

Walker County Fair - General Rules

WCFA

The Executive Board of the Walker County Fair Association reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions and differences pertaining to the Walker County Fair. The Executive Board reserves the right to amend these rules as deemed advisable. Any person who violates any of the General Rules or Division Rules as published, may result in the forfeiture of premiums and awards, disqualification, and placement on probationary status and/or loss of eligibility for future participation in Walker County Fair competition.

The following rules and regulations have been adopted by the Executive Board.:

- 1.) All exhibitors of sale animals or other sale projects must be members in good standing of FFA, FCCLA, or 4-H in Walker County; must live in Walker County and/or attend a TEA-accredited school in Walker County and must have primary responsibility, in Walker County or the county of residence, for the care, feeding, workmanship and preparation of their animals or other projects. Any request for exception of this rule must be submitted, prior to tag-in, in writing to the Executive Board of the WCFA for consideration at its next regular meeting. Approval must be by two-thirds majority vote of those present.
- 2.) Each exhibitor will be permitted to sell one sale project, but may show in each class. The exhibitors of the champion (Grand or Reserve) animals must sell in their respective classes unless, in doing so, an exhibitor would be selling two champion animals. In such a case the exhibitor may choose which animal to sell. Other exhibitors must designate sale projects immediately after the judging of the last sale class in which they participate. Exhibitors will not be eligible to show a prospective sale project if they show or sell a sale project in an adjoining county during the current Walker County Fair year.
- 3.) All exhibitors of nonplacing sale animals will have the option of selling their projects in the Youth Livestock Freezer Sale. It will be the responsibility of the WCFA Livestock Vice President to determine whether all animals remain on the fairgrounds until the Freezer Sale.
- 4.) All exhibitors must wear numbered exhibitor cards while their entries are being judged. Exhibitor cards are to be secured from the Livestock office.

- 5.) Only in case of extreme hardship, and then only if a written request has been presented to and approved by the committee chairman, will an exhibitor be excused from showing an animal and being present at the sale.
- 6.) Decisions of the judges in the awarding of trophies and ribbons will be final.
- 7.) Exhibitors must own and care for their animals throughout the feeding period and must feed, care for, and exhibit animals with a minimum of aid and assistance. All animals will be subject to spot check by the appropriate committee members.
- 8.) Exhibitors will be required to keep stalls pens, or cages in clean, orderly condition.
- 9.) All livestock exhibitors must comply with State Animal Health Rules.
- 10.) Exhibitors will not be allowed to bunk in the exhibit buildings or tents. Security personnel will be on duty after show hours.
- 11.) All animal entry fees are due at tag-in. Other entry fee deadlines will be at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 2 weeks before the opening day of the Fair. The required fees will be \$15 per animal/pen of animals; \$15.00 per Supervised Project or \$5.00 per exhibitor on group projects of three or more; \$5.00 per entry for Clothing, Baked and Canned Goods, Horticulture, Arts and Crafts, Quilts and Photography.
- 12.) The Walker County Fair Association, its Board of Directors, Officers, Officers-in-Charge, Committee Chairperson, committeemen, fair members, will not be liable for any personal injuries, damages, fire, theft, accidents and/or any matters resulting from or relating to the actions of any exhibitor, exhibitor's immediate family member(s), parent(s), guardian(s), and/or representative(s), committeemen, volunteers, spectators, visitors, exhibits, animals.
- 13.) Any grievance must be submitted in writing to the appropriate committee chairman and must be accompanied by a \$200 fee, which will be refunded only if the grievance is sustained. The Grievance Committee will be composed of Walker County Fair Association Executive Board members and will include five members and two alternates. At least five of the seven must be in attendance to rule upon any grievance submitted for consideration.

