

Ethics and 4-H Livestock Projects



Ethics and 4-H Livestock Projects



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4-H Livestock Projects



What is their purpose?

***Junior Livestock Projects
Are Educational.***

***“They are the greatest
teaching project known to
man.”***

Dr. O’Dell G Daniel

4-H Livestock Projects:

- Teach young people how to feed, fit and show their animals.
- Provide an opportunity for personal growth and development of the young person.



4-H Livestock Projects

- Provide opportunities for young people to develop character!



Exercising Character



- People develop and strengthen character by practicing certain behaviors just as muscles are built through exercise.

Trustworthiness

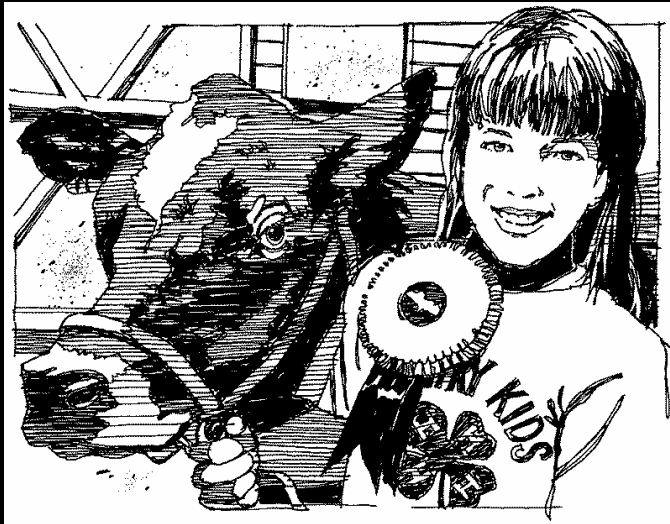
- Includes honesty, promise keeping and loyalty
- Comes from adhering to possession deadlines
- Comes from adhering to entry and arrival deadlines
- Comes from adhering to withdrawal times on drugs and dewormers



Livestock exhibitors demonstrate trustworthiness when they:

- Refuse to use dishonest practices to alter an animal's appearance, size, weight or behavior
- Do as much of the fitting of the animal as they are capable of, by themselves.
- Accept full responsibility for the care and feeding of their animals.
- Remain loyal to their animals by providing proper care as long as they possess them.

Respect



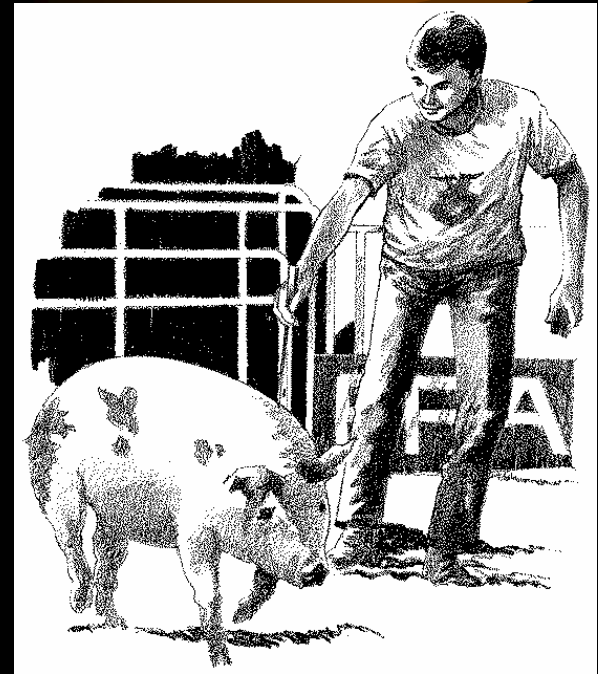
- Includes courtesy and the proper treatment of people and things
- Comes from treating animals humanely
- Comes from following the advice of parents and leaders
- Comes from being a gracious winner or loser

Respectful exhibitors will:

- Treat others with consideration, be courteous and polite, and show appreciation to adults and fellow exhibitors.
- Value and honor others and help others value themselves.
- Be tolerant, respectful and accepting of those who show a different breed or species of livestock.
- Refuse to use threats, violence or expressions of anger to get what they want.

