fair Board makes final decision.
29. **CARE OF PROPERTY:** Owners and those in charge of property or livestock shall care for, guard, protect and preserve the same. The Nebraska State Fair will not be responsible for any loss or damage.
30. **STATE FIRE MARSHAL:** Any and all lighting used by exhibitors must be securely fastened. The electrical boxes in the barns **MUST** be kept clear at all times. Also, the aisles must be maintained open and clean at all times in the Cattle Barn. Yellow lines are painted on the floor designating these boundaries. **ALL show equipment, blocking chutes, chairs, etc., MUST be kept within these boundaries at all times. In addition, any use of**

refrigerators, freezers, microwaves, ovens, grills, open flame cookers, turkey fryers and electric roasters is strictly prohibited inside barns, under pavilions, building overhangs and arenas.

31. **EXHIBITOR SAFETY:** All animals must remain West of the front of the Sheep Barn, Five Points Bank Arena, Grand Island Motor Company Cattle Barn, and Aurora Co-Operative Pavillion (south side is permitted to used for walking swine). Animals found outside this area will be returned immediately, and the exhibitor may be subject to disciplinary action at the discretion of Show Management.
32. **SMOKING/VAPING:** To safeguard exhibitors and livestock, smoking and vaping is prohibited in all barns. Smoking/vaping is only allowed outside the buildings and barns. All exhibitors and guests are asked to cooperate with us in enforcing this rule.
33. **ALCOHOL USE:** To safeguard exhibitors, livestock and the public, the Nebraska State Liquor Control Commission Laws will be enforced. ONLY alcohol procured at a Nebraska State Fair licensed location is permitted. NO outside alcohol is allowed to be brought onto the Fairgrounds. No one under the age of 21 is permitted to consume or possess alcoholic beverages. Excessive use of alcohol will not be tolerated. State Fair Authority including Staff, Security, and the Nebraska State Patrol may be called if necessary.
34. **AUXILIARY VEHICLES:** Auxiliary vehicles, including but not limited to, golf carts, service carts, utility vehicles, Cushman's, and other four-wheeled vehicles are included within the scope of the Auxiliary Vehicle Rules & Regulations Agreement available from the Nebraska State Fair. AVs without a permit will not be allowed on Nebraska State Fair grounds at any time.
35. **FEED AND BEDDING: All Feed and Bedding needs will be handled by Aurora Cooperative.** Hay, bedding and feed will be available for purchase at the feed store. Bulk bedding will be provided in the cattle barn and tie-out area. Exhibitors will be permitted to bring onto the grounds a limited amount of feed, hay or straw. You can **pre-order** feed and additional bedding by **contacting Aurora Cooperative at 308-830-0532. You can also visit their feed store during the State Fair. Nebraska State Fair will not provide equipment to load/unload/transport any type of hay, bedding, and feed.**
36. **WATER:** A water container, with water, must be visible and available for watering on a regular basis in each penned/stall area at all times. Show Management reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to contact a Nebraska State Fair veterinarian to determine if water should be given.
37. **DOGS:** Due to requirements of the Nebraska State Fair's liability insurance carrier and policy of all major livestock shows, NO dogs (excluding Competition Dogs) are allowed on the Nebraska State Fairgrounds, in parking lots or in buildings other than those for direct competition or service animals. There shall be no loose or unattended dogs on the fairgrounds. No dogs will be permitted in the animal barns, in tie outs or on the Midway, except during authorized events and sanctioned dog shows. Dogs entered in Nebraska State Fair special performances or competitive events will be allowed on grounds or in buildings during performance or competition only. 4-H competition dogs will be allowed on the grounds in limited areas during and following their competition. They must stay in the presence of the owner and will be issued a permit for that day only to be allowed on the grounds.
38. **EQUIPMENT:**
  - a. **Generators, Blocking Chutes, Trim Chutes, Trim Tables, Portable Scales:** No generators will be allowed in the barns or tie out area at any time. All Open Class blocking chutes will require a Blocking Chute permit, which can be purchased for \$25.00 on the Entry Form and must be affixed to the Chute. Fitter Guards or any similar equipment does not require a Chute Permit. **Trim tables and blocking/trimming chutes for Open Class exhibitors will be restricted to each individual exhibitor's assigned stalling and tack area, not to interfere with other exhibitor's stalling areas or aisle ways. 4-H/FFA blocking chutes and trimming stands are required to have a permit. Permits should be purchased at the time or pre-entry but may also be purchased at the Livestock Check-In Trailer.** No

outside portable scales will be allowed in any of the livestock barns. All portable scales in the Beef, Sheep or Swine Barns will be provided by the Nebraska State Fair.

