

Resolution regarding exhibitor/participant and spectator conduct at 4-H events in Edgar County

University of Illinois Extension in Edgar County strives to provide all 4-H members with an atmosphere that promotes a high-quality educational experience as well as honesty, integrity and good sportsmanship. With University of Illinois Extension's educational mission in mind, we, the Edgar County Extension Unit Council, enact the following policy regarding adult and youth conduct at all 4-H events in Edgar County, effective immediately:

- Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair or livestock show management, exhibitors, Extension staff or show officials – before, during or after any event sponsored by 4-H – is prohibited.
- In furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock show management, Extension staff, volunteers and show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect at all times, and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct – including abusive or threatening language – toward them.
- Any judging-related disputes or other issues will be handled in a sportsmanlike manner, and in accordance with the grievance procedures outlined in the Edgar County 4-H Handbook.
- If a spectator or participant becomes abusive or interferes with the conduct of a particular show or event, that spectator or participant will be given a verbal warning by the show superintendent or person in charge of the event. If abusive behavior or interference continues, or if the individual is involved in a second incident at the same event, the spectator or exhibitor will be escorted from the show grounds or other facility and barred from attending or participating in any public 4-H event held in Edgar County for a period of 13 months from the date of the incident.
- Extension staff shall be notified immediately of any verbal warnings that are given or spectators/exhibitors who are removed from the premises. If at all possible, at least one Extension staff member shall be asked to serve as a witness when a verbal warning is issued or a person is escorted from the premises. All such incidents should be documented in writing, and the documentation will be retained by the Extension office.
- Spectators or participants who receive a verbal warning for abusive behavior or interference at a 4-H event will be expected to conduct themselves in a cordial and sportsmanlike manner at all subsequent 4-H events. Any spectator or participant who receives another verbal warning within six months of the first verbal warning will be escorted from the premises and barred from attending or participating in any public 4-H event held in Edgar County for a period of 13 months from the second verbal warning.

- Show/event management shall have the authority to eject spectators or participants whose behavior they deem disruptive or unsportsmanlike, and who have been issued a verbal warning.
- Any 4-H exhibitor who is disqualified from competition due to unacceptable behavior will forfeit premiums, awards and/or auction proceeds resulting from their participation in the competition.

Adopted from the International Association of Fairs and Expositions Code of Show Ring Ethics