Responsibility

- A top feeder hears and obeys their own alarm clock.
- They recognize that their animal is dependent on them.
- They take responsibility for the general health and well being of their animals.



A responsible exhibitor will:

- Develop knowledge, skills and judgment about the desired characteristics of the animal he/she is showing and know how to prepare the animal for a show.
- Be truthful and honest when helping fellow exhibitors select animals.
- Feed only approved livestock rations.
- Use only approved drugs and medications.

A responsible exhibitor will:

- Keep their animal calm and handle it in a manner that doesn't interfere with other exhibitors and their animals.
- Be a positive role model for peers and younger exhibitors.
- Refuse to give up or quit in the show ring.
- Write thank-you notes and letters of appreciation to buyers and others who have helped make their project a success.

Responsibility



- In a recent survey of 4-H livestock exhibitors, 44% indicated they had used the responsibility skills they learned from raising 4-H animal projects to complete homework assignments and school projects on time.

Responsibility



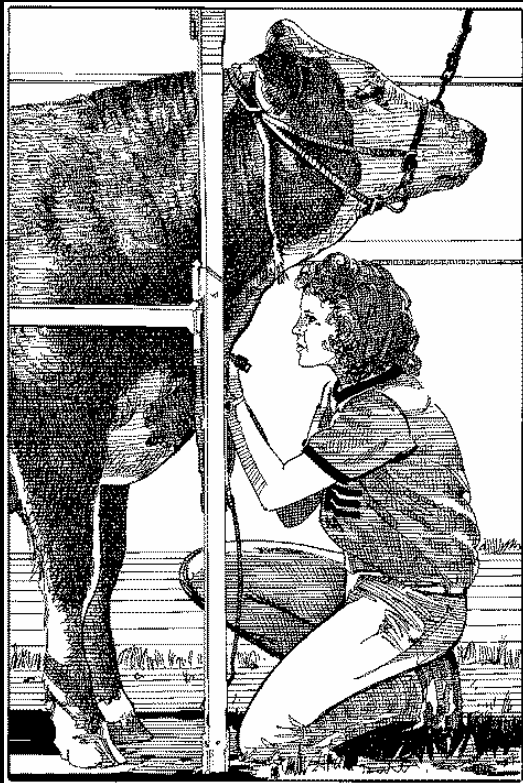
- “Success in school can only be achieved through making the same kinds of sacrifices and putting forth the same kind of effort that is required in 4-H.”
- “I use the responsibility learned from my livestock projects everyday. At school, it has helped me to get my homework completed on time. At home, I do the jobs that need to be done completely and thoroughly.”

Responsibility



- “From showing and raising livestock, I have gained much responsibility. Being taught at a young age the importance of caring for livestock, I am now more responsible in other tasks, as well. At home and at my job, I am able to see what needs to be done and do those chores without being asked by my parents or employer.”

Fairness



- 4-H members learn to feed and groom animals in an ethical manner by following recommended practices and procedures.
- 4-H members learn that judging animals is subjective and not an exact science.
- 4-H members learn that winning is even more fun when they play by the rules and compete fairly.

An exhibitor will show fairness by:



- Listening to others and trying to understand what they are saying and feeling.
- Making fair decisions, using the same rules for everyone.
- Admitting mistakes and correcting them promptly.
- Adhering to schedules when there is a time allotted to use certain resources and equipment.

Fairness



- “You must compete fairly to have a good show.” “You have to follow the rules, whether it’s the 4-H rule book, the speed limit, or the legal voting age. This can be learned and experienced in a healthy way by being involved in a 4-H livestock project.”

