

## Appendix B. Drug Testing Protocol for Idaho 4-H Market Animals (optional)

Drug Abuse – No illegal drug, off-label use of drugs (uses other than specifically allowed on the drug label) unless prescribed by a veterinarian are permitted. Use of tranquilizers to alter the disposition of project animal's behavior is prohibited. Violators shall be immediately disqualified from the event. Additionally, they shall be barred from all future participation in 4-H animal-related projects, plus may be subject to any and all relevant criminal prosecution. The 4-H member may request a second test as outlined in this protocol as a method of filing a grievance.

The above policy provides the basis for establishing a 4-H Meat Animal Drug Testing Protocol at Idaho fairs. While drug testing at fairs is not required, those choosing to conduct testing are encouraged to utilize the protocol set forth below:

### Drug Testing Protocol

When establishing a drug testing policy a livestock show needs to:

1. Determine the acceptable use of drugs. (The above policy outlines what is not acceptable).
2. Determine the consequences of a positive test. (The above policy outlines the consequences for participation in Idaho 4-H). In addition to these consequences, the animal will likely be condemned and the exhibitor will be responsible for any costs associated with the animal being condemned.
3. Determine how to identify which animals will be tested. For example: All of the champion and reserve champions in each species, all of the weight class winners, a random draw of a pre-determined number of animals per species. The random draw can be conducted after the final weigh-in.
  - a. In the event a fair uses a random draw the youth and families will be notified at the conclusion of the show. Consider videotaping the draw process, numbers being put in a draw box in preparation of the draw and numbers being drawn for testing.
  - b. Make sure this is done in a discrete manner so the average fair-goer will not know animals are being drug tested.
4. Select an accredited veterinarian to conduct the tests.
5. Establish a set time to collect the samples (after the show).
6. Set up an area to collect the samples (again do this in an area that won't attract a lot of attention.)
7. Establish rules and payment responsibility.
  - a. Typically local fairs, fair boards, youth livestock sale committees or 4-H Councils pay for testing.
  - b. Another option is to assess a fee to all youth exhibitors to help pay for testing.
8. Determine the payment responsibility in the event of a split sample test. A split sample test can be defined as a second test on a sample that tested positive. At sample collection time, two samples are collected from the animal. One sample is sent to the lab, the other sample is frozen (for urine only tests) in the event a split sample is requested. A split sample test is generally requested by the owner of the animal after a positive test has been reported by the testing lab. If a split sample test is requested, that request must be made in writing to the drug testing coordinator and appropriate Extension 4-H personnel within fifteen (15) days of their initial test results notification. The requester shall be responsible for paying all costs associated with that test. A split sample test can cost four to five times more than the initial test because the test requires more specific screening by the lead chemist at the lab.
9. The person at the fair in charge of coordinating the testing should set up an account with the preferred testing laboratory.
10. The samples will be collected based on the recommendation of the testing lab.
11. The results will be sent back to the person at the fair in charge of coordinating the testing. For example: Fair manager, Livestock Show Chairperson, Leaders' Council President, Livestock Committee Chair, etc. (an Extension Educator may be called on as the non-biased person to handle the logistics of the drug testing to protect the integrity and good name of the 4-H program).
12. The animal(s) that are tested will most likely be sold at the Market Animal Sale at the fair. The animals will probably be harvested and in a cooler at the packer to be processed by the time the results are returned. In the event of a positive test on an animal, refer to item #2 for information regarding consequences.

Many labs conduct this type of drug testing on a regular basis; one example which has extensive experience is the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (in Amarillo and College Station). The fee is \$70.00 per specimen. A fee of \$7.50 is charged per box received at the lab (you may pack several specimens in one box.) The tests are conducted on urine samples. Testing turnaround time is 5-10 days. TVMDL does not disclose the names of the drugs

that are screened for in livestock show samples but will identify the positive drugs that are considered off-label or illegal according to show policy.