

# Loudoun County Fair Rules

## Section 1: General Rules

1. **Interpretation of Rules:** The Fair Committee reserves the right to interpret all Rules and Regulations to resolve situations which may arise and is not restricted by the lack of a rule or regulation. For the purposes of these rules, "in writing" shall include any printed, email or typed communication from the Fair Superintendent.
2. **Right to Amend the Rules:** Loudoun Fair Committee has the right to amend the Rules and Regulations of the Loudoun County Fair at any time.
3. **Safety Precautions:** Reasonable precautions will be taken for the safety of people and animals while on the Fairgrounds property. Loudoun Fair and Associates (LFA), the Fair Committee, their members and volunteers shall not be responsible for injury to any person or animal.
4. **Exhibitors with Special Needs:** Any exhibitor wishing to participate in the Fair who has special needs must notify the Fair Committee in writing of such special needs no later than 60 days prior to the opening of the Fair. This is to allow reasonable accommodations to be made on a case-by-case basis.
5. **Pets:** Pets are not allowed on the fairgrounds. Service animals as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are permitted. Service animals are those that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task an animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.
6. **Exhibitor's Risks of Damage or Loss:** The exhibitor assumes all risks of damage or loss, either to person or property, for all and every cause whatsoever, including, but not limited to, fire, the elements, violation of the law, negligence either on the part of the Loudoun County Fair, LFA, its officers, employees, contractors, assigns, and other person or persons. It is further expressly understood and agreed between the exhibitor and the Fair management that the Loudoun County Fair and/or LFA incurs no liability or obligation to the exhibitors other than to permit the exhibitor to use the grounds and/or buildings for exhibits. All exhibits must be removed from the fairgrounds within 24 hours of Fair closing. Loudoun Fair Committee reserves the right to dispose of exhibits left on the fairgrounds beyond 24 hours of Fair closing.
7. **Alcoholic beverages purchased and consumed on the fairgrounds are restricted to the date(s), time(s), and location(s) specified by Fair Management. No outside alcohol is permitted.** Anyone found in violation will be removed from the fairgrounds for the remainder of the week and will forfeit all of his/her entries and related premiums. At its

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discretion, Fair Management reserves the right to notify law enforcement officials and file criminal charges.

8. **Illegal drugs and misuse of controlled or unlawful substances:** Any persons found to have in possession, and/or consuming any illegal drugs or misusing any substance will face criminal charges. Violation of this rule will result in the disqualification of the violator(s) from all activities and competitions of the Fair. Offending violator(s) will be removed immediately from fairgrounds property for the remainder of the Fair.
9. **Smoking:** No smoking or vaping is allowed in any barns, buildings, or grandstands at any time. Violator(s) will be notified only once during the Fair and upon second offense, removed from the fairgrounds for the remainder of the Fair. Any minor person(s) found to have in possession, and/or smoking tobacco will have items confiscated, and could face criminal charges if the situation is determined to warrant the filing of criminal charges.
10. **Show Pavilion Users:** Each user of the show pavilion, as well as persons responsible for special entertainment, and all other users of the pavilion shall be responsible for cleaning the stage, bleachers, and show ring at the conclusion of their scheduled activity or event. This rule will be strictly enforced by the Fair Superintendent.
11. **Parking Restrictions:** All parking is to be in designated parking areas only. Vehicles in "NO PARKING" areas or in areas not marked for parking will be towed at the owner's expense. Vehicles not properly marked by handicap plates or placards and are parked in the "HANDICAP PARKING" area will be towed at the owner's expense.

Monday of Fair Week: Vehicles will be permitted on the fairgrounds for unloading only and then must be moved to the lower parking lot.

During Fair Week: For loading and unloading purposes only, exhibitor and vendor vehicles will be permitted on the fairgrounds between 5AM and 9AM. Any vehicles not moved to designated parking lots by 9AM will be subject to towing at the owner's expense.

Post Fair: NO VEHICLES WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE GROUNDS DURING THE AUCTION COMMITTEE'S LOADING OF ANIMALS.

Emergency exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis as per the Fair Superintendent.

