

**2023 GALVESTON COUNTY FAIR & RODEO, INC.
SUBSTANCE RESIDUE POLICY**

Objective

It is the objective of the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc. (GCF&R) to provide and maintain a safe and healthful environment, to promote fair play, and to protect the reputation of the GCF&R, its exhibitors, volunteers, vendors, employees, and patrons. Consequently, the GCF&R has adopted a Substance Residue Policy in an effort to deter and detect the use of such substances in livestock entered for exhibit in its annual Fair. Further, the GCF&R will make every reasonable effort to comply with the USDA and the Wholesome Meat Act which applies to the sale and slaughter of all market livestock and poultry sold during the GCF&R. This Act specifically states, but is not limited to, the following:

- A. Animals must be in good health and carcasses free of drug, chemical and foreign substances.
- B. Antibiotics and sulfonamides have required withdrawal periods.
- C. Label directions for the use of drugs and related withdrawal periods must be followed.

Definitions

Unapproved Substance, as referred to in this policy, shall be defined as any drug, chemical, or other substance which is not approved by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) and/or the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) for use in slaughter animals.

Random Testing is the testing process in which selection for testing is made by a method employing objectives, neutral criteria which ensures that every animal subject to testing has a substantially equal statistical chance of being selected. This method does not permit subjective factors to play a role in selection thus resulting in no animal being selected as the result of discrimination.

Sample shall mean blood, urine, or other appropriate body samples as may be necessary for any specific test.

Specific Policy

1. No animal entered in the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo shall have had administered to it nor contain any residues of any Unapproved Substance. Likewise, no animal shall be allowed to be within any withdrawal time relative to the administration of any approved drug or chemical substance at the time of check-in, unless administered by a licensed veterinarian in the event of injury or illness. In such case refer to Rule #7.
2. By entering the Galveston County Fair, the Exhibitor, his/her parents/guardian, Vo-Ag instructor, CEA or other supervising authority expressly agrees to abide by the policies and restrictions as set forth herein or in specific livestock division rules. In the event of conflict, rules and/or policies set forth in this Section shall control.
3. It is the sole responsibility of the Exhibitor to insure that his/her animal is free of the referenced drugs and substances. Extent of knowledge on the part of the Exhibitor with regard to the drugs or substance found in any animal presented for show is in no way relevant. **Specifically, it will not be a defense that any unknown person or persons introduced the unapproved drug or substance into the animal. Likewise it will not be a defense that the Exhibitor was unaware that any drug or substance is unapproved.**
4. Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc. may choose at random from the Show order, or as may be set out in each Livestock Division rules, to take blood, and/or urine, and/or other appropriate body samples from any animal for the purpose of determining whether residues of any Substance or Unapproved Drug are present in the body of the tested animal. **Samples shall always be taken from the Grand and Reserve Champion of each division of steers, lambs, goats and pigs. The Exhibitor agrees that he/she will cooperate with the person or persons charged with the responsibility of collecting samples. Failure to cooperate in any way with the testing procedure as described herein, or in any way making it unreasonably difficult for samples to be collected, will indicate a voluntary withdrawal of the animal from competition by the Exhibitor.**

5. All samples shall be collected and maintained for testing by or under the supervision of an independent party or firm not associated with either the GCF&R or the Exhibitor. This party or Firm shall be properly qualified to perform the collection as required by this policy. All reasonable care shall be taken to maintain the quality and identity of each sample and will be tested by an approved laboratory.
6. Should any sample prove to contain a prohibited substance, that animal will immediately be disqualified and penalties as set forth herein shall be enforced. The Board is required by State and Federal regulations to report Substance abuse to the FDA, USDA, and the Texas Department of Health for possible further investigation. The Exhibitor may appeal in writing, within twenty-four (24) hours to the Livestock Superintendent and the Executive Committee of the GCF&R. Such appeal must be accompanied by an Official Protest Form, together with the fee required by that form in cash. The Protestor shall be responsible for any and all expenses to cover any laboratory analysis which may be required by the Official Protest. Failure to file such appeal within twenty-four (24) hours after Exhibitor's notification of disqualification will finalize such disqualification. Should written appeal be filed, the appeal will be reviewed by the Executive Committee with all possible speed. The decision of the Executive Committee will be final and without recourse.
7. Should it be deemed necessary to administer an approved medication for reason of illness or injury to any animal that will place the date of check-in and exhibit within any withdrawal period, that medication must be administered by a licensed veterinarian. The veterinarian ***must*** provide a letter stating the date of administration of medication, the medication used, the condition being treated, and the exact date that withdrawal time is ended. This letter must be presented at check-in. Should that withdrawal time extend beyond the official closing of the Fair, the Exhibitor shall be responsible for the care, housing, and feeding of that animal until the withdrawal period has ended. Further, if applicable, the Exhibitor shall be responsible for transport of the animal to any designated locker plant.
8. Should any animal be disqualified as a result of violation of any of the rules or policies as set forth herein, or in any specific livestock division rules, or if the animal is voluntarily withdrawn from competition as a result of failure to cooperate with testing procedures, the Exhibitor shall not be eligible for competition in any show of the GCF&R in the year immediately following his/her disqualification. Disqualification as described herein will not affect the order of finish of any other animals in the competition. Should Auction or Commitment money be involved, the purchaser of the disqualified animal shall have the option to donate the money to the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo, Inc., for general or specific use, or upon request, receive a total refund.

Fair officials reserve the right to change the rules, dates, times, and places due to unforeseen circumstances.

