



DRUG RESIDUE AVOIDANCE GUIDELINES

JUNIOR MARKET ANIMAL EXHIBITORS, PARENTS AND 4-H EXTENSION AGENTS: The Colorado State Fair would like to review some very important issues. Colorado's agricultural youth programs are committed to encouraging positive youth development through honest and fair practices in regard to junior livestock events. The Colorado State Fair also continues its commitment to maintain the integrity of all youth programs. To that end, the Colorado State Fair will continue testing and screening for a wide-spectrum of chemical/drug residues at the 2021 Colorado State Fair. Strict drug testing and screening will protect the food chain and help maintain the high standards of ethics and integrity that the Colorado State Fair expects from all participants. Drug testing and penalties (including disqualification and forfeiture of awards) for positive drug tests will be **STRICTLY ENFORCED**.

Why is it important to drug test junior livestock projects?

- To protect the safety of the food supply
- To foster fair competition

What is my responsibility as an exhibitor or parent? KNOW THE RULES before you enter any livestock show. The Colorado State Fair rules can be found in the "Market Shows" section of the online premium book.

When you enter the Colorado State Fair Market Animal Shows, you are agreeing to have read and to abide by all the rules in the premium book.

What are the Colorado State Fair Livestock Show residue avoidance rules? In short, the Colorado State Fair maintains a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy which means if positive results are reported, we have an obligation to investigate in order to determine what circumstances led to this result.

- **Zero Tolerance is based on the elimination period, rather than the withdrawal period.** There is a difference between withdrawal and elimination periods. The withdrawal period is the amount of time that must pass for consumed products to safely enter the food chain. The elimination period refers to the amount of time it takes for all residue to be eliminated from an animal's system. For most drugs, the elimination period is longer than the withdrawal period.
- **Unapproved drugs are prohibited.** Unapproved means not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for slaughter animals that may be destined for human consumption. This includes the use of all products that are not FDA approved including, but not limited to any diuretic, unapproved growth stimulant or other unapproved medication meant for human usage.

- Another point to remember is that products labeled “all natural” that are not FDA approved may contain ingredients that can result in a positive test. It is your responsibility to know what ingredients are included in products labeled as “all natural.”

What are the best practices for a show animal that falls sick, ill or injured leading up to the Show?

- **Consult with your veterinarian.** First and foremost, consult your veterinarian. Do not administer any medications before visiting with your veterinarian. As a part of this conversation, make certain that both you and the veterinarian are aware of show rules. Carefully consider the amount of time prior to arrival at the show and assume that the elimination period is longer than the labeled withdrawal period. From there, you, your family and your veterinarian should discuss options before making the best decision.
- **Make an informed and the best decision possible.** The utmost priority should be the animal’s welfare. The welfare of the animal should always take priority over competition. This could result in leaving the animal project at home.
- **Document all treatment records.** If the animal is treated with an approved drug and withdrawal times are observed, maintain official record of treatment from the veterinarian, including date of administration and dosage. That information should be listed on the Quality Assurance form submitted at the time of inspection.

If my livestock project receives a positive test, am I automatically banned for life?

- No, not necessarily. Each case is handled on an individual basis. Exhibitors found in violation are offered an opportunity to explain the details of their case in a formal appeals hearing. Penalties range from withholding premiums to a lifetime ban, depending on the drug that was used and the circumstances surrounding use.

What are common types of drugs that I may be penalized for?

- **Antibacterial Therapeutic Medications** – Used to treat infection, these compounds don’t create a competitive advantage, but can create food safety concerns if not used according to label directions. Many are only FDA approved for particular species, meaning that extensive research has been conducted regarding the proper dosage and type of administration to be efficacious in that species as well as the withdrawal time that is necessary for meat products to be safe for human consumption.
- **Non-Antibiotic Therapeutic Medications** – Inclusive of anti-inflammatories, antipyretics, diuretics and anesthetics, these medications can result in a competitive advantage by altering the physical appearance of the animal and/or concerns with food safety. Some are available over the counter and others can only be legally sourced and administered through prescription by a licensed veterinarian. Many are only FDA approved for a particular species and use in any other species without a prescription by a veterinarian is illegal.

- **Beta-agonists** – Originally developed as bronchodilators in humans, large dosages have a growth promoting effect in animals and result in increased muscle and decreased fat. The only beta-agonist that is currently FDA approved and commercially available for use in livestock production is ractopamine, which is labeled for use in market cattle, market swine and market turkeys with a zero-day withdrawal (i.e. research indicates that meat products are safe for consumption at any time during the feeding period). The use of beta-agonists in species for which they are not FDA approved or commercially available creates concerns with food safety and/or competitive advantage.

The use of all drugs in junior market animals, both unapproved and FDA approved, is governed by the Market Show rules published in the 2021 Colorado State Fair Livestock Premium Book.

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