**Marshall County 4-H and FFA Goat and Rabbit Club**

**Livestock Show and Sale**

**Exhibit Rules and Regulations**

A. Marshall County WVU Extension Service (4-H)/FFA Youth Livestock Program Goals:

1. The Youth Livestock Program has three goals. The most important is to provide an opportunity for young people to develop good character and life skills. The other two goals are to provide an opportunity for exhibitors and their families to expand their knowledge of livestock production and management and to improve and enhance livestock production. The livestock production and exhibiting process consists of six components: selecting an animal, caring for, feeding and housing the animal, preparing the animal for show, showing the animal, selling the animal or placing it into production and record-keeping.

2. Required Exhibition Rules:

A. All goat projects must be in compliance with the USDA's National Scrapie Eradication Program. All market goats must have a USDA-approved ear tag in order to weigh in and to enter the fairgrounds for fair week. Breeding goats that are registered with a nationally recognized breed association may use their tattoos for Scrapie ID if accompanied by original registration paper. . Contact the state APHIS office at (614) 856-4735 for information and ear tags.

B. WVU-ES Cloverbud (Pre 4-H membership) Policy: The West Virginia University Extension Service cloverbud (pre 4-H members) policy states that an individual who will not reach his or her 9th birthday on or before September 30 of the current year is not eligible for club membership, project enrollment, 4-H competitive events, or resident camping. Cloverbud is a program for first- and second -grade youths and is not part of a 4-H’er’s record when being considered for recognition. Counties that program for pre-4-H age are encouraged to use family-based or separate group activities and learning experiences. Leaders should plan age appropriate activities. Groups should be small, (5-10 members). Consultation can be sought with state and county faculty responsible for youth development programming. It would be expected that at such activities the pre-4-H child would be accompanied by a parent or older sibling and would not be the responsibility of the 4-H leader or agent. No Cloverbud youth should be involved in livestock projects as defined by the program policy stated above.

C. All West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) animal exhibition health requirements must be followed. Contact the WVDA State Veterinarian at 304-558-2214 for a copy of the current requirements.

D. The show must follow current WVDA and USDA requirements regarding identification of animals and premise identification. Contact the WVDA State Veterinarian at 304-558-2214 for a copy of the current requirements.

E. If a sale is being conducted as part of the program, the sale must adhere to the following rules to comply with state laws that regulate the sale of livestock.

1) Animals that are sold by weight must be weighed on scales that are certified by the state.

2) Weighing must be done by a weighman licensed by the WVDA. To obtain a weighman’s license, contact WVDA at 304-558-2210.

3. Competition Eligibility:

1. To be eligible to participate in the Goat and Rabbit Club-sponsored shows and sale at the Marshall County Fair, the member must be a current member in good standing of either a Marshall County 4-H club or FFA chapter. 4-H members must be in at least the third grade and or 9 years of age during the 4-H year and will not reach his/her 21st birthday on or before January 1st of the current 4-H year. FFA members must be in at least the ninth grade and will not reach his/her 21st birthday on or before January 1st of the current year regardless of race, color, sex, disability, religion, veteran status, political beliefs, sexual orientation, national origin, and marital or family status.

2. Market goat and/or market rabbit projects may be taken by first-year members. All members must be engaged in at least one goat or rabbit-related project.

3. Market animal projects must have had participated in weigh in/round ups held prior to the fair. All animal tags and/or tattoos must match up to the owners. No substitution of animals after the weigh in/round-up. No trading/selling of tagged/tattooed market animals outside of immediate family after weigh-in/round-up.

4. Display signs identifying all goats and rabbits will be provided and must be up by Sunday night. Beginning and finishing weights will be displayed on all exhibit signs for market animals.

5. Members must exhibit their own animals. If there is an unforeseen accident with a member, the goat/rabbits can be shown by another member (4-H member substituting for another 4-H member, a FFA member substituting for another FFA member).

6. Daily care and pen cleaning is to be done by the exhibitor. Failure to do so may result in being asked to leave.

7. Any market animal entered in the market classes cannot be shown in the breeding classes in either open or 4-H classes.

