



Yuma County Junior Livestock Committee LEADER/ADVISOR CODE OF CONDUCT 2026-2027

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY – ONE STRIKE AND YOU ARE OUT

The Yuma County Junior Livestock Committee (JLC) enforces a strict zero-tolerance policy regarding all rules and expectations outlined within this Code of Conduct. Any violation, regardless of severity or intent, may result in immediate removal from the premises, disqualification from all events and activities, forfeiture of awards, premiums, and sale proceeds, and loss of eligibility for future participation in any Yuma County Junior Livestock Committee programs. No warnings are required, and enforcement actions may be taken at the sole discretion of the JLC. As a participant, parent/guardian, leader, or volunteer involved in the Yuma County Junior Livestock Committee Livestock Program, you are representing not only yourself, but also your family, your organization, and the integrity of the livestock program. Your actions, both in person and through any form of communication, including digital and social media, reflect directly on the values and reputation of this program. With these responsibilities, all individuals are expected to always conduct themselves in a manner that promotes honesty, integrity, respect, and good sportsmanship. Participants are expected to follow all rules, support a fair and ethical competitive environment, and contribute to a safe and respectful atmosphere for all exhibitors, families, volunteers, and staff. All participants must fully adhere to the following Code of Conduct as a condition of participation. Failure to comply with any portion of these rules may result in disciplinary action under the Zero Tolerance Policy. Any individual who refuses to sign or acknowledge this Code of Conduct will not be permitted to exhibit, participate, or be present in livestock areas at any time during the event.

I/We Pledge To:

1. Promote the values, objectives, rules, and regulations of all applicable guidelines, as well as all Yuma County Junior Livestock Committee exhibitor and auction rules, by acting as ambassadors and always representing the program in a positive manner.
2. Treat all individuals and property with respect, courtesy, and consideration. Refrain from insults, name-calling, rumor spreading, or any verbal or non-verbal behavior that may harm others or set a negative example.
3. Practice fairness and open-mindedness by respecting differing opinions and engaging in constructive, respectful discussions.
4. Uphold equality and respect for the rights, dignity, and worth of all individuals involved in the program, regardless of gender, race, marital status, color, disability, sexual orientation, age, occupation, religion, or political beliefs.
5. Make decisions fairly and treat all individuals and families with impartiality and respect.
6. Refrain from inappropriate criticism or interference with judges, show management, exhibitors, directors, staff, or volunteers before, during, or after any event or auction.
7. Treat all judges, livestock show officials, management, staff, and volunteers with courtesy, cooperation, and respect.
8. Avoid any abusive, threatening, or inappropriate conduct toward any official, staff member, volunteer, or participant, whether in person or through digital or social media platforms.
9. Always use appropriate and respectful language. Profanity, abusive language, or inappropriate gestures are strictly prohibited within livestock areas and event grounds.
10. Act as a positive role model by promoting a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for all participants.
11. Demonstrate care, consideration, and respect for others always.
12. I know that harassment of any kind is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated at any Yuma County Junior Livestock Committee event.
13. Exhibit good sportsmanship in all activities and competitions.
14. Use technology, including cameras and social media, responsibly and in a manner that reflects positively on the program.
15. Accept responsibility for personal actions and comply with all established rules and regulations.

16. Recognize that disagreements may occur but must be handled through proper channels and appropriate processes.
17. Barn Hours Compliance: All participants shall comply with established barn access hours. Livestock barns are closed daily from 11:00 PM to 6:00 AM. No entry is permitted during these hours without prior authorization from the Yuma County Junior Livestock Committee for emergencies or approved animal care purposes.
18. Exhibitors are expected to handle all aspects of their animal's daily care and show preparation; this includes physical handling, fitting, grooming, clipping, drenching and general maintenance. Outside assistance must not replace the exhibitor's primary role and is limited to the following:
 - Exhibitor Assistance Policy: Assistance is permitted among actively enrolled Yuma County FFA and 4-H exhibitors. The primary exhibitor must be physically present and actively engaged in the hands-on care, preparation or handling of their project at all times during collaborative work.
 - Parents and Legal Guardians Assistance Policy: Assistance from parents/legal guardians is strictly limited to verbal guidance and logistical support, such as holding equipment, feed or grooming supplies. Under no circumstances may a parent/legal guardian physically handle, fit, groom, clip or drench the exhibitor's animal – except as permitted under General Rule #15.
 - Non-exhibitor Assistance Policy: All non-exhibitors – including 4-H leaders, FFA advisors, fitters, trainers and jockeys are restricted strictly to verbal guidance, advice, and instruction. Non-exhibitors are strictly prohibited from physical involvement, including grooming, fitting, clipping, handling, drenching or adjusting the animal in any way. Additionally, non-exhibitors may not operate, handle or adjust any tools, equipment, feed or supplies associated with the care and preparation of the animal.
 - Safety Exception: The Junior Livestock Committee holds sole authority to grant safety exceptions for dangerous animal behavior. Aside from JLC members, any physical assistance or handling permitted under this exception may only be provided by Parents/Legal Guardians, 4-H Leaders or FFA Advisors.
 - Physical Limitation Exception: Only the Junior Livestock Committee has the authority to grant rule exceptions for exhibitors with documented physical limitations. Approved assistance must be strictly limited to the minimum support required and can only be provided by active Yuma County 4-H/FFA exhibitors, parents/legal guardians, 4-H leaders or FFA advisors.

