



South Dakota 4-H Livestock Integrity Pledge

The 4-H Livestock Integrity Pledge takes the refreshing approach of placing trust in 4-H parents and youth. We trust that our parents want 4-H to serve as a place for their youth to develop into contributing members of society—builders not takers. We trust that our youth want to be true 4-H'ers—desiring a good exhibition experience by demonstrating personal responsibility.

In addition to completing an annual 4-H Youth Livestock Literacy training event, this pledge is a required annual component of South Dakota 4-H's livestock education program. Prior to agreeing, please read, consider, and adopt the Livestock Integrity Pledge's principles in your livestock management plan and show preparations.

Pledge Agreement

As a true 4-H'er, I pledge to uphold all of the livestock integrity standards listed in this document. I also pledge to make sure that any individuals who help me with my livestock projects uphold the same standards. If I discover that I (or my helpers) can no longer uphold this pledge, I will withdraw from the 4-H exhibition.

Handling and Care

1. In the process of training my animal, I will take great care not to strike my animal without cause or with harmful force.
2. To promote safety to others and myself, I will ensure my animal is trained and under control before participating in any livestock exhibition.
 - a. For haltered animals, I will use an appropriate, properly fitting halter.
 - b. During the exhibition, I will guide and direct my animal without striking.
 - c. During swine exhibitions, I will use my show stick as a guide not a weapon.
3. Though exhibiting livestock is fun, the main purpose of raising livestock is to produce safe food for consumers. As a result, I will:
 - a. Provide adequate and regular food and water, timely and veterinarian-approved medical care, and appropriate shelter and/or fencing.
 - b. Own/lease and care for my animal from at least June 1 of the current year through the end of this exhibition season or harvest, whichever comes first.
 - c. Use a timely and responsible harvest plan.

Specifically, I will not:

 - i. Use drugs in an extra- or off-label manner without a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship. (Extra- or off-label drugs cannot be used for performance enhancement.)
 - ii. 'Hold off' or force-feed my animal when not part of a treatment plan.
 - iii. Withhold water or 'drench' my animal when not part of a treatment plan.

Ethics and Co-opetition*

1. I will wear appropriate attire in the ring and/or on the grounds in accordance with event requirements.
2. I will take an active role in grooming/fitting all of my exhibits in preparation for the exhibition.
3. I will only enter the number of exhibits that allow me to take this active role in grooming/fitting each animal.
4. Regardless of my skill level or the day I am having, I will show all of my own exhibits unless I am sick/injured or I am showing in another 4-H activity at the same time. I will only enter the number of exhibits that make it likely I can show my own exhibits.

5. Other than developing my skills and preparing my exhibits, I will not unfairly influence the outcome of the exhibition.
6. If a younger or less experienced 4-H member comes to me for advice, I will help them. After all, by raising their skill level it will provide a more worthy challenge for me.
7. Though I may become emotional in the moment, overall, I will celebrate my victories with humility and losses with grace.

Specifically, I will not:

- a. Taunt, harass, or harm another exhibitor or event personnel.
- b. Touch another exhibitor's animal without permission unless in an emergency.
- c. Contact the show judge prior to the show or during a break in the show.
- d. Use my attire or brand to influence a judge.
- e. Artificially alter the weight of my animal or intentionally declare a false weight.
- f. Inject air or other foreign materials into my animal.
- g. Structurally modify my animal or perform any other prohibited act listed in the National Show Ring Code of Ethics.

*Learn more about co-opetition via the SD4-H Information Sheet entitled Competing the 4-H Way which is available upon request.

Consequences

If I discover that I (or my helpers) can no longer uphold this pledge, I will withdraw from the 4-H exhibition. Should 4-H personnel directly observe me violating this pledge, I understand they will enact appropriate disciplinary measures within the SD4-H Code of Conduct.

Youth Printed Name: _____

Youth Signature: _____

Guardian Printed Name: _____

Guardian Signature: _____

Today's Date: _____

Annual pledge collection process

- County-level: Annual paper-based or electronic agreement collected prior to Achievement Days/County Fair
- State-level: Annual electronic acknowledgment during FairEntry enrollment for the 4-H Division of the State Fair

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PP-004-08