



HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™

NRG Park • March 3-22, 2020

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HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW™ RESIDUE AVOIDANCE GUIDELINES

Why is it important to drug test junior livestock projects?

- To protect the safety of the food supply
- To foster fair competition

What is my responsibility as a County Extension Agent (CEA), Agricultural Science Teacher (AST), parent or exhibitor?

KNOW THE RULES before you enter any livestock show. For the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™, these rules can be found in the [Exhibitor Handbook](#).

Also, please note, when you sign the indemnification form, that is required for entry, you are agreeing to have read and to abide by all rules in the handbook.

What are the Houston Livestock Show residue avoidance rules?

In short, the Houston Livestock Show maintains a **Zero Tolerance** policy which means if positive results are reported, we have an obligation to investigate in order to determine what circumstances led to this result.

- **Zero Tolerance is based on the elimination period, rather than the withdrawal period.** There is a difference between withdrawal and elimination period. The withdrawal period is the amount of time that must pass for consumed products to safely enter the food chain. The elimination period refers to the amount of time it takes for all residue to be eliminated from an animal's system. For most drugs, the elimination period is longer than the withdrawal period.
- **Unapproved drugs are prohibited.** Unapproved means not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for slaughter animals that may be destined for human consumption. **This includes the use of all products that are not FDA approved including but not limited to any diuretic, unapproved growth stimulant or other unapproved medication meant for human usage.**
*Another important point to remember is that products labeled "all natural" that are not FDA approved may contain ingredients that can result in a positive test. It is your responsibility to know what ingredients are included in products labeled as "all natural."

What are best practices for a show animal that falls sick, ill, or injured leading up to the Show.

- **Consult with your veterinarian.** First and foremost, consult your veterinarian. Do not administer any medications before visiting with your veterinarian. As a part of this conversation, make certain that both you and the veterinarian are aware of show rules. Carefully consider the amount of time prior to arrival at the show and assume that the

elimination period is longer than the labeled withdrawal period. From there, you, your family, your supervising CEA / AST, and your veterinarian should discuss options before making the best decision.

- **Make an informed and the best decision possible.** The utmost priority should be the animal's welfare. The welfare of the animal should always take priority over competition. This could result in leaving the animal project at home.
- **Document all treatment records.** If the animal is treated with an approved drug and withdrawal times are observed, maintain official record of treatment from the veterinarian, including date of administration and dosage.

If my livestock project receives a positive test, am I automatically banned for life?

- No, not necessarily. Each case is handled on an individual basis. Exhibitors found in violation are offered an opportunity to explain the details of their case in a formal appeals hearing. Penalties range from withholding premiums to a lifetime ban, depending on the drug that was used and the circumstances surrounding use.

What are common types of drugs that I may be penalized for?

- **Antibacterial Therapeutic Medications** - Used to treat infection, these compounds don't create a competitive advantage, but can create food safety concerns if not used according to label directions. Many are only FDA approved for particular species, meaning that extensive research has been conducted regarding the proper dosage and type of administration to be efficacious in that species as well as the withdrawal time that is necessary for meat products to be safe for human consumption. Please note any exceptions for the use of these compounds in breeding animals below.
- **Non-Antibiotic Therapeutic Medications** - Inclusive of anti-inflammatories, antipyretics, diuretics and anesthetics, these medications can result in a competitive advantage by altering the physical appearance of the animal and/or concerns with food safety. Some are available over the counter and others can only be legally sourced and administered through prescription by a licensed veterinarian. Many are only FDA approved for a particular species and use in any other species without a prescription by a veterinarian is illegal.
- **Beta-agonists** - Originally developed as bronchodilators in humans, larger dosages have a growth promoting effect in animals and result in increased muscle and decreased fat. The only beta-agonist that is currently FDA approved and commercially available for use in livestock production is ractopamine, which is labeled for use in market cattle and market swine with a zero-day withdrawal (i.e. research indicates that meat products are safe for consumption at any time during the feeding period). The use of beta-agonists in species for which they are not FDA approved or commercially available creates concerns with food safety and/or competitive advantage. Please note any exceptions to the use of beta-agonists below.

Market Animals

Ractopamine Hydrochloride (Optaflexx™ and Paylean®)

The Houston Livestock Show will not be testing for the presence of ractopamine hydrochloride in market steers (Optaflexx™) or market barrows (Paylean®). Exhibitors who choose to use these products are expected to follow all label directions. The Show will not tolerate the presence of ractopamine hydrochloride in entries other than market steers or market barrows.

Ractopamine Hydrochloride (Topmax™)

THE HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW WILL NOT TOLERATE THE PRESENCE OF RACTOPAMINE HYDROCHLORIDE (Topmax®) IN MARKET POULTRY. Though FDA approved for use in market turkeys, ractopamine is not commercially available for this use. The use of this compound in market turkeys and market broilers will be governed by the Junior Show Rules published in the 2020 [Exhibitor Handbook](#). **The Houston Livestock Show will continue to use feather testing to detect performance enhancing drugs, including Ractopamine, in poultry.**

Zilpaterol Hydrochloride (Zilmax®)

THE HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW WILL NOT TOLERATE THE PRESENCE OF ZILPATEROL HYDROCHLORIDE (Zilmax®) IN THE URINE OF MARKET STEERS. The Show will not tolerate the presence of Zilpaterol Hydrochloride (Zilmax®) in any other market species or breeding animal. **The Houston Livestock Show will use the new hair testing that is now available to detect performance enhancing drugs in market lambs and goats.**

Breeding Animals

Antibacterial Therapeutic Medications

The Houston Livestock Show will not be testing for the presence of antibiotics/antibacterials that have been FDA approved for the species and class of breeding animal in which they are administered. Exhibitors who use these compounds are expected to consult with their veterinarian and follow all label directions.

The use of all other drugs in junior market and breeding animals, both unapproved and FDA approved, is governed by the Junior Show Rules published in the [2020 Exhibitor Handbook](#).

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