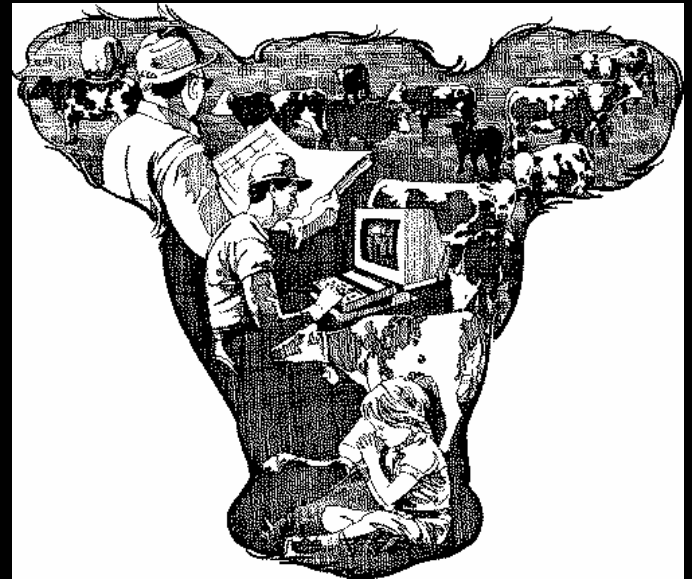
Fairness



- ‘I am a role model for younger 4-H members who will learn things from me, as well as from others. As they learn, honesty and fair play will help them when they get older and it will help maintain the great reputation the 4-H program has always had.’

Caring

- Livestock feeders learn to care about the well being of their animals, and they develop a deeper appreciation for life.
- Some livestock feeders also take care to help train younger members.



Caring exhibitors:

- Treat animals humanely at all times.
- Show compassion and kindness to all people.
- Share resources and equipment with other exhibitors.
- Encourage exhibitors who seem to be struggling and offer to help them.
- Understand and forgive the shortcomings of others.

Caring



- “Taking care of an animal is a huge responsibility. I have a little brother who needs about the same care as an animal.”
- “When I am on my own and have a family, I will have the same type of responsibilities that I have had with my 4-H animals. The livestock projects have helped prepare me for that time.”

Citizenship



- Includes making the home, community and country a better place to live for themselves and others.
- Livestock members learn to help others at stock shows and at home.
- They are also concerned about raising animals that are safe for human consumption.

To show good citizenship, exhibitors will:

- Know and fulfill their responsibilities.
- Know and obey all the rules, regulations and laws.
- Keep the show facilities clean and free of litter.
- Volunteer to help other exhibitors.
- Be team players and strengthen the organization by modeling ethical behavior.

Junior Livestock Projects

Teach:



- **Decision Making**

Making decisions is tough whether it's choosing what to wear or picking a prospect pig. When decision making starts with youngsters, it becomes less painful as they become adults. Things don't "just happen" - somebody has to make a decision to "make them happen". By using the 6 Pillars of Character Counts, it will help guide your decisions.

Decision Making



- “Raising animals enables youth to practice decision making. At the end of the summer, some of the youth are rewarded for making good decisions, just like they may be rewarded for making good decisions in life.”

Livestock Projects Teach:



- **Young people to plan**

For every winner in a livestock show, there's a good plan - which animal to buy, when to buy, what to feed, how much to feed, etc. Most successful people in life have been good planners. Good livestock feeders will also become good planners.

Young People Feed Livestock for Different Reasons

- **For money**
- **For their parents**
- **For fun**



Those Who Feed Livestock For Fun:

- **Get up by themselves**
- **Do their own work**
- **Never yell “fowl play” about the judge**
- **Make every day a little brighter for those around them**
- **Are successful in life**

***Junior Livestock Projects
Are Family Projects***

**At least the ones that are
successful!**

“Competition is Great”



