Office of the State Veterinarian
Ohio Livestock Exhibitions- Frequently Asked Questions

NEW and UPDATED RULES!!! Effective May 23, 2024

IMPORTANT:

All livestock shall be *exhibition drug residue legal* prior to the start of the show in which the livestock is entered into for exhibition. This includes market, non-terminal, open, and breeding classes. This means that all exhibition livestock:

- must be slaughter eligible at time of show,
- have only been administered an approved drug, for which the withdrawal time has elapsed and met tolerance;
- have not been administered an unapproved drug;
- and do not contain an unlawful substance.

It is **UNLAWFUL** to **tamper** with any livestock. **Tampering** includes, but is not limited to, the **injection, or other internal or external administration of any product or material,** whether gas, solid, or liquid, to livestock for the purpose of **concealing, enhancing, transforming, or changing the true conformation, configuration, condition, or age of the livestock** or making the livestock appear more sound than it actually is.

FAQ's

1) Are Champion & Reserve Champion Market Goats required to be sent to slaughter with other Champions?

Answer: **Yes**. Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Goats are required to be sent to slaughter following the terminal or partial terminal shows/exhibitions. All market goats are required to have a drug use notification form (DUNF) on file with the records official.

2) What clarification can you offer for the grooming and fitting rule for immediate family when it says, "including but not limited to"?

Answer: The exhibitor is responsible for the grooming of their animal in the junior livestock show. They can receive assistance from those listed in the regulations (I.e., 'Family' members) but should be limited to a demonstration or explanation. "Family" means the immediate family of an exhibitor, including but not limited to, the exhibitor's parent, step-parent, foster parent, grandparent, step-grandparent, foster grandparent, brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, half-brother, half-sister, son, daughter, step-son, step-daughter, or guardian.

NOTE: Exhibition sponsors may impose more limited or restricted definitions of "family" for the purposes of this rule.

3) Who is responsible for enforcing OAC 901-19?

Answer: Both exhibition sponsors and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) enforce OAC 901. Exhibition sponsors (I.e., county fairs) are expected to enforce and ensure compliance with adopted exhibition regulations. The exhibition sponsor is charged with enforcement authority. The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) also has enforcement authority under OAC 901-19. ODA acts to support exhibition sponsors in their efforts, actions, and enforcement of livestock exhibition rules and ODA remains the final authority. ODA works with Ohio 4-H, FFA, OSU Extension, and Ohio Fair Managers Association (OFMA) to provide regular training to exhibitors, exhibition sponsors, fair veterinarians, and educators to explain the rules.

4) What is the status of Electronic Identification (EID) equipment and tag assistance for county fairs?

Answer: ODA has obtained EID equipment (ex. readers) to be loaned out to county fairs on a short-term basis. If you are interested in using EID equipment, please contact Dr. Angela Rospert or Cindy Bodie with ODA's Animal Health Division at 614-728-6220. More information can also be found on our website.

ODA also has a limited allotment of free RFID tags to be distributed for use on cattle at county fairs. ODA has also purchased swine RFID tags to support livestock exhibitions. **Each fair and exhibition is eligible to receive up to 100 swine RFID tags.** For more information visit our website or contact the ODA Animal Health office at 614-728-6220

5) Will sponsors or exhibitors be required to use scannable electronic ID tags for cattle and swine in 2024 or sometime in the future?

Answer: There is no requirement to use scannable electronic ID tags currently. Prior to the start of an exhibition, the sponsor shall establish a method of identifying each animal in a terminal, partial terminal, and non-terminal show and maintain a chain of custody for each market livestock animal from the show through consignment to either slaughter or a licensed livestock

facility for sale. **Effective January 1, 2027**, cattle and swine are to be minimally identified with an official eartag. An "official eartag" means a United States department of agriculture animal and plant health inspection service approved **electronic identification device** that is both visibly and electronically readable and approved by the department. Ohio supports and encourages the use of 840 tags and RFID tags in livestock. ODA no longer provides silver metal NUES tags.

6) What is the best way to educate your families on appropriate Scrapie Tag ID & information?

Answer: OSU Extension offices should be knowledgeable about scrapie ID requirements and pass this information on to FFA or 4-H clubs/exhibitors. If there are questions, contact USDA APHIS Veterinary Services at 614-856-4735 to arrange training or educational opportunities within Ohio.

7) Are Drug use notification forms (DUNF) for poultry supposed to be per bird or per pen with three different banded birds?

Answer: For market poultry, one (1) DUNF may be filled out per pen.

