

General Rules for all FAWE Livestock Projects

2026-2027 Project Year

Eligibility:

Hernando County 4-H and FFA members in good standing will be permitted to participate in FAWE livestock events. Please see specific species rules for age requirements. No FAWE youth may show in another county's terminal show or have entered another county's terminal show and been turned away. Each exhibitor can show up to TWO market animals plus rabbit/poultry.

Any exhibitor that presents any lightweight market project two years in a row will be deemed ineligible for participation in another market project for the period of one year, this includes participation in a club/chapter/family project.

Thank you letters for sales and belt buckles:

For all sales and belt buckles, exhibitors must submit a thank you letter in compliance with the given rules below:

- *Letters MUST be handwritten in pen by the exhibitor. CLOVERBUDs may write in pencil.
- *Place letter in an ADDRESSED, STAMPED, UNSEALED envelope.
- *Buyer/Belt Buckle Sponsor Addresses will be provided on check-out day March 21, 2027.
- *All letters will have a greeting/salutation, body paragraph (age appropriate), & closing
- *Exhibitors must sign each letter.
- *NOTEBOOK paper is not permitted. Notecards are preferred.

REMINDER: Exhibitors will be charged \$50 per letter not received or deemed inappropriate for any buyer, add-on, and/or belt buckle. Youth are encouraged to turn letters in early so they can be reviewed and replaced, if necessary.

CONSENT:

Exhibitors agree and consent to the use of pictures, including but not limited to photographs and video of you and/or your animal in any or all publications, TV, publicity brochure, internet site, or other medium related to FAWE. Should you have privacy issues, please notify a member of the FAWE board in writing.

Any questions or protest concerning compliance with the rules and regulations or the eligibility of an exhibitor or their animal must be submitted in writing to the FAWE Board 24 hours after the discovery of the infraction along with a \$100 fee. The FAWE Board may investigate possible infractions of rules at any time. If your protest is upheld, your fee will be returned. If your protest is unfounded, your fee is forfeited to the FAWE.

In the event of an Emergency (defined below) that results in the FAWE Board of Directors necessarily cancelling any show or sale considered a part of the "Livestock Area Events" (defined below), the Exhibitor agrees to hold the FAWE harmless for any financial or other loss by the exhibitor that occurs because of the inability to exhibit and/or market the animal(s) at the

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FAWE. The preceding statement pertains to the entire period (prior to, during, or after the exhibit days) of the show and/or sale. Financial, or other loss, refers to economic loss due to the inability to market the animal at the FAWE and to loss of premiums and awards due to the inability to exhibit the animal.

“Livestock Area Events” may include the Swine Show and Sale, the Steer Show and Sale, Pullet Show and Sale, Pen of Meat Shows and Sales, Poultry Show, Rabbit Show, Open Beef Show, Open Goat Show, Open Horse Show, and events associated with the aforementioned shows and/or sales.

Emergency refers to any National, State, or Local occurrence or occurrences that results in the cancellation of Livestock Area Events normally taking place during the FAWE. The cancellation may be dictated by National, State, or Local government agencies with the authority to decree such cancellations to protect the safety of patrons and/or participants or quarantines necessary to protect animal and human health. The Board of Directors of the FAWE also reserves the right to cancel any or all Livestock Area Events that, in the Board’s sole discretion, threatens the health and/or safety of the patrons or participant of the event.

Final interpretation and administration of these rules will be vested in Show Management and their decision will be final. Any evidence of fraud coming to the attention of Show Management will be prosecuted to the limit of the law.

The FAWE Board members reserves the right to visit the project animal at the location disclosed as their place of housing with 24-hour notice to exhibitor and parent/guardian. The notice will be in writing to the email address listed on the entry form.

CONDUCT:

An unbecoming conduct on the part of an exhibitor, **or anyone associated with the exhibitor**, will, at the discretion of the FAWE Board, result in disqualification of the exhibitor and require immediate removal of any registered animals and the exhibitor from the FAWE grounds with the loss of awards, premiums, show and/or sale privilege. Exhibitors will not be allowed to stay overnight on the grounds.