12. **Entry Times to Fairgrounds:** All Fair patrons, exhibitors, parents, and vendors must vacate the premises between the hours of 12AM (midnight) and 5AM. Individual exceptions may be granted by the Fair Superintendent on a case-by-case basis.
13. **Judges Decisions.** In all cases, the decision of the judges is final.
14. **All Exhibits Entered in the Fair:** All exhibits entered in the Fair must remain on the fairgrounds until the official release. The only exceptions being animals shipped out by the Auction Committee, any animals sent home by the Fair veterinarian or Agriculture

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Superintendent for health reasons, and clubs that switch out exhibits for demonstration purposes where insufficient barn space exists (e.g., equine). Failure to abide by this rule will result in a \$300 fine. Such exhibitors will not be permitted to show in subsequent Fairs until fine is paid in full. Any exhibitor requesting early release of their exhibit(s) must request approval in writing from the Agriculture Superintendent and Fair Superintendent no later than 14 days prior to the Fair. The Agriculture Superintendent will notify the exhibitor and his/her club leader(s) in writing prior to beginning of Fair of early release decision.

15. **Exhibit limits and space:** The Fair Committee reserves the authority to limit the number of animals/exhibits and the space allocated to each club on the fairgrounds.
16. **Responsibility of all livestock exhibitors:** All livestock exhibitors are responsible for compliance with the Fair Rules specified for their projects. The Fair Committee will stand by and enforce all applicable rules.
17. **Mandatory Meeting for all exhibitors:** Each exhibitor showing at the Fair AND one of their parents will be required to attend a pre-Fair cleanup meeting with the Fair Superintendent and Fair staff. This meeting is to perform cleanup activities, review policies, rules and expectations of youth and adults during Fair week. If a family does not comply with this rule, the exhibitor will not be permitted to exhibit or show at the Fair. If the exhibitor is over 18 years old, their parents are not required to be at the meeting.
18. **Water Hoses:** To prevent excess water usage and the creation of muddy holes on grounds all hoses must have nozzles to prevent excess water waste. No automatic livestock watering devices shall be attached to hoses connected to the fairgrounds water supply system.
19. **Exhibitor and Concessionaire booths:** Food booths and refreshment stands will be neat in appearance and supply clean, wholesome food at reasonable charges determined by the vendor and coordinated with the Vendor Committee Chair. Food booths must have a food service license, available through the Loudoun County Health Department in Leesburg, prior to the Fair. Exhibitors and concessionaires must prepare, decorate, and maintain their own booths and stands. The Fair Committee does not provide either materials or labor for the preparation or the decorating of booths or stands. Vendors MUST abide by all setup and cleanup times.
20. **Reporting Violations:** Reports of any General Fair Rule(s) violations need to be made in writing and presented to the Fair Superintendent within 3 hours of such violation or discovery of such violation.
21. **Golf carts, ATVs and similar vehicles:** Golf carts, ATVs and similar vehicles of conveyance shall be limited to Fair personnel and staff. There shall be no public use of

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said vehicles on the fairgrounds. Disabled persons with motorized wheelchairs will be the only exception to this rule. No one under 18 years old is allowed to operate these vehicles.

22. **Dress Code:** Inappropriate dress will not be permitted by any 4-Her during the Fair. Any exhibitor in violation will be asked to change immediately or may be asked to leave the grounds thus forfeiting their right to show. Any individual that is a member of the 4-H Club leaders, 4-H Extension Office, Loudoun Fair and Associates, or the Fair Committee can address a 4-Her for dress code violations.
23. **Children and Fair related displays:** Children will not be permitted to sit or stand on unattended motorized vehicles and equipment.
24. **Firearms:** No firearms or dangerous weapons are permitted on the fairgrounds during the Loudoun County Fair. This policy does not apply to law enforcement personnel. Aside from law enforcement personnel, open display and open carrying of firearms is prohibited. Persons carrying concealed firearms in public places shall, at all times, be in compliance with all state and county laws pertaining to the carrying of concealed firearms. Other dangerous weapons including, but not limited to, dirk, bowie knife, dagger, sword, nun chucks, throwing stars, battle axes, and similar devices are prohibited on the fairgrounds and in parking areas during the week of Fair.
25. **No Advertising:** Distribution or display of any unauthorized literature, advertising or political flyers is prohibited in all areas of the fairgrounds to include parking areas. Please refer to Vendor Rules for clarification.
26. **Non-Compliance:** Failure to comply with the rules may subject the exhibitor/vendor and their exhibit(s) or display(s) to removal from the fairgrounds upon unanimous determination by the Fair Superintendent, Assistant Fair Superintendent, and Agriculture Superintendent. Normally, one warning of non-compliance will be issued prior to dismissal. Under circumstances involving egregious offenses, such exhibitor, vendor, attendee, volunteer, or contractor may be requested to remove all property and leave the fairgrounds immediately. Permission to return to the fairgrounds will be at the discretion of the Fair Superintendent.
27. **Violators:** Violators of any of the above rules or any other rules pertaining to the current year's fair may be denied any or all winnings and/or the ability to show at future Fairs.
28. **Balloons:** Balloons are not permitted on the grounds or in parking areas.
29. **Rules Review:** The **Loudoun County Fair Rules** will be reviewed annually and presented for approval at the December Fair Committee meeting.
30. **IAFE Compliance:** Rules of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) Code of Show Ring Ethics shall apply to all exhibitors. The IAFE Code of Show Ring Ethics can be viewed at: [\\_ IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics \(adga.org\)](https://www.adga.org/iafe-national-code-of-show-ring-ethics)