- 14.) A commission fee of 8% of all sale proceeds will be deducted for the Walker County Fair Association. A "P.O." will not be allowed on any item.
- 15.) All animal entries to the Walker County Fair will be subject, prior to the show, to approval by a screening committee composed of the appropriate committee members for each animal division. Animals will be evaluated as to health, condition, and overall presentation. The exhibitor of any animal declared to be unfit for the show will be asked to remove the animal from the fairgrounds immediately.

16.) All youth exhibitors of the Walker County Fair must be present and participate in:

A.) Any of the following work projects/events to obtain a minimum of five (5) required hours:

- 1) September Kickoff Jamboree.
- 2) One work project or event designated by the committee in which the exhibitor is showing.
- 3) At least one of the designated work days prior to the Spring Fair.
- 4) WCFA Sponsored Activity.

Participation in the above activities will be for a minimum of 5 hours. The required 5 hours must be obtained no later than 5:00 pm on the Thursday prior to the opening ceremonies or the exhibitor will be ineligible for participation or showing of project(s) at the WCF.

B.) Work day immediately following the Spring Fair. Failure to adhere to this rule or have a pre-arranged designated substitute present will result in a \$100 penalty.

C.) Each exhibitor must have a parent, guardian, or stand-in (21 years of age or older to work a 2 hour shift for admissions. Other areas may be assigned with approval from the majority of Fair officers. If this duty is not fulfilled an additional \$100 will be withheld from the exhibitor's check.

D.) Each exhibitor receiving an award(s) and/or selling a project in the Walker County Fair is required to submit a thank you letter or thank you note in an unsealed, stamped and addressed envelope for each buyer (up to four) or award received or earned. These will be collected by the committee chair or an approved fair officer at the mandatory cleanup day at the conclusion of the fair.

- 17.)** Exhibitors of all sale animals are responsible for the delivery of the animals to the buyers. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to contact the buyer and dispose of the animal according to the buyer's wishes. Projects are the exhibitor's responsibility to care for and feed up to seven days after the sale, unless other arrangements are made. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in a 25% penalty of net sale proceeds.
- 18.)** All resale animals and animals donated to the Walker County Fair Association will be resold by the Walker County Fair Association. These animals must be those shown by the exhibitor and not substitutes. The type and time of sale will be determined by the Chairman of the Youth Livestock Sale.
- 19.)** Any member in good standing may address the meeting during Open Forum. The following rules shall prevail:
- A.) A subject shall be allowed two (2) five minute addresses and two (2) five minute responses.
 - B.) A member may pass his time to a non-member, but must remain responsible for presentation.
 - C.) No votes will be taken on Open Forum presentations but can be placed on the Agenda for action at the following meeting.
- 20.)** No pets, excluding service pets, are allowed in the following areas: Main Building, Livestock Area, Exhibitor Barn and Carnival area.
- 21.)** Smoking is prohibited under the Livestock Barn, Committeeman's Room and Main Building.
- 22.)** No "FOR SALE" sign will be placed on any exhibitor's item or entry in the Walker County Fair.
- 23.)** Exhibitor add-on or incentives will not be allowed in or announced from the sale ring (or stage) while item is being auctioned.
- 24.)** Animals will remain in their assigned stall/pen area except when in the show ring, weighing, wash area or en route to one of these three areas after checking in with the livestock office. Animals are not to be taken outside the fenced livestock barn grounds except to and from the Fair wash area. Only animal with a paid entry fee which are selected to be shown at the current Walker County Fair will be allowed in the fenced livestock area. Any exception

to this rule must be submitted in writing and approved by the Livestock Vice President and Division Chairperson prior to entering or exiting the livestock area.

25.) Exhibitor's projects are required to remain on the fair grounds in their designated area until the official checkout time posted in the Walker County Fair Daily Schedule. Any exception to this must be presented in writing to the Division Chairman and approved with the signatures of that Chairman and the Vice President.

26.) At no time will exhibitors, parents, or agents approach buyers with the intent or purpose of buying back their sale item(s).