Profanity or bullying on show grounds by the exhibitor will result in a \$250 fine and/or disqualification.

Profanity or bullying at any event associated with the FAWE could result in disqualification.

When the barn is closed for shows, ALL EXHIBITORS are banned from possessing electronic devices, examples but not limited to cell phones, tablets or electronic watches in the livestock area. Anyone found in possession of an electronic device may receive up to a \$100 fine and possible disqualification. FAWE Board Members and APPROVED helpers may take pictures only using electronic devices for promotional or recording purposes and must not interfere with the safe progress of the events.

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For safety reasons, exhibitors will only be allowed to wear closed-toed shoes such as boots **(crops do not fall into this category and are prohibited)** around animals, this also applies to the mandatory clean-up day. We highly recommend that anyone assisting the exhibitor also wear closed-toed shoes. The FAWE Board are not liable for injury to anyone assisting the exhibitor. Please wear the proper shoes when assisting with the animals. Once the barn is declared closed, all footwear inside the barn must comply with this safety regulation.

Once the barn is declared closed, NO persons will be allowed in the barn unless they are part of the FAWE board, livestock committee or have been asked and approved by FAWE BOARD (majority of members) to help.

Coaching of exhibitors during any show is strictly prohibited. Any adult found coaching exhibitors during a show will be banned from the barn and the youth exhibitor may, at the discretion of the FAWE Board, be disqualified from the show.

Exhibitors/leaders/helpers/committee/board members will use appropriate gates for entry to and exit from the FAWE grounds. No climbing of gates is permitted. No vehicles will be parked inside the FAWE grounds unless approved by the FAWE Board.

Any trailers used for club/chapter equipment must be dropped off and not attached to a vehicle.

Shows/Showmanship/Sales:

Only the registered exhibitor is permitted to show and/or sell their project. The FAWE Board may vote to allow another exhibitor to sell a project in the event of medical emergency. Each project is limited to two sales during the exhibitor's spot on the roster and will then be moved to the end of the order to continue selling. Buyers will be encouraged to do a donation in lieu of additional sales.

No caps, hats, glitter, or other paraphernalia (other than official awards) will be allowed to decorate an animal.

Official Dress for all shows and sales will be as follows:

4-H: White or Kelly-Green collared shirt, black pants (denim or cloth not faded or ripped, no holes), dark boots, and a 4-H clover for those not wearing green.

FFA: Official dress per the FFA Advisor

No head coverings (other than those for religious or cultural purposes) will be worn by exhibitors in any arena.

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Add-ons/Donations and Payout:

Buyers will need to remove pullets the night of the sale with proof of purchase in the presence of a FAWE Board member or designated volunteer. Exhibitors are encouraged to inform prospective buyers they will need to remove birds the night of the sale after the final lot and before 9:00 pm.

CHECKS will be available to exhibitors **AFTER** payments for pullets, swine, steer, and donations are received. Any donations recorded but not received by that date shall be deducted and the responsibility of the collection shall be with the exhibitor. Six percent (6%) of the *sale price* will be deducted to help defray costs. Swine and Steer exhibitors will also pay the mandated \$1.00 per animal check-off.

IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics

1. All exhibitors must present, upon request of FAWE 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. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by FAWE, or livestock show officials. Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at FAWE or livestock shows.
2. Animals shall be presented to show events where they will enter the food chain free of volatile 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 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 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 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 the FAWE 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.

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3. 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, confirmation, or appearance, except external application 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.
4. 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.
5. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, FAWE 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, FAWE 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.
6. No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or responsible person shall conspire with another person to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or person either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of ethics. Violation of this rule shall subject such individuals to disciplinary action.
7. 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 he or she was instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this code of ethics.
8. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or person responsible to have disciplinary action taken by the FAWE or livestock show for violation of this Code of Show Ring Ethics and any other rules of competition of the FAWE, or livestock show without recourse against the FAWE, or livestock show. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent that any proceedings or disciplinary action taken by the FAWE 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.
9. The act of entering an animal in a fair or livestock show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or 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.

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