Livestock Shows & Drug Testing

Procedures & Best Practices

Mike Anderson
State 4-H Livestock Program Specialist
Should You Drug Test?

• Advantages
  – Creates a more level playing field
  – Proactive vs. Reactive
  – Establishes trust with industries

• Challenges
  – High Cost
  – Disciplinary action – first offense, levels of detection, etc.
Planning Ahead

• Inform All Entities Long Before Fair Time
  – List rule, testing procedure, appeal process in Fair Book
  – Proactive vs. Reactive

• Contact Testing Lab Ahead
  – Gather cost estimates
  – Order testing supplies
Exhibitor Responsibility

• Key Components/Rules:
  1. Completed Animal Care/Disclosure (Drug Affidavit)
     • Lists ALL medications and/or treatments to the animal from purchase to arrival at the fair
  2. ANY and ALL Treatments At the Fair
     • Must be administered by official fair vet
At The Fair

• Staff/Volunteers Know the Process
  – Have parent/guardian and youth exhibitor present during collection of urine/blood
  – Have all necessary signatures on paperwork provided (parent, exhibitor, sample collector)
  – Follow appropriate storage recommendations
  – Chain of Custody is ESSENTIAL – know who has handled/transported samples, etc.
Positive Test Results

• Be aware of what’s legal, off-label, etc.
  – Food Safety & Quality Assurance At Work!!
• Have your disciplinary action in writing
  – Withdraw premiums
  – Ban of future exhibiting? How long?
• Lay out the appeal process
  – Definitive timeline for exhibitor
• Final decision process – 4-H Extension, Fair Board, Extension Council?
Things to Think About….

- Who will pay for the testing costs?
- Are certain substances that test positive of higher offense than others?
- Is there stronger disciplinary action for certain substances?
- Are animals under surveillance?
- Do others have opportunity to drug an animal at the fair?
Resources

• Iowa State Fair Premium Book
  – http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/statefair/livestock
  – 4-H Livestock Rules section lays out procedure

• ISU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
  – https://vetmed.iastate.edu/vdl

• Procedures, Pricing from ISU VDL
Questions?
Thanks for Tuning In!

Recorded Presentation:
- http://4h.unl.edu/resourceanimalcare
- http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/node/11224