Prohibited Conduct and Penalties: Any physical assistance from a non-exhibitor constitutes a direct rules violation. Violators will be immediately removed from the fairgrounds for the remainder of the current Fair and will receive a permanent ban from all future Yuma County Junior Livestock Committee events and activities.

19. The use of jockeys or outside fitters is strictly prohibited. Leaders or any individuals acting in the capacity of a jockey or fitter on behalf of an exhibitor are not allowed. Any individual found assisting, fitting, showing, or handling an animal in place of or beyond the exhibitor's allowable assistance will violate this rule. Any person or family found in violation shall be immediately removed from the fairgrounds for the remainder of the fair and will be permanently banned from all future Yuma County Junior Livestock Committee events and activities.
20. All participants, including exhibitors, parents, guardians, leaders, advisors, and volunteers, are expected to conduct themselves appropriately on all social media platforms before, during, and after the event. The posting, sharing, or distributing of any content that is negative, defamatory, threatening, harassing, misleading, or intended to damage the reputation of the Yuma County Junior Livestock Committee, its events, exhibitors, officials, sponsors, or participants is strictly prohibited. Content posted during or after the event that violates this policy may still be subject to enforcement and penalties, regardless of when it is discovered. All determinations made by the Yuma County Junior Livestock Committee regarding violations of this policy are final and not subject to appeal.
21. All exhibitors must comply with the USDA Wholesome Meat Act and the Wholesome Assurance Statement as published below. Health Regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture require that animals treated with drugs, pesticides, or any other chemical must go through the prescribed withdrawal period as listed on the label. Therefore, it is important that exhibitors determine the type of treatment used if the animals must be dipped or treated prior to leaving the point of origin. USDA WHOLESOME MEAT ACT - The United States Department of Agriculture Wholesome Meat Act applies to the sale of market livestock sold during the Yuma County Fair as follows:
 - A. Animals must be in good health, and carcasses must be free of drug or chemical residues.

- B. Antibiotics and sulfonamides have required withdrawal periods.
- C. Before administering antibiotics and/or sulfonamides, consult a licensed practicing veterinarian or the label directions of the drug.
- D. Drug label directions for use and withdrawal periods must be followed.
- E. If drug or other chemical residues are found in the tissue of carcasses, the entire carcass may be condemned. If drug or other chemical residues are found in the urine, blood, or tissue from an animal sold through a sale connected with the Yuma County Fair, the JLC or the Fair will in no way be liable or responsible for the condition of the carcass or sale price of the animal. Exhibitor will forfeit all rights to the sale proceeds.

WHOLESOME ASSURANCE STATEMENT - The use of animal drugs or other substances by non-veterinarians in any manner other than in accordance with the labeling approved by the FDA is a violation of federal law. Food animals must not exceed FDA/EPA/USDA established tolerances for any foreign substance, including drugs, pesticides, feed additives, or other chemicals. Violation results of residue testing are subject to investigation by the USDA and the FDA for prosecution. Any misrepresentation of a food animal that can potentially affect the acceptability of the carcass or milk will be considered fraud. * Note: Abuse of the extra-label privilege by veterinarians is unethical and is subject to serious consequences such as license revocation. (PLEASE CONSULT YOUR PROJECT LEADER IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND ANY OF THESE STATEMENTS.)

Assumption of Risk, Release of Liability and Agreement Not to Sue

I, the undersigned, hereby expressly agree:

- That exhibiting animals is a physical, strenuous, and potentially dangerous activity, as animals are unpredictable, and I am fully aware of the risks and hazards in or arising from my presence around animals and my presence upon the fair premises. I hereby assume any and all risks involved in or arising from my use of or presence upon the facility, including, without limitation, the risks of bodily injury, including death, resulting from exhibiting animals, physical contact between myself and animals, or another person or a stationary object, or the negligent or deliberate act of another person or an animal.
- That large livestock shall remain in the care, custody, and control of the exhibitor. The exhibitor shall indemnify and hold harmless Yuma County Jr. Livestock Committee and all of its successors, assigns, affiliates, officers, directors, employees, and agents, and, Fair Executives, their directors, officers, employees, agents, and representatives for any injury, property damage and any real, incidental, or consequential damages resulting from the large livestock or caused by the large livestock. Exhibitor agrees to defend any claim brought against the JLC as a result of the large livestock.
- This release shall be binding upon my heirs, administrators, executors, assigns, and legal representatives.
- To waive the protection afforded by any statute or law in any jurisdiction whose purpose, substance, and/or effect is to provide that a general release shall not extend to claims, material or otherwise, which the person giving the release does not know or suspect to exist at the time of executing the release.
- If I ignore this agreement and bring a claim, I will be held responsible for all attorney fees and costs incurred by JLC and the above-named.
- I have read and understand this agreement. I understand that by making and signing this agreement, I surrender valuable rights, including but not limited to my right to sue.

Media Release

I, hereby grant permission to the Yuma County Junior Livestock Committee (JLC), and its officers, members, representatives, and successors, to take and use photographs, digital images, videos, and/or audio clips of my child for use in news releases and/or educational materials as follows: printed publications or materials, electronic publications, or Web sites. I agree that my child's name and identity may be revealed in descriptive text or commentary in connection with the image(s). I authorize the use of these images without compensation to my child or me. I waive all rights of copyright or ownership in or to the resulting educational/informational materials, photographs, and recordings which relate to my child and shall be the property of the JLC. I agree to hold the JLC free and harmless and release the JLC from any and all claims arising out of the use and/or results from my child's appearance and/or statements in such photographs, video, and/or audio recordings.