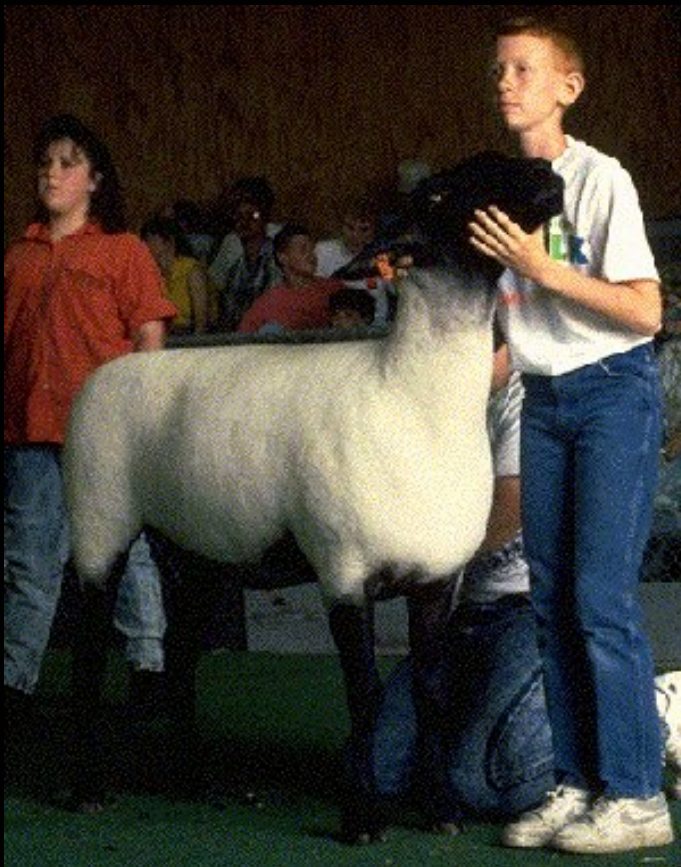
As long as parents and adult leaders keep their own competitive desires in check and set the right example for the youth.

Youth Livestock Shows

- Everybody's talking about the negatives, why don't we hear more about the positive aspects of youth livestock programs?



“Doing the Right Thing”



- The vast majority of individuals involved in youth livestock shows are doing the right thing; however, we cannot let the unethical few ruin the program for the rest of us!

“Doing the Right Thing”

- If we choose to “look the other way”, the unethical few will have free run of the place by default.



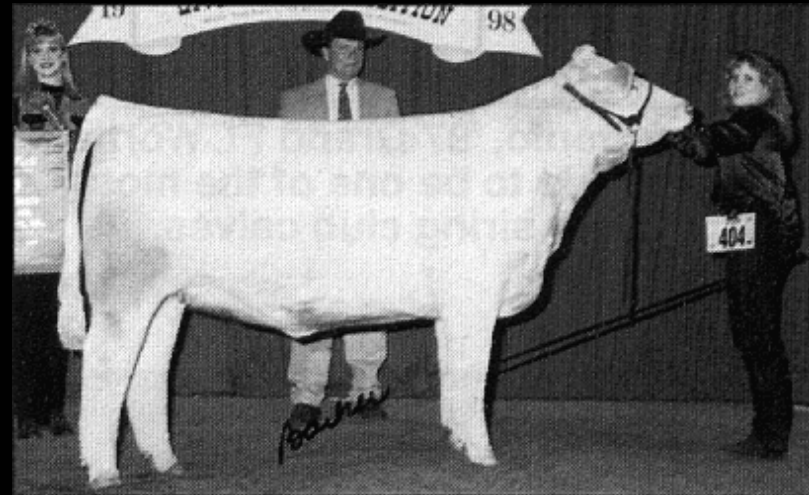
“Doing the Right Thing”



- When an individual or organization takes the initiative to insure that their programs are honest and ethical, they will be in a much stronger position in the eyes of the general public and the media!

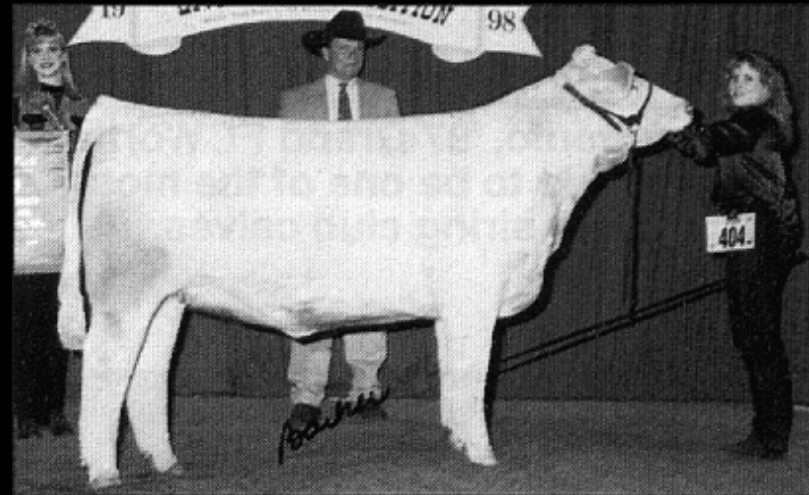
“Doing the Right Thing”

- When nearly 1% of the food animals produced in the U.S. come from youth livestock shows, it is a large enough number for the public to become alarmed ...