8. All goat projects and rabbit projects (breeding and market) must participate in showmanship classes.

9. Areas will be cleaned, checks distributed, and animals released according to fair board rules for the current year. Checks will not be distributed until areas are cleaned, thank you's are done, and completed books turned in. All animals (market, 4-H, FFA, or open in goats or rabbits) going home with the exhibitor will be released from the barns according to fair boards rules for the current year.

10. Market animals must not have any medications 30 days prior to the start of fair. No growth hormones will be allowed.

11. Dress code for all 4-H and FFA shows and sales will be as follows:

Black pants, white shirts, black ties, and the 4-H or FFA patch. No combs or like objects, including food incentives, allowed in show ring. Member must be neat and clean. No hats, t-shirts, or advertising allowed. This will be strictly enforced.

A. Market Goats:

1. All goats must be weighed at the official weigh-in in May at the Fairgrounds at the time and date that will be announced. There is not a minimum or maximum weight at this weigh-in.

2. All market goats being weighed in must be vaccinated against Entertoxemia and Tetanus (CD&T). They may be disbudded or horned and tipped to a 1/2” diameter and must be wethered, if male.

3. Market goats may be either male or female and of any breed.

4. All members may weigh-in two goats, but can only show and sell one.

5. All market goats must be born January 1 or after of the current 4-H year.

6. Goats must be in member’s possession by weigh-in.

7. Market goats must conform to current USDA Scrapie regulations by having a premise ID ear tag that has been issued by the USDA. Any market goat not being able to show Scrapie compliance will not be weighed and cannot be used for the project. Tags will be the only Scrapie ID permitted.

8. Tattoos are not necessary. All market goats will be tagged at weigh-in with a special ear tag, supplied by the club, for identification. All market goats, tags, and owners must match up at fair week weigh-in in July.

9. All market goats will be weighed in Sunday of fair week. Market goats must weigh a minimum of 45 pounds *and* show a weight gain over the May weight in order to sell. Goats must not weigh over 120 pounds. Goats not meeting the weight and weight gain guidelines will show, but not be placed. Exhibitors may choose to sell their ungraded animal at the auction, but all ungraded animals will sell at the close of the auction.

10. Any market doe entered in the market class cannot be shown in the dairy doe division or breeding meat doe division in either open or 4-H classes.

11. Market does may not be registered.

12. Goats will sell by the head.

B. Breeding Meat Goats

1. All meat does and bucks must conform to current USDA Scrapie compliance. Any meat

goat not being able to show compliance will not be allowed on the fairgrounds.

2. Breeding meat does and bucks may be percentage, purebred, or full-blood, and of any meat

breed.

3. Breeding meat does and bucks will be housed in pens. Each goat must be furnished with

hay and water at all times.

4. Exhibitors are expected to take care of their animals daily—feeding, watering,

and cleaning their pens.

5. Areas will be cleaned, checks distributed, and animals released according to fair board rules for the current year.

6. Breeding meat does and bucks may have horns.

7. Full body clipping on breeding meat does and bucks is not recommended.

8. No artificial coloring, dyes, or powders may be used on breeding meat does during the week

of fair.

9. Any breeding meat doe brought on the fairgrounds must be shown. No “pen-ups” allowed,

unless it is a doe nursing a show kid or a show doe with un-weaned kids.

C. Dairy Goats and Pygmy Goats

1. No horns on dairy goats are permitted.

2. Pygmy goats may have horns due to health reasons.

3. All dairy goats and pygmy goats must conform to USDA Scrapie compliance. Any goat that is not able to show compliance will not be allowed on the fairgrounds.

4. Goats must be supplied with hay and water at all times. Water buckets may be removed at night for safety reasons.

5. Full body clip is required on all dairy does. Pygmies do not need to be clipped.

6. No artificial coloring, dyes, or powders may be used on dairy or pygmy goats the week of the fair.

7. Areas will be cleaned, checks distributed, and animals released according to fair board rules for the current year.

D. Goat Shows (Market, Meat, Pygmy, and Dairy)

1. 4-H and FFA Showmanship will be divided into four classes:

Beginning—all members who have never shown an animal before

Junior—9 to 13 years old (Member must not reach his/her 14th birthday on or before January 1 of the current year.)