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31. **Conduct:** Courteous and considerate conduct is expected at all times while on the fairgrounds and parking areas.
32. **Trespassing:** The Fair Superintendent may request law enforcement to serve trespass papers on persons found violating the Fair Rules and/or subcommittee rules. Anyone who returns to the grounds after being served a trespassing notice or being told by the Fair Superintendent or his/her designee to leave, will be prosecuted criminally to the fullest extent of the law.

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## Section 2: Rules for Animal Projects

1. **Club rules shall not supersede the Loudoun County Fair Rules.**
2. **Exhibitor's age and qualifications:** All exhibitors in youth livestock classes must be registered members of Loudoun County 4-H. All exhibitors shall be in compliance with the underlying age qualification rules respective to such club organization.
3. **Grievance Committee:** The Fair Committee's Grievance Committee will consist of the Fair Superintendent, the Agriculture Superintendent, the respective Club Leader, at least one youth Fair Committee member and at least one adult Fair Committee member impartial to the specific grievance. The Grievance Committee will be assembled and chaired by the Fair Superintendent. All grievance hearings shall be documented by a member of the committee.
4. **Filing a Grievance:** Grievances should first be addressed to and by club leaders prior to being filed with the Grievance Committee. A grievance cannot be filed as an appeal of a decision rendered on a previous grievance. Grievances occurring prior to the arrival of livestock to the Fair must be submitted in writing to the Fair Superintendent by 10AM Tuesday morning. Any grievances occurring during the Fair must be submitted to the Fair Superintendent, in writing, by the close of Fair on Saturday.
5. All livestock entries must be owned by the 4-H member making the exhibit (except for members enrolled in approved non-ownership projects). All animals exhibited at the Fair must be housed in Loudoun County. Exceptions must be brought to the Fair Committee and the respective club's leaders, in writing, by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current Fair year. Approved exceptions must be able to provide the Fair Committee and the respective club leader(s) with the exact address at which animals are housed.
6. With the exception of preapproved demonstrations, animals which are ineligible to be exhibited may not be brought to the Fair.
7. Animals may be brought to the fairgrounds beginning at 9AM on Sunday prior to Fair opening. All animals **MUST** be in their respective pens by Monday at 8PM.
8. All animals must be under the control of exhibitors at all times without the aid of tranquilizers or other drugs. Dangerous or drugged animals will be disqualified and removed from the Fair. The Fair Superintendent, or his/her designee, reserves the right to have a veterinarian draw samples from questionable animals.
9. Exhibitors are expected to use safe and ethical handling/showing practices at all times. If club leaders, in conjunction with the Ag and/or Fair Superintendent, deem that excessive force is being used on an animal, then that entry, animal, and/or exhibitor may be disqualified and will not be eligible for premiums.

