

4-H Exhibitor Behavior Code Agreement

According to policy set forth by the Sussex County 4-H Program Advisory Council in concurrence with Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the Department of 4-H Youth Development and further endorsed by the Executive Committee of the NJSF@/SCFHS, the following statement and 4-H Code Of Conduct shall apply to all 4-H members, their parents, legal guardians, and volunteer 4-H leaders.

The Sussex County 4-H Youth Development Program will adhere to the 4-H Code Of Conduct as outlined and additionally endorses all behavior policies as noted in the official International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) code of behavior for exhibitors. The IAFE code will be prominently posted in agricultural exhibit areas. No 4-H fair project entry form will be accepted unless both the 4-H member and parent/ guardian sign this agreement.

NOTE: Violations of any aspect of the 4-H or IAFE Code Of Conduct will be immediately reported to the NJSF@/SCFHS Agricultural Superintendent. Immediate corrective action will be taken with further disciplinary action to follow upon detailed investigation of the infraction or incident.

4-H Code of Conduct

The primary purpose of the New Jersey 4-H Code of Conduct is to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants at 4-H sponsored events and activities. It applies to all participants, with participants defined as 4-H members, their parents/guardians, and volunteers.

As a participant in the 4-H program, I will:

- Conduct myself in a courteous manner and treat members, parents, 4-H volunteers, Extension staff, judges and others with respect. Appropriate language and behavior are expected at all times.
- Respect and adhere to the rules and guidelines of the 4-H program including all those specific to a 4-H event or activity.
- Uphold an individual's right to dignity by supporting an environment of inclusion which welcomes involvement of participants from all backgrounds.
- Accept supervision and support from county and state 4-H staff while participating in the 4-H program. This includes acceptance of supervision and support from appointed 4-H volunteers coordinating 4-H events and activities.
- Obey local, state and federal laws.

Participants who fail to adhere to the New Jersey 4-H Code of Conduct are subject to a range of disciplinary actions. Such actions will be taken in compliance with the New Jersey 4-H Discipline Policy and Procedure. When appropriate, immediate corrective action will be taken at the 4-H event to ensure the safety and welfare of all participants.

I understand if I fail to adhere to the above Code of Conduct, I will be subject to disciplinary action and potentially prohibited

Signature of Participant in 4-H Event

Sussex County 4H Rabbit & Small Animal Health Check and RHD Policy 2026

*Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) is a highly contagious disease caused by a calicivirus. Prior to 2020 it was assumed that the virus only affected rabbits of the *Oryctolagus cuniculus* species. This includes wild and domestic European rabbits, which our domesticated rabbits are descended from. However, a new variant of the virus is now able to infect North American native rabbits or hares, such as our cottontails, snowshoe hares, or jackrabbits. Based on ongoing confirmed cases within the USA, Sussex County 4H will be following the outlined measures below. This policy will be constantly monitored and can be modified as needed per USDA guidelines and recommendations.*

1. All animals entering the fairgrounds will be subject to fair health rules, AHC (NJ) or CVI (for animals coming from out of state) and must enter/exit through the Vet Check gate.
2. All rabbits entering fair **MUST** permanently tattooed in the left ear.
3. All carrying cages must be cleaned and disinfected prior to coming to fair and once you return home. We recommend the following to be used in carrier trays/ bottoms: newspaper or puppy pads.
4. All rabbits being cooped and exhibited at fair will be housed on risers.
5. **No hay will be allowed to be used as bedding in carriers or coops. All hay used for feeding must be contained using something like a toilet paper roll, zip tie, or small piece of PVC pipe.**
6. **No fruits or vegetables will be fed to rabbits while being exhibited at fair.**
7. Sussex County 4H will cancel and reschedule shows within a 50-mile radius of a confirmed outbreak of RHD in domestic rabbits within the past 30 days of the entry deadline.

Signature of Parent or Guardian