Senior—14 years old and older and past winners from junior showman class (Member must at least 14 years old on or before January 1 of the current year.)

\*\*All class winners will show in ELITE Class\*\*

Elite—All senior showmen winners from previous fairs and all prior elite winners.

Classes may be further divided depending on number of entrants.

2. All 4-H and FFA members with a project goat in market, dairy, pygmy, and/or breeding meat will participate in showmanship.

3. All judging and results of the shows are considered final and no arguments with the judges or about the judges will be heard.

4. All dairy breeds (registered and grade) will be shown together.

5. A doe must be shown in a dairy, meat, or pygmy class only.

6. No wethers will be entered into the dairy classes or breeding meat goat classes.

7. All dairy does will be milked out dry at 8:00 pm the evening before the show.

8. Pygmies will show separately.

9. No bucks or wethers will be entered into the pygmy classes.

10. Meat does will be shown with a show collar.

11. All meat goats will be shown together, regardless of percentage or registration.

12. Judges limited to 2 consecutive years. Must follow with three years off before retaining them again.

E. Market Rabbits

1. Market rabbits should be of a meat breed.

2 . Rabbit Round-Up for market rabbits will be held approximately 17 weeks before the fair. Doe rabbits must be tattooed prior to or at the Round-Up.

3. Each exhibitor may register 2 does at the Rabbit Round-Up. These does must then be used to breed for the market pen. The mother or the father of the market pen must be shown at the fair.

4. Market rabbits are sold as a pen of three.

5. Market rabbits will be weighed-in on Sunday of fair week at the fairgrounds. The individual rabbits must weigh between 3-6 pounds each. If any of the rabbits in the pen is over or under weight, the pen may show, but not be placed, then sell only as ungraded market rabbits, if they so choose. Ungraded animals will sell at the close of the livestock auction.

6. Market rabbits should be of same size, breed, and color, and not over 12 weeks old.

7. All market rabbits must be home raised.

8. Locks on rabbit cages will not be permitted.

9. Rabbit cages must be cleaned underneath every day.

F. Rabbit Shows (Market and Show Rabbits)

1. Dress code for all 4-H and FFA rabbit shows will be as follows: Black pants, white shirts (long sleeve required for showmanship only), black ties, and the 4-H and FFA patch. No combs or like objects, including food incentives, allowed in the ring. Member must be neat and clean. No hats, t-shirts, or advertising allowed. This will be strictly enforced.

2. Market rabbits are shown as a pen of three.

3. Any rabbit shown in a pen of three cannot be shown as a single entry.

4. Rabbit showmanship is mandatory.

5. Members may show their pen of three and either the pen's mother or father for the showmanship animal. If only doing show rabbits, entries are limited to one.

6. Judges limited to 2 consecutive years. Must follow with three years off before retaining them again.

7. 4-H and FFA Showmanship will be divided into four classes:

Beginning—all members who have never shown an animal before

Junior—9 to 13 years old (Member must not reach his/her 14th birthday on or before January 1 of the current year.)

Senior—14 years old and older and past winners from junior showman class (Member must at least 14 years old on or before January 1 of the current year.)

\*\*All class winners will show in Overall Showman Class\*\*

Overall Showman—All senior showmen winners from previous fairs and all prior overall winners.

Classes may be further divided depending on number of entrants.

G. Market Sale

1. Animals are sold in order of show placing. Grand Champion will sell first, Reserve Grand Champion will sell next, and the remaining blue ribbon animals (choice), red (good), and white (utility). All ungraded animals will sell at the conclusion of the sale.

2. Sale order will rotate every year. Goats sell first in 2005, rabbits sell first in 2006, and so on.

3. Market rabbits are sold as a pen of three, not by the pound.

4. Market goats will sell by the head, and not by the pound.

5. Exhibitors and/or parents or guardians of an exhibitor may not bid on or buy the animal of said exhibitor on first round.