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10. All livestock/animals shall be housed in the appropriate barns unless otherwise approved by the Agriculture Superintendent and the Fair Superintendent at least one month prior to Fair.
11. All livestock exhibits must remain in their respective pen/barn/tie-out or official areas unless being moved to another location for official showing, washing, or demonstration purposes.
12. No barriers/partitions are permitted between pens/cages that will inhibit air flow.
13. Except in the case of a member's safety, only exhibitors showing animals and persons serving in an official capacity are to enter the show ring during judging.
14. All animal project members must show their own project animals unless the member has a valid and approved reason (must be approved by Fair Superintendent). If an exhibitor has two or more animals entered in the same class, another registered youth Fair exhibitor may show the second animal.
15. All animal project members must keep their exhibits area, aisles in barns and areas around the barns clean and neat at all times. Exhibitors will be responsible for cleaning their exhibit area and feeding and watering their animals by 8:30AM each morning. Evening feeding and watering times will be established by the club leaders. If animals are fitted in a designated area outside the barn, the exhibitor is responsible for cleaning their fitting area immediately after use.
16. Exhibitors and clubs must have their barn and exhibit areas clean by the designated day following the Fair closing.
17. Dairy and Beef Breeding Cattle's scurs and horns must be less than three (3) inches in order to show at the Fair. If their horns are over three (3) inches they can be exhibited in a pen but not shown. Market beef steers must be dehorned.
18. In order to show in the bull class, all bulls must be of nursing age (240 days or younger) and still be on their mothers. There is no restriction on the number of bull calves per class.
19. There will be no esophageal drenching of animals at the Fair unless required for medical reasons and approved by the Fair veterinarian.
20. The use of prong collars is prohibited.
21. All private sale animals must remain in the barns until official release.
22. The Loudoun Fair Committee will appoint a weigh master to weigh all market animals prior to their market show. This weight will be the official weight used for the Livestock Sale. If an exhibitor disagrees with the weight of his/her animal at the time of weighing, the animal

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will be taken off the scale and immediately placed back on the scale. The weigh master will declare the 2nd weigh-in as final. There will be NO re-weighs.

23. If any exhibitor's animal dies or is deemed unfit to show by veterinarian from time of ownership, until 30 days prior to the current year Fair for swine, goat or sheep and 60 days prior to the current Fair for beef, then that member may replace his/her animal with the following restrictions: You may only replace the animal with another animal which has already been weighed and tagged at the county weigh-in. It must come from within the Loudoun County club membership. Animals from outside of the club will not be allowed.  
**NO CHANGES AFTER THE CUT OFF DATES WILL BE CONSIDERED.**
24. All animals must be free of signs of infectious or contagious disease or conditions. A Fair designated veterinarian will have the final ruling of health status of any animal in question. All horses must have a current negative Coggins Test. All heifers over the age of 8 months must be officially vaccinated for brucellosis or be tested negative for brucellosis within 30 days of the show. All poultry must be tested negative for salmonella pullorum-typhoid virus within 60 days prior to the show. This is not an all-encompassing list of conditions.
25. All member clubs of the corporation are required to perform their club duties as assigned by the Fair Committee, including, but not limited to, Pre and Post Fair Clean-Up, Trash Pick Up, and Ice Cream Shack.
26. All animal projects are subject to inspection to verify entry information. All exhibitors agree to accommodate such inspections by club leaders and Fair personnel.
27. Each exhibitor is required to be present and to take care of each of their project animals during Fair week. Failure to abide by this rule will result in a \$300 fine. Such exhibitors will not be permitted to show in subsequent Fairs until fine is paid in full. Exceptions to this rule will be considered on an individual basis. At least 14 days prior to the start of the Fair, a written request for exception must be submitted to the Agriculture Superintendent and Fair Superintendent. Prior to the beginning of the Fair, the Agriculture Superintendent will notify the requester and his/her club leader(s) in writing of the decision rendered.



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## Section 3: Livestock Sale Regulations

1. For the privilege of selling a project in the Livestock Sale, the exhibitor must present his/her own project for sale. Exceptions must be presented at least two (2) days prior to sale day to the Auction Committee. (Sporting events/practice will not be considered as situations warranting an exception). In a case of personal injury or emergency situation, an exception may be presented to the Auction Committee prior to beginning of sale. In the case of injury during sale times, arrangements may be made with Auction Committee lead prior to the individual's livestock entering the sale ring.
2. All animal projects must meet sale grades and requirements to be eligible to show in the market classes. Those animals not meeting the sale grades and requirements will be eligible to show in a commercial class.
3. **GRADES & REQUIREMENTS**
  - Beef steers must grade select or better. Weight requirement to be determined by Beef Club.
  - Sheep must grade choice or better. Weight requirement to be determined by Sheep Club.
  - Goats must grade select or better. Weight requirement to be determined by Goat Club.
  - Market hogs must grade US #2 or better with the exception of heritage breed animals as identified by the Swine Club. Weight requirement to be determined by Swine Club.
  - Rabbits must be between 12 and 52 weeks of age.
  - Only livestock that meet these requirements may be sold through the livestock auction.
4. The decision of the graders is final. There will be NO re-grading.
5. All 4-H project animals must show in their respective market class in order to be eligible for the livestock sale.
6. **Selling Fees:** The selling fee shall be based on the total cost of the sale and is not to exceed 5% per animal.
7. **Number of animals to be sold:**
  - Beef, Sheep, Goats, and Swine – Each exhibitor may sell only one animal per species with the exception that the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion must be sold.
  - RABBIT – Each exhibitor may make one sale.
  - POULTRY – Each exhibitor may sell one lot of up to 3 birds. The lot cannot contain more than one male with the exception of meat birds.