- b. **FANS, EXTENSION CORDS AND ELECTRICAL DEVICES:** All fans, extension cords and electrical appliances used in the livestock barns must have a ground, must have safe wiring and must be in safe working condition. All fans used in the barns must have a protective screen (front and back). **Free standing fans (butt fans) or portacools will not be allowed. Refer to rule #29 State Fire Marshall for further clarification.** Hanging fans will only be allowed when attached to the tie rails or to supports attached to the tie rails. Only 1 fan per animal! The superintendent has the express authority to determine if any fan, extension cord or other electrical device is allowed.
39. **AEROSOLS, PRESSURIZED CANS:** No aerosol cans of any sort will be allowed **inside the Five Points Arena under any circumstances.**
  40. **FUNDRAISER:** No lottery or raffle shall be conducted at the Nebraska State Fair without the written authority of the Executive Director, as coordinated by the Sales Department.
  41. **SELLING:** The selling and advertising of any service or good within the Fairgrounds is strictly prohibited unless a contract has been issued by the Sales Department. Please call the Sales Director at 308-385-3926 for more information. No roving solicitation is allowed on the Nebraska State Fairgrounds. All exhibitors are bound by the most current editions of Nebraska State Fair's Space Rental Rules & Regulations. Any violation of these Rules & Regulations will subject exhibitor to any penalties as Nebraska State Fair may order and/or penalties prescribed by law.
  42. **CONCESSIONS AND ADVERTISING PRIVILEGES:** All exhibits, concessions and/or commercial privileges are at the sole discretion of Fair Management. Under no circumstances will any advertising material be allowed to be placed upon buildings, trees or other places on the grounds or otherwise distributed without Show Management permission.
  43. **CAMPGROUND:** Campground reservations are handled by the Set Your Sites. For more information visit [www.setyoursite.com](http://www.setyoursite.com).
  44. **ADDITIONAL 4-H & FFA GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS**
    - a. **INTERPRETATION OF RULES:** The FFA and 4-H divisions will refer the Nebraska State Fair Management Team (Ag Director, Executive Director, Chair of the Ag Committee, FFA Livestock Superintendent, and 4-H Program Leader) for the final and absolute right to interpret, determine and settle all matters, questions and differences in regard to or otherwise arising out of, connected with or incident to the fair.
    - b. **ELIGIBILITY OF EXHIBITORS:**
      - i. **4-H** — Exhibitor must be a 4-H member enrolled in the project they are exhibiting in the county which he/she represents. Youth must be enrolled in 4-H by June 15 of the current year. In classes where presence of the 4-H'er is required for judging purposes, such as animal exhibits and judging contests, a 4-H member must be 8 years of age before January 1 of the current year. The last year of eligibility is the calendar year in which the member becomes 19 years of age.
      - ii. **FFA** — Only bona fide Nebraska FFA members that have paid dues shall be eligible for FFA Division entries. The age eligibility requirements set by the Nebraska FFA Association will be followed. Those can be found at <https://neaged.org/state-fair/>.
      - iii. A post from FFA admin on Nebraska FFA Association provided by: <https://neaged.org>
        - i. There will be no discrimination because of race, color, sex, religion, or national origin.
    - c. **ELIGIBILITY OF ANIMALS:**