6. All sale money will be given to the club treasurer to be deposited into the club’s account. Areas will be cleaned, checks distributed, and animals released according to fair board rules for the current year.

7. Each member will write a thank you note to his/her buyer and trophy donor. Trophy and buyer thank you notes may be given to the donor or buyer or handed in to the superintendents for distribution.

H. Extenuating Circumstances

1. All market animals are expected to be in top health. If a market animal entry dies before the fair weigh-in, it may be replaced with the backup goat that was weighed-in previously.

2. If a market animal dies after fair weigh-in and before showing, it may be replaced with the exhibitor’s backup animal, provided the back-up was weighed-in at the official weigh-in at the beginning of Fair Week. Exhibitors weighing in two goats at the beginning of fair week must send one back home after weigh-in, as there is only room to house one market goat per exhibitor at the fair.

3. If a market animal dies after show and before sale, a backup cannot be brought in. The exhibitor is encouraged to complete the project book and record guide regardless, reflecting such a loss.

4. If a market animal dies after show and sale and before buyer pickup on Saturday, it is the exhibitor’s responsibility to refund the buyer’s purchase price. This must be reflected in the record guide.

5. If a death of an animal happens at any time on the fairgrounds during fair week, it is the exhibitor’s sole responsibility to provide a vet-performed necropsy to rule out any communicable disease. The carcass must not leave the fairgrounds unless in the possession of a licensed veterinarian.

These rules are updated as of October 2013. All copies of constitutions, by-laws, and other rules or regulations, dated before October 2013 are considered null and void.

Appendices

**A. CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS:**

**Adopted From the International Association of Fairs & Expositions National Code of Show Ring Ethics**

Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show. In addition to the “IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics,” fairs and livestock shows may have rules and regulations which they impose on the local, county, state, provincial and national levels. All youth leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards, auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective fairs and livestock shows. Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada. The following is a list of guidelines for all exhibitors and all livestock in competitive events:

1. All exhibitors must present, upon request of fair and livestock show officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited.

2. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by fair or livestock show officials.

3. Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at fairs or livestock shows.

4. Animals shall be presented to show events where they will enter the food chain free of violative drug residues. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer and/or absolutely responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Animals not entered in an event which culminates with the animal entering the food chain shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules affect the animal’s performance or appearance at the event.

If the laboratory report on the chemical analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from livestock indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medication, this shall be prima facie evidence such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally. It is presumed that the sample of urine, saliva, blood, or other substance tested by the approved laboratory to which it is sent is the one taken from the animal in question, its integrity is preserved and all procedures of said collection and preservation, transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample are correct and accurate and the report received from the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden on the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to prove otherwise.

At any time after an animal arrives on fair or livestock show premises, all treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

5. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal’s performance or alter its natural contour, conformation, or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.

6. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited.

7. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.

8. No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of ethics. Violation of this rule shall subject such individual to disciplinary action.

9. The application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal’s condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or participant whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this code of ethics.

10. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to have disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show for violation of this code of show ring ethics and any other rules of competition of the fair or livestock show without recourse against the fair or livestock show. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent that any proceedings or disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show may be published with the name of the violator or violators in any publication of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, including Fairs and Expositions and any special notices to members.

11. The act of entering of an animal in a fair or livestock show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions prohibited by the code. It is further a consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state, or provincial statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

B. **THIS ENTRY FORM IS NOT CONSIDERED COMPLETE UNTIL THE STATEMENT BELOW IS SIGNED.**

(This language should be included as part of your entry form)

**EXHIBITOR ENTRY STATEMENT**

I have read and understand, and agree and consent, to abide by the rules of competition, including the IAFE (International Association of Fairs and Expositions) National Code of Show Ring Ethics as stated in the Marshall County Fair 4-H & FFA Livestock Show & Sale Exhibit Rules and Regulations.

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Exhibitor Date

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Parent/Guardian Date