The Walker County Fair Livestock Show Code of Ethics

- A.)** This code of ethics applies to anyone exhibiting animals at livestock shows in Walker County. It includes junior as well as open-class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. All classes of livestock offered at the livestock events are included: Cattle (Beef), Goats (meat), and other specialty animals, including poultry, rabbits, sheep, swine, and any other livestock classes offered. This "Walker County Fair Livestock Show Code of Ethics" will be amended automatically to include any additional rules and regulations that individual livestock committees impose at the local, county, state, regional, and national levels.
- B.)** The following practices or procedures are unacceptable and are defined as being deceptive, fraudulent, unethical, and inhumane in the care, fitting, preparation, and showing of all classes of livestock. The use of any illegal drugs is prohibited. (See rule #5 of the Walker County Fair Livestock Show Code of Ethics.) Use of illegal drugs is considered a premeditated act. Furthermore, any information obtained pertaining to the practice of illegal alteration of an animal by or on behalf of an exhibitor will be turned over to the proper authorities for possible criminal prosecution. **THIS-IS-A-ONE-STRIKE-AND-YOU-ARE-OUT-POLICY!** Exhibitors will forfeit any premiums, awards, or auction proceeds and will be prohibited from further competition at future shows in Walker County for not less than one year, as well as being subject to potential criminal prosecution.

C.) The following is a listing of guidelines all exhibitors must follow to enter livestock at organized competitive events:

1.) All exhibitors must have viable proof of ownership available to prove length of time animals have been owned. Market animals (beef, sheep, swine), small market animals (rabbits and poultry), and animals of any other categories added later must be owned and under the exhibitor's daily care to be eligible to participate at the Walker County Fair. The official ownership date is the date shown on the bill of sale or receipt of sale unless the animal was bred by the exhibitor, in which case calving or birth records will be utilized. (Individual Division Rules may determine ownership requirements for nonmarket animals.) Breed-association papers or certificates on registered breeding livestock must show the exhibitor as the sole owner of the animal.

2.) No exhibitor may show a market animal which has been previously sold at an auction or sale as a market animal through another regional or major livestock show. Any method used to misrepresent the age of an animal for a class in which it is shown is deceptive and considered to be illegal. Showing an animal for another individual by claiming ownership in order to show in a specific livestock class or event is prohibited. False ownership is illegal.

3.) Any animal that is to be exhibited in the Walker County Fair must be cared for in Walker County (EXCEPTION: see General Rule #1). They must be under the daily care of and trained, fitted, or groomed for the show by the Junior Exhibitor under the direction and assistance from parents, siblings, grandparents or legal guardians; CEA's, 4H Adult Leaders or VAT's from Walker County; or Walker County Fair Committee members. Each Exhibitor and his/her immediate family member(s), parent(s), guardian(s), and/or representative agree that in exchange for participation in the Walker County Fair they will allow Walker County Fair Association representatives(s) permission to enter onto the property for the purpose of inspection of the animal(s).

4.) Treating an animal internally or externally with any irritant, counterirritant, or other substance used to artificially change the conformation or appearance of an animal for show is considered to be unethical and inhumane and is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of graphite, air, powders, hemp, artificial hair coloring, common products such as fly spray, ointment or liniment used to the point that it is irritating, (unless required to reduce edema at time of calving), or similar products. The use of dyes, spray paints or other artificial colorings which result in altering an animal's true and natural appearance and/or color is prohibited. Adding false hair or hairlike

material, fleece, or skin at any point, spot or area of the animal's body is illegal and will result in immediate disqualification. Utilization of any liquid or substance not generally considered as part of an accepted and normal diet for livestock is deemed to be illegal and inhumane.

