



# South Dakota 4-H Livestock Integrity Pledge

This pledge is a required component of SD4-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.

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## 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.
    - i. 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.
  - a. As a result, I will:
    - i. Provide adequate and regular food and water, timely and veterinarian-approved medical care, and appropriate shelter and/or fencing.
    - ii. 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.
    - iii. Use a timely and responsible harvest plan.
  - b. 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 take an active role in grooming/fitting all of my exhibits in preparation for the exhibition. I will only enter the number of exhibits that allow me to take this active role in grooming/fitting each animal.
2. 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.
3. Other than developing my skills and preparing my exhibits, I will not unfairly influence the outcome of the exhibition.
  - a. Specifically, I will not:
    - i. Taunt, harass, or harm another exhibitor or event personnel.
    - ii. Touch another exhibitor’s animal without permission unless in an emergency.
    - iii. Contact the show judge prior to the show or during a break in the show.
    - iv. Artificially alter the weight of my animal or intentionally declare a false weight.
    - v. Inject air or other foreign materials into my animal.
    - vi. Perform any other prohibited act listed in the National Show Ring Code of Ethics.
4. 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.
5. I will wear appropriate attire in the ring and will not use my attire or brand to influence a judge.
6. Though I may become emotional in the moment, overall I will celebrate my victories with humility and losses with grace.

\*Learn more about co-opetition via the SD4-H Information Sheet entitled *Competing the 4-H Way*

**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 agreement collected prior to Achievement Days/County Fair.*
- *State-level: Annual electronic acknowledgment during FairEntry enrollment for 4-H State Fair.*

*Form last updated: April 1, 2022*