8) What livestock are required to have a completed Drug Use Notification Form (DUNF)?

Answer: A drug use notification form is to be completed for the following livestock exhibited in a junior livestock show: **market beef; market hog; market lamb; veal calf; market dairy cattle; market goats; market poultry; lactating dairy animals; market rabbits; and feeder cattle**.

9) Do exhibition feeder calves require a DUNF for a non-terminal show?

Answer: Yes.

10) Do feeder calves have to meet the same drug residue or withdrawal times as market class animals?

Answer: **Yes.** All livestock shall be **exhibition drug residue legal (EDRL)** prior to the start of the show in which the livestock is entered into for exhibition. This means that drugs, including but not limited to, pain killers, steroids, antibiotics, dewormers, and vaccines, must have met withdrawal times and tolerance by time of show to be eligible. This will require responsible use, recordkeeping, and stewardship of drugs and quality assurance on behalf of the veterinarian and exhibitor. ODA expects exhibitors to maintain the highest ethical standards when completing drug use notification forms to ensure that drugs and treatments are properly disclosed and to ensure exhibition livestock maintain EDRL status at time of show.

"Exhibition drug residue legal" means livestock:

- Have only been administered an approved drug, for which the withdrawal time has elapsed and met tolerance;
- Have not been administered an unapproved drug; and
- Do not contain an unlawful substance.

11) Can chiropractic's and acupuncture be used on livestock during an exhibition?

Answer: Physical practices, including but not limited to, chiropractic care, acupuncture, and MagnaWave/PEMF are unacceptable and prohibited during the fair or exhibition. If during exhibition, the official veterinarian determines one of these practices is medically necessary for the immediate treatment and welfare of the livestock, it may be performed. However, if such treatment is applied during the exhibition, the livestock is ineligible to show.

Note- Horses are not considered livestock under OAC Chapter 901-19, so the use of chiropractic care, acupuncture, MagnaWave or PEMF in horses at an exhibition is permitted under OAC Chapter 901-19. However, an exhibition sponsor may adopt a local fair rule that prohibits the use of PEMF or MagnaWave in horses at their fair/exhibition.

12) Can you clarify the drug use rules for lactating dairy animals? Breeding animals?

Answer: With the updated rules, all exhibition livestock are to adhere to the same uniform and consistent standard with regards to drugs and unlawful substances. That is, **all livestock shall be exhibition drug residue legal prior to the start of the show in which the livestock is entered into for exhibition**. This includes market classes and non-terminal shows (breeding and lactating animals). For any medications or drugs administered, such as vaccines, dewormers, antibiotics, or pain medications, the withdrawal period must be met by the day of show, even for non-terminal animals.

13) If my feeder calves, market animals, or any other livestock are vaccinated and dewormed before the fair or at the time of entry into the fair, am I still eligible to show? Can you clarify the use of vaccines for show animals and eligibility?

Answer: As stated above, all livestock must be exhibition drug residue legal at the time of show. This means that all vaccines, dewormers, and medications must meet their withdrawal period by the day of show. Vaccines and preventive drugs should be part of managing disease during stressful commingling events with livestock, such as exhibitions. The rules do not prohibit the

use of vaccines as part of an effective disease prevention program designed by the official veterinarian, fair board, or your private veterinarian. **But** vaccines are drugs with a withdrawal time, and if those medications are given as preconditioning before coming to the fairgrounds, they must be given far enough in advance to take into the account the withdrawal period for those medications and drugs. In some circumstances, sponsors may have to adjust their prevention programs or policies in consultation with the official veterinarian to ensure that exhibitors maintain eligibility for the show.

Exhibitors and their families should consult with their veterinarian to discuss proper planning and timing of vaccines or dewormers well ahead of the fair season. Vaccinating feeder calves upon entry to the fair would likely make them ineligible to show (i.e. INFORCE® or Nasalgen®). (Most vaccines have a 21-day withdrawal period.)

Duration of immunity for most vaccines is long enough to provide protection against diseases indicated on label, which if administered 21-30 days ahead of show would still be protective.

14) Why do livestock vaccines have a withdrawal time?

Answer: Livestock vaccines have a withdrawal time to ensure that food from vaccinated animals is safe to eat. Withdrawal times are intended to ensure meat, milk, or other products for human consumption from the vaccinated animal are free from adjuvant or vaccine organism contamination.

The withdrawal time is the period between the last administration of the vaccine and when the animal's meat, milk, or eggs can be sold for human consumption. The withdrawal time is determined by the country where the vaccine is licensed and is stated on the product's label. It can range from 0 to 45 days, depending on how the animal metabolizes the vaccine and the safety profile for humans. For example, most withdrawal times for beef cattle are 21 to 28 days after injection.