- i. Qualified animals for a 4-H or FFA class at the State Fair must be registered purebred or non-registered commercial breeding animals, market beef, feeder calves, market lambs, market goats, market swine and those exotic breeds of breeding beef where the respective associations issue certified papers.
  - ii. A breeding animal to be eligible for show in a registered (purebred) class must be owned by the exhibitor by June 15 of the current year and be registered by the official breed association. The registration paper or certificate must indicate one of the following (1) the name of the exhibitor (2) the name of the exhibitor and/or a co-owner who is an immediate member of the exhibitor's family (members of a household, including parents, brothers and sisters, and youth in care of the head of the household) or **FFA Only** (3) the family or ranch name or parent's name. Original registration papers or certificates must be presented at check-in. **REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETED BY FAIR DATE.**
  - iii. Any animal that is disqualified from the State Fair for any reason is not eligible to be used in showmanship or any other 4-H or FFA contest while at the State Fair.
  - iv. Any FFA or 4-H project animal that has been offered for auction, where the intent of the auction is change of ownership, is ineligible for the 4-H and FFA livestock classes at the Nebraska State Fair. This includes animals offered for sale in other events at the Nebraska State Fair, when the event is prior to the FFA and 4-H event the animal is entered in. A project animal that has been through a “premium only” auction is eligible to be exhibited at the Nebraska State Fair, provided it and its exhibitor meet all other ownership and eligibility requirements. A “premium only” auction is defined as an event in which change of ownership is never the intent; but the intent is only to provide a monetary premium to accompany the ribbon earned by the exhibit.
- d. 4-H/FFA EXHIBITS:** Exhibitors must submit proper nomination material by June 15<sup>th</sup>. For purposes of exhibition, an animal can be nominated for the state fair in both organizations but only shown in one organization or the other, not both at the State Fair. Refer to the [Nebraska 4-H website](#) and [Nebraska FFA website](#) for additional information regarding identification requirements.
- e. OWNERSHIP OF ANIMALS, RABBITS & POULTRY:** All animals, rabbits and poultry in the FFA and 4-H Shows must be owned by the exhibitor. Ownership of animals must be certified where required on the appropriate DNA and online nomination submission in the Show Stock Manager website. Extension offices and FFA advisors will subsequently send DNA samples to the Nebraska State Fair office. All market AND breeding animals (beef, sheep, swine & meat goats) must have a hair sample for DNA testing on file at the Nebraska State Fair by June 15 in order to be exhibited at the State Fair. All animals must be nominated online in Show Stock Manager by June 15.
- f. SHOWMAN SUBSTITUTIONS:** An animal must be shown by the FFA or 4-H owner who entered it unless the exhibitor is excused by the Division Superintendent because of serious illness, disability due to an injury (e.g., broken arm or leg) or conflict with other livestock classes in a 4-H or FFA show. An exhibitor who has more than one animal in a class need not secure approval for another FFA or 4-H member, eligible to exhibit livestock, to show the additional animal in the class. A substitute exhibitor for an FFA animal can only be another FFA exhibitor at the current State Fair, and a substitute exhibitor for a 4-H animal can only be another 4-H exhibitor at the current State Fair. All substitute showmen should wear an exhibitor number identifying him/her as a substitute showman (available in the Livestock Office and/or from species superintendent).
- g. NO WITHDRAWALS:** Animals selected as division champions and reserve champions cannot be withdrawn from the grand champion drive. Violation of this rule may result in

disqualification and exhibitor may be barred from future participation at the Nebraska State Fair.

- h. YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS:** All youth enrolled in livestock projects must complete annual quality assurance training through Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) or testing through a Nebraska Extension program or high school agriculture education program prior to the fair. Program attendance or completion of a test in the county extension office is required. Completion of training will be certified by an FFA advisor or county extension staff.
- i. GROOMING OF LIVESTOCK:** Preparation and grooming of an animal should be the primary responsibility of the State Fair exhibitor; however, assistance may be provided by other State Fair 4-H or FFA exhibitors, immediate family members or another person acting in a mentoring and teaching capacity. The intent of this policy is to promote and foster positive youth development and a high-quality learning experience which are core values of 4-H and FFA.

  - i. All 4-H livestock shows will be Blow and Go;** animals may be clipped, blown and brushed or combed to enhance their appearance. All animals will be shown free of any adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products. Any compounds that have adhesive qualities that when applied cannot be combed or brushed through or alter the color of the animal are forbidden. Alcohol, water, oil, foam or any water or alcohol-based products with no adhesives or glue qualities, or artificial colorings are permitted. Any animal found to have prohibited products applied (adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products) will be disqualified from competition. Any premiums (physical or monetary) will be forfeited, and no refunds will be made.

All animals will be subject to visual inspection and/or toweling for the presence of adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products. A toweling inspection will be incorporated for all 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place class winners (showmanship, breeding, market). The 3<sup>rd</sup> place class winner may be requested back if the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place class winner does not pass inspection. All animals entering the Final Drive will be subject to a toweling inspection before entering the show ring. Toweling of the animal may include but is not limited to the topline, legs, chest, belly, flank, and cod/udder areas. If, after inspection, the animal is found to have adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products applied it will be disqualified from competition. Any premiums (physical or monetary) will be forfeited, and no refunds will be made.
  - ii. All FFA livestock shows** will allow fitting of animals with adhesives, glues, paints and powdered products. However, any fitting practices that would violate the unethical fitting clause as defined in Rule 27 are strictly prohibited.
- j. DRESS CODE:** When showing animals, exhibitors must wear the official Nebraska State Fair FFA or 4-H T-shirt. Blue jeans are appropriate. Hats shall not be worn in the show ring.
- k. RIGHT TO EXCUSE:** The superintendent of the area and/or the Show Management has the right to excuse any exhibit from the Nebraska State Fair if the exhibit is not a quality exhibit.