



REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT Ohio Livestock Exhibitions: OAC 901-19-07 – Quality Assurance

The rule in this package has been reviewed pursuant to Chapter 119 of the Revised Code and is being proposed as follows. **The comment period will remain open through September 8, 2017.** Comments may be emailed to ecomments@agri.ohio.gov or mailed to Legal Section, Ohio Department of Agriculture, 8995 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

The rules in Chapter 901-19 of the Ohio Administrative Code outline the regulations for the exhibition of livestock in the state of Ohio. Exhibition of livestock generally occurs at a livestock show held at the Ohio state fair or a fair under the control of a county or independent agricultural society. The rules in this chapter set forth the governance and administration of these exhibitions and standards related to food safety and the health, safety, and welfare of livestock including grooming, commercial, or medical practices that are generally accepted in the community. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 901.72, the rules adopted under which apply to exhibition-related food safety and the health, safety, and welfare of livestock shall apply to every exhibition. However, exhibitions may choose to adopt rules which do not apply to those issues. The rules as drafted indicate which rules are mandatory and which rules are optional for adoption by the exhibition.

OAC 901-19-07 requires that all exhibition sponsors require exhibitors to attend or complete a quality assurance program or pass an exam which indicates that the exhibitor has the requisite knowledge presented in the quality assurance program. The quality assurance program is a comprehensive educational program which focuses on the proper care and welfare of food animals. The majority of animals entered into livestock exhibitions are eventually sold and placed in food supply. Due to this eventual entry into the stream of commerce, the knowledge of food safety, nutrition, management, handling, and the environment are critical to the success of producing a safe and wholesome product. Therefore, it is essential that all exhibitors be required to participate in the quality assurance program.

The rule has been proposed to be amended to update the Appendix A to this rule. The Appendix is titled Food Animal Youth Quality Assurance Minimum Standards. The Appendix has been amended to clarify the Age & Participation portion of the document; clarifying that individuals that are 19 years of age on December 31st of the current year are eligible to participate in the junior fair shows. Further, the description of the program has been amended to give a stronger scope to the requirements of the Quality Assurance program.