“Doing the Right Thing”

- ... and a small enough number for commercial agriculture to disown us, should the youth livestock program become a food safety or quality assurance risk.



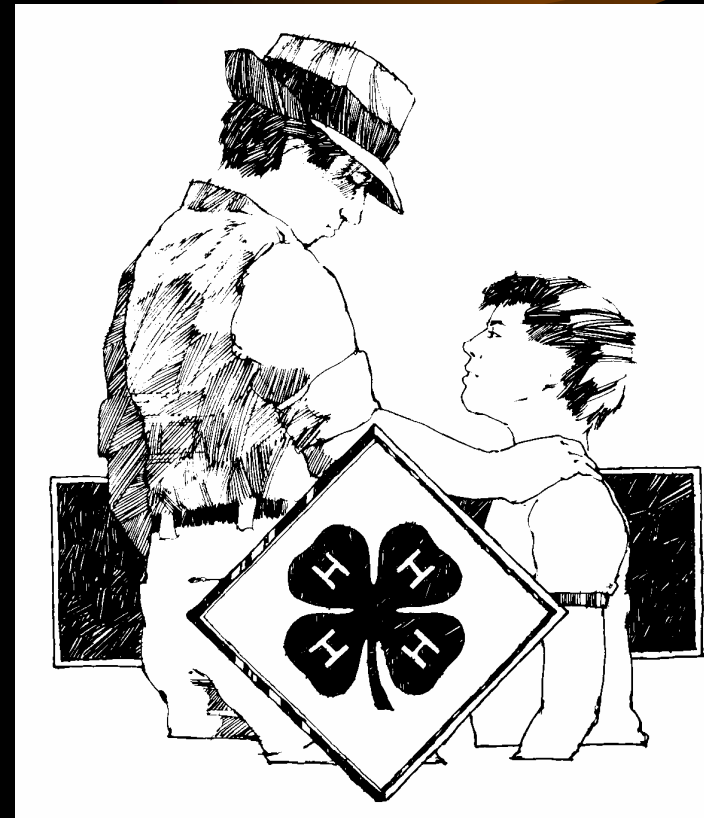
“Doing the Right Thing”



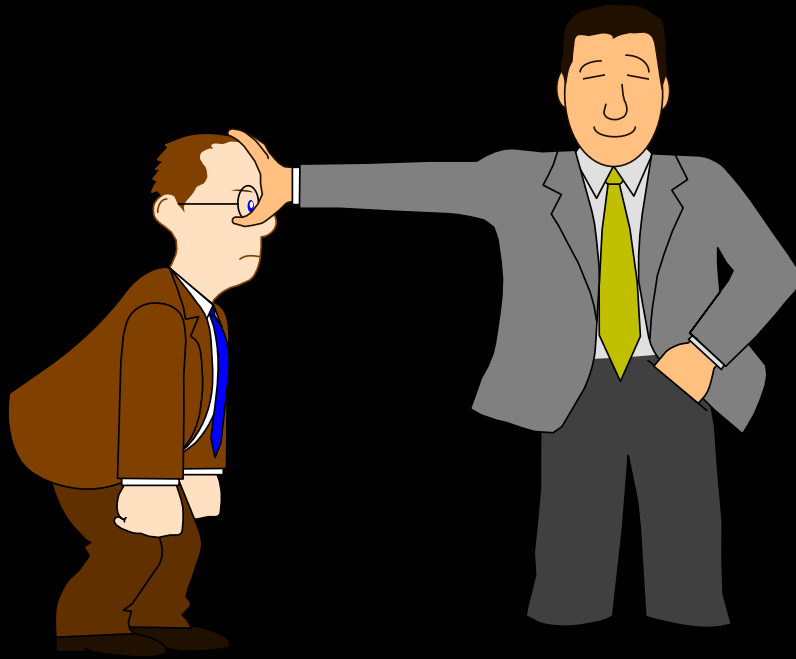
- If things need “fixing”, we are better off “fixing” them ourselves instead of allowing someone else to do it for us. We probably won’t like the outcome of outside regulation.