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8. Animals going through the sale ring must be sold to the highest bidder if the bid is not under the current market price. The current market price will be determined on the week of the sale based on local prices for the particular type and grade of animals to be sold. To protect the seller, the Auction Committee reserves the right to refuse questionable bids.
9. All animals sold through the sale ring that are designated to go to the Livestock Exchange MUST go to the Exchange, not to a private buyer.
10. Transportation to market will be provided for all animals sold in the Loudoun County Fair Livestock Sale. A transportation fee will be charged to the seller of all private sale animals (those who do not go through the sale ring). All animals are to be shipped by the Auction Committee's approved haulers and only to the Auction Committee's approved processors.
11. The seller will be responsible for their sale animal(s) until the time of shipment. This includes feeding, watering, and proper welfare of the animal(s) until they are loaded onto the designated trailer. Failure to do so could result in a forfeiture of premiums and/or inability to show at the following year's Fair.
12. A check-off fee will be deducted from the sale of beef and swine sold in the Loudoun Livestock Sale.
13. The United States Department of Agriculture Wholesome Meat Act applies to the sale of market livestock sold during the Loudoun County Fair.
14. Animals must be in good health and carcasses free of drug or chemical residues.
15. Animals must have met required withdrawal periods for antibiotics and sulfonamides.
16. Drug label directions for use and withdrawal periods must have been followed.
17. If drug or other chemical residues are found in the blood, the entire carcass may be condemned.
18. If violation levels of drug or other chemical residues are found in the blood of animals sold through the sale or sales connected with the Loudoun County Fair, the Fair will in no way be liable or responsible for conditions of carcass or sale price. Before administering antibiotics and/or sulfonamides, consult a licensed practicing veterinarian, or label directions of the drugs.
19. All market animals entered in the Fair are subject to testing for the presence of illegal or unethical use of drugs, chemicals, and unauthorized feed additives. The Fair's designated veterinarian must do any testing with the owner present.
20. Market animals detected to have levels of drugs in violation will be disqualified and the ranking of other animals in the show will remain unchanged regardless of the test results

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(i.e., Reserve Champion would not be moved to Grand Champion should the Grand Champion be disqualified because of a positive drug test).

21. Exhibitors who violate the rules regarding illegal or unethical use of drugs, chemicals or feed additives will have all of their exhibits at the current Fair disqualified and be prohibited from exhibiting animals at the Loudoun County Fair.
22. Grand and Reserve Champion animals of all the market classes will be tested for drug levels in violation within a timely manner following their respective shows. The Auction Committee will notify the selected slaughterhouse when the animal can be released.
23. In the event of a positive drug test, the sale is void. The seller is responsible for all processing costs of any animal testing positive.
24. To the extent possible, net proceeds from the sale will be distributed to sellers within 30 days of the sale.
25. The Fair Superintendent, in consultation with the Agriculture Superintendent and the Fair Veterinarian, reserves the right to make policy and regulations regarding the housing, showing, and selling of all animals as it relates to the health and welfare of such animals. Due to the unpredictability of illness, disease and the effects on particular animals and breeds, all decisions will be made with the guidance of current and relevant information from reliable and credible sources.
26. Private sale shipping documents must be completed and turned in to the Auction Committee no later than 12PM (noon) on the Saturday following the auction.

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## Section 4: Policy in Reference to Disabled Persons

1. **Handicapped parking:** Handicapped parking shall be available on the fairgrounds in clearly marked spaces, which shall be located as close as practical to the area of activities relative to the function held.
2. **Motorized wheelchairs:** All motorized wheelchairs will be accepted and permitted on the fairgrounds property, except where imminent risk of injury is apparent.
3. **Request for assistance:** Upon request for assistance by a disabled person for access to activities, if reasonably possible, authorized personnel will assist.
4. **Public policy:** The restriction referencing golf carts, ATVs and similar vehicles is placed in our policy due to congestion which occurs in the traffic area of the fairgrounds and is intended for protection of the public and public safety and is not in any manner discriminatory nor intended to be discriminatory against any person suffering physical or mental disabilities.