5.) The use of tranquilizers, sedatives or depressants or any action which might alter the natural physical or physiological state of an animal is illegal. Exceptions to this rule will be permitted only with the approval and under the direct supervision of Division Chairmen for a recognized disease or injury. **All drugs must be approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use in meat-producing animals.** All exhibitors must advise the Livestock Secretary in a signed Drug Form concerning any drugs and/or medications administered to an animal that might be detected at the time of showing or at meat inspection. The name of the drug, its purpose, the person who administered the drug, time and date of administration must be presented to the Livestock Secretary prior to the showing and sale of the animal. Failure to report this information to the Livestock Secretary will result in severe penalty and/or disqualification. **Any use of drugs or substances not approved by the Food and Drug Administration is strictly prohibited.** All animals entered into livestock competition will be subject to testing for foreign substances that exceed levels established by the FDA, FSIS, USDA, or EPA.

6.) If any animal requires treatment during a livestock-show event, all medications must be administered under the direct supervision of the respective Division Chairman.

7.) Surgery and injection or insertion of foreign materials under the skin and/or into the flesh of an animal to change the natural contour, conformation or appearance of the animal's body are illegal. This prohibition includes vegetable oil, air, silicone or any other substance used to alter the shape of the animal. Acceptable practices of physical preparation which are permitted include clipping of hair, trimming of hooves, dehorning, and docking of tails.

8.) The use of inhumane fitting, showing and/or handling practices or devices will not be tolerated. For example, breaking of tails, striking animals to cause swelling or for bracing purposes, use of electrical contrivances, or use of overly severe bits are not acceptable and are prohibited.

9.) Direct criticisms or interference with the judge, WCFA Executive Board members, other exhibitors, breed representatives or committee members before, during, or after any competitive event are prohibited.

10.) At the time an animal is sold at auction at the livestock show, the exhibitor will be held directly responsible for animals that are rejected at a processing center due to the presence of foreign residues. The seller may be liable to the buyer for an amount equal to three times the purchase price and may also be liable for attorney's fees and civil penalties. **WCFA Directors may share intelligence and evidence and/or information with the FDA and USDA.** If, for any reason, any part of a meat-animal carcass must be removed by the FDA or USDA, or by Texas Department of Health inspectors, the market price will be discounted.

11.) The WCFA reserves the right to require animal health certificates. Health inspections and diagnostic tests may be made before or after animals are on the livestock-show premises for exhibitor and animal safety, or to inaugurate disease-control procedures which may become necessary in emergencies as determined by animal-health officials.

- D.)** In addition to the Texas Department of Health inspection of all show animals, each Grand Champion, Reserve Champion, and one other random selection in each class/category of meat/market-division animals will be tested for zero tolerance for any undisclosed drug, chemical, or feed additive immediately following the judging phase. Parent or Legal Guardian and a Division Committee member must be in attendance during testing.
- E.)** Any entry violating the Walker County Fair Livestock Show Code of Ethics will be disqualified. No reordering of the judged ranking of the animals will take place (i.e., the Reserve Champion will not be elevated to the Grand Champion position following the disqualification of the Grand Champion.)
- F.)** The cost of a failed drug test will be the financial responsibility of the exhibitor presenting the animal failing the test. All other drug-testing costs will be borne by the Walker County Fair Association.
- G.)** A statement of disclosure and drug-testing agreement will be signed by the exhibitor, parent, or guardian.

H.) Drug and Cosmetic Act or the animal-mistreatment, neglect and abandonment laws that apply on the local, state, and national levels. Any animal delivered for slaughter will be identified by the exhibitor to the processing facility, indicating the fact that the animal was raised as a show animal.

Any violation of the "Walker County Fair Livestock Show Code of Ethics" may result in forfeiture of premiums and awards, disqualification, and placement on probationary status and/or loss of eligibility for future participation in organized livestock competition. Possible civil penalties may be imposed by the proper authorities based upon evidence provided by the WCFA of exhibitors in violation of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act or the animal-mistreatment, neglect and abandonment laws that apply on the local, state and national levels.

Amended 08/2007

Amended 08/2008

Amended 08/2009

No Amends 08/2010

Amended 08/2011