“Doing the Right Thing”

- The most important reason to address the issue of livestock show ethics, is for what we are teaching our children!



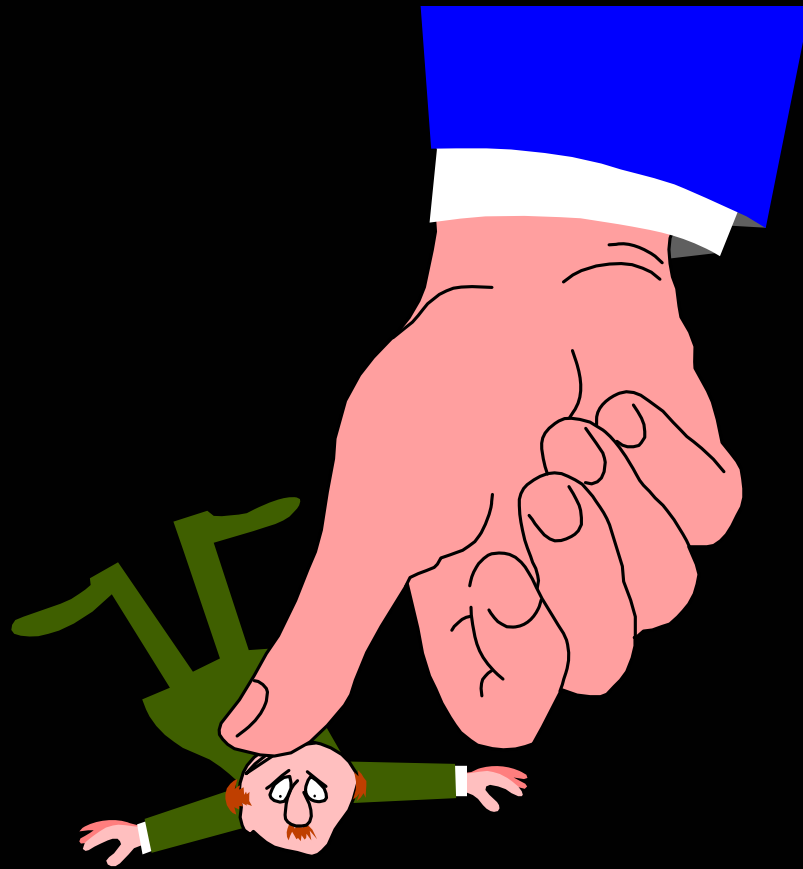
“Doing the Right Thing”



If the youth livestock program blindly condones or teaches:

- Violation of FDA law
- Fraudulent misrepresentation of livestock
- Or the compromise of animal welfare

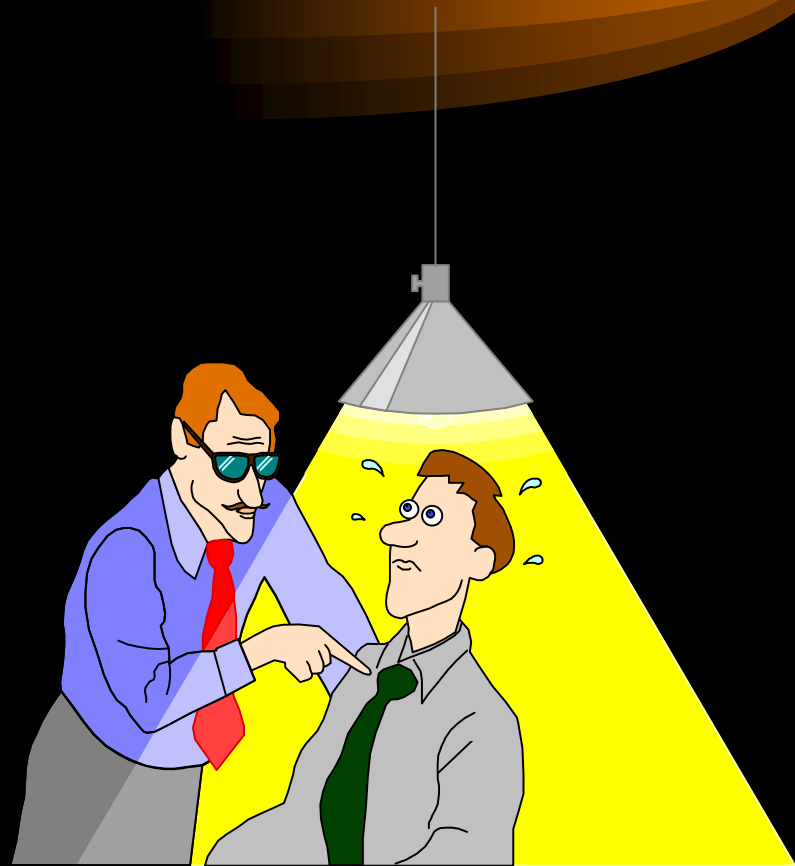
“Doing the Right Thing”