Withdrawal times are important because they ensure that the food doesn't contain levels of the vaccine that exceed the maximum residue limit. Modified live vaccines, in particular, can replicate in the host animal, so the live vaccine strain virus may be present in animal tissues or products during the withdrawal period.

Some vaccines contain preservatives and antibiotics, such as penicillin, gentamycin, and streptomycin. To avoid illegal drug residues in food products, producers should pay close attention to withdrawal times and have systems in place to double-check them. They should also keep detailed records of the vaccines given to each animal, including the date, dosage, and route of administration. These records should be kept on file for at least three years after the animal is sold.

15) Are vaccines considered drugs? How does this impact drug testing?

Answer: **Yes**, vaccines are considered drugs. The federal *Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act* (FD&C Act) defines drugs as "**articles intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease**", and vaccines meet this definition. Additionally, under the exhibition rules, "drug" means "**any article…intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in humans or animals** or **any article, other than food, intended to affect the structure or any function of the body of humans or animals**…".

There is growing support to expand drug testing to other classes of livestock exhibition, such as junior livestock exhibition non-terminal shows. **Beginning in 2025, the state program will offer testing for market meat goats, market dairy goats, and feeder calves (non-terminal) on a voluntary basis. If a fair or sponsor voluntarily wishes to have animals in these additional classes tested, the state will test in the same manner as other market classes.** Regardless, all exhibition livestock must maintain the same status at the time of show, which is exhibition drug residue legal.

16) Can feeder calves be vaccinated after the show and before the sale?

Answer: The animals must be exhibition drug residue legal (i.e. slaughter eligible and residue free/met tolerance) at the time of show. After the show, feeder calves may be vaccinated if the fair board and official veterinarian feel this necessary. It is important to remember that vaccines would still have a withdrawal time for slaughter.

17) My DUNF has a drug listed with a withdrawal time that exceeds the time of show? Am I still eligible to show?

Answer: No. All animals must be exhibition drug residue legal at the time of show. If a medication is disclosed on the DUNF and the withdrawal period is not met by the time of show, that animal is ineligible to show.

18) What should we be doing after drug use notification forms (DUNF) are turned in online?

Answer: The records official for the fair/exhibition is expected to evaluate DUNFs that are submitted to them. If the form has an item that needs to be addressed (i.e., incomplete, medication given, not signed, etc.), the records official is to address it before the time of show. Reviewing prior to the time of the show will assist in ensuring complete DUNFs are submitted.

NOTE: ***Without a complete DUNF on file an animal is ineligible to show*. No person shall submit an incomplete, illegible, or unsigned drug use notification form.**

Exhibitors are required to submit a complete DUNF form. ODA will accept corrected forms if submitted within 24 hours of the original DUNF **and** if the errors are solely identified by the submitter/exhibitor and brought to the attention of the sponsor or ODA by the exhibitor. If ODA or the record official identifies errors or items that are incorrect, then a re-submitted or corrected DUNF will NOT be accepted by the exhibitor. It is the responsibility of the exhibitors and their family to accurately and completely fill out DUNFs at the time of initial submission.

If the information or corrections have been made in QUALTICS, no additional action is needed. If changes have been made to the spreadsheet, but not updated in QUALITRCS, a copy of the spreadsheet is to be emailed to ODA cindy.bodie@agri.ohio.gov

19) Why is Therma-Plate, MagnaWave, and PEMF not permitted, and does it apply to horses at exhibitions?

Answer: Therma Plate, MagnaWave, or any other PEMF technology applied to livestock (including non-terminal and breeding animals) during exhibition is considered unacceptable and prohibited, unless prescribed by the official veterinarian for the immediate treatment and welfare of the livestock. **HOWEVER**, if such treatment is applied during the exhibition, the livestock are ineligible to be shown.

Horses are not considered livestock under OAC Chapter 901-19, so the use of MagnaWave or PEMF in horses at an exhibition is permitted under OAC Chapter 901-19. However, an exhibition sponsor may adopt a local fair rule that prohibits the use of PEMF or MagnaWave in horses at their fair/exhibition.