- we deserve to have the program taken away!

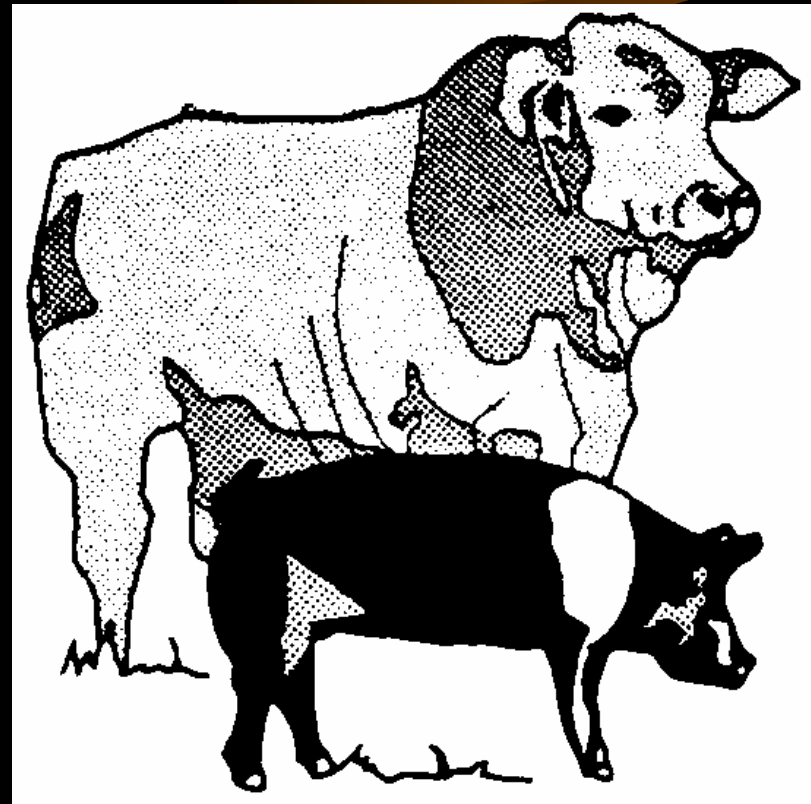
“Doing the Right Thing”

- If 4-H and FFA members, parents, and leaders are allowed to lie, cheat and steal through the youth livestock projects; then the program will not fulfill its mission of youth development!



Links in the Food Safety Chain

- Proper injection sites
- Proper nutrition
- Reading and following drug labels
- Proper handling and care of livestock
- Proper facilities



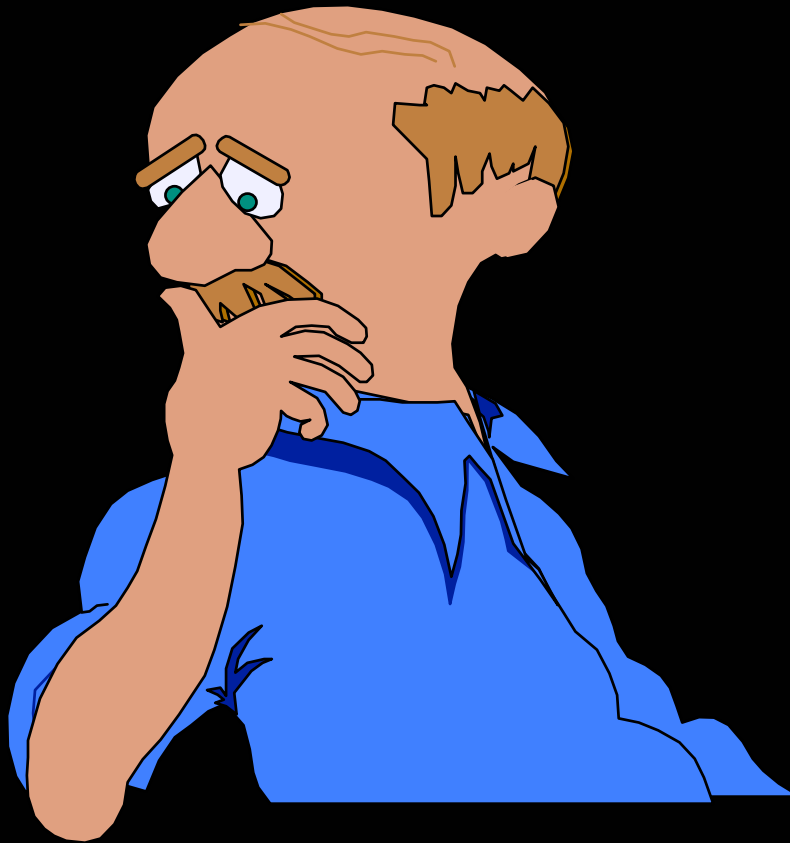
Making the “right choices”

- Does the practice violate FDA law?

Like using a substance not approved for “food animal” use (certain diuretics, tranquilizers, anti-inflammatory agents, and feed additives).



Making the “right choices”



- Is it a fraudulent misrepresentation of the animal?

For example: false ownership, falsified birth or ownership dates, and surgical altering of the animal.

Making the “Right Choices”

- Does the practice harm the animal?

For example: severe feed and water restriction, “pumping” to add weight, and “short cut” training techniques.



Making the “Right Choices”

- Is the practice in opposition to real world agriculture?

For example: holding animals well past market readiness, surgical procedures



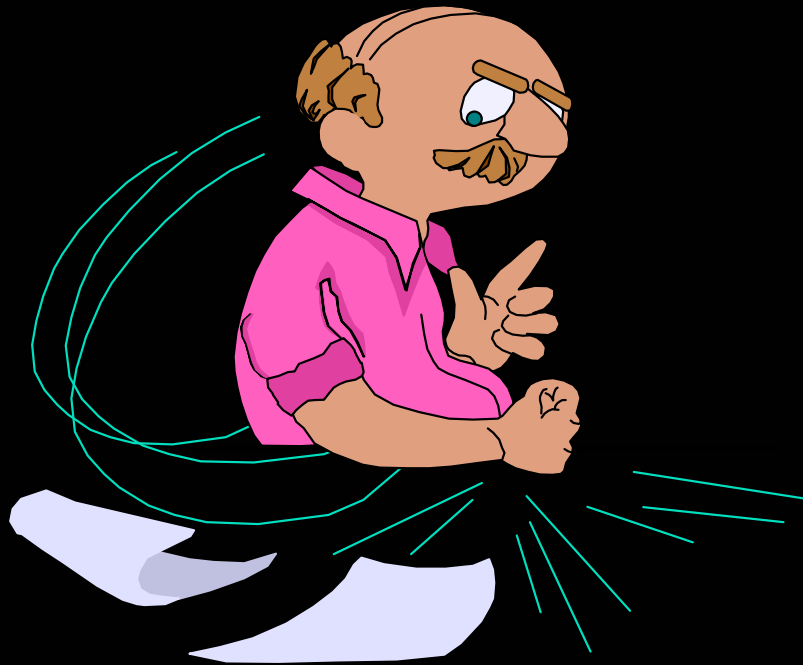
Making the “Right Choices”

- Will it harm the tradition and/or future of livestock shows?

For example: is the “win at all costs” philosophy taking over the decisions made? Are negative actions of participants newsworthy? I.e., failed drug tests, animal abuse, etc.



Making the “Right Choices”



If the answer to any of these questions is “yes”, the practice is unacceptable!