The following practices are unacceptable and prohibited:

- Applying any electrical, mechanical, or other appliance to livestock repeatedly or for a prolonged time period in violation of 9 C.F.R. 313.2 (1979) or division 901:12 of the Administrative Code;
- Hitting, striking, beating, or otherwise impacting livestock that induces swelling or enhances, transforms or changes the natural conformation, configuration, performance, physiological state, or appearance of the livestock;
- Applying any physical practice, electrical or mechanical appliance, device, or apparatus that enhances, transforms, or changes the natural conformation, configuration, performance, physiological state, or appearance of the livestock, unless prescribed by the official veterinarian for the immediate treatment and welfare of the livestock. If such treatment is applied during the exhibition, the livestock are ineligible to be shown.

20) My exhibition animal is sick and needs medication. Am I allowed to give medication to the animal?

Answer: The health and welfare of the animal should be the primary focus for livestock. But you need to be aware of the exhibition eligibility risks with drug use.

Prior to the exhibition- YES, prescription drugs, including but not limited, to dewormers, antibiotics, pain medications, or vaccines, may be given to an animal as prescribed by a licensed veterinarian for treatment or prevention. It is important that those medications be administered as directed by your veterinarian to avoid unnecessary drug residues (food safety) and ensure withdrawal times are met by time of show. Please be sure to include information on your DUNF as applicable. Remember, all livestock shall be exhibition drug residue legal prior to the start of the show in which the livestock is entered into for exhibition.

During the exhibition- **YES**, **but** the treatment and administration of the medication must be by or under the supervision and direction of an official veterinarian and **the livestock must remain exhibition drug residue legal at the time of the show**. **Please** consult the official veterinarian (fair vet or exhibition vet) during this process as some treatments may lead to ineligibility for show.

"Official veterinarian" means any licensed and accredited veterinarian approved by the Ohio department of agriculture, or an employee of the Ohio department of agriculture or the United States department of agriculture, animal plant health inspection service, veterinary services.

21) If a medication is prescribed by the official veterinarian, can my animal still show?

Answer: It depends on the drug and its withdrawal time. During the exhibition, the official veterinarian can prescribe the treatment and administration of medication, but the livestock must remain ***exhibition drug residue legal at the time of the show***. If a drug that is prescribed for health and welfare concerns has a withdrawal time that extends beyond the time of show, then the animal will be ineligible to show. **Please** consult the official veterinarian (fair vet or exhibition vet) during this process as some treatments may lead to ineligibility for show. If questions arise, we strongly encourage the official veterinarian to call and seek guidance from the State Veterinarian's office.

22) The exhibition show is tomorrow, and my vet just gave an antibiotic to my sick animal. Is my animal still eligible to show?

Answer: The goal is to show only healthy livestock, so the veterinarian acted properly to treat the animal for health and welfare concerns. However, if that administered drug has a withdrawal time that is not met by time of show, then the animal is ineligible to show.

Note: It is an unacceptable practice to show livestock which have been treated with an approved drug when a side effect or pharmacological effect of the drug conceals, enhances, transforms, or changes the natural conformation, physiological status, or condition of the livestock.

23) Can I forcibly give my animal water by mouth via a syringe or hand pump at the exhibition?

Answer: **NO.** This practice is referred to as drenching. "Drenching" means the act of using an instrument, including a bottle, placed in an animal's mouth to orally administer a liquid, food, or any other substance. Drenching of livestock at an exhibition is prohibited, unless prescribed by the official veterinarian. Drenching is when you are forcing the animal to take in the liquid.

24) Are petting zoo animals at the fair required to have official identification?

Answer: Yes, Sheep and Goats, are required to have a Scrapie identification tag. Other animals would need official identification if coming from out of state into Ohio.

25) Is the use of ether on show animals permitted?

Answer: NO. The showing of any market livestock after the application of ether to the animal is prohibited.

26) Am I allowed to use Mrs. Stewards Liquid Bluing on my livestock? Can I use powder builders or paints on my animals during the exhibition?

Answer: NO. This is considered a prohibited grooming practice in junior market livestock shows.

27) I got my market chickens from a hatchery that is a participant in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). Do I need to have them Pullorum tested again prior to the exhibition or fair?

Answer: Starting for the 2025 fair season, all market chickens and market turkeys that are bought from an NPIP source do **NOT** have to be pullorum tested before exhibition. As a part of the NPIP program, those hatcheries and flocks continue to be a part of a testing program to ensure pullorum free status. Even if you bring those market poultry to your property where you have other birds present (layers, fancy birds, etc.), they do NOT need to be retested.

The above exemption is for market projects (turkeys, chickens) only. If you are showing in a fancy or breeding poultry show (typically these projects are multi-year projects), those birds MAY be subject to pullorum testing.

The fairs and exhibitions may have more stringent rules than those enacted by ODA.