

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ohio Department of Agriculture will hold a public hearing for the purpose of accepting testimony on the proposed amendments made to Ohio Administrative Code 901-19-07.

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.

The hearing will be held on:

March 8, 2018 at 9:00 A.M.

**Ohio Department of Agriculture
Bromfield Administration Building
Hearing Room 133 (Seminar "B")
8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-3399.**

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Revised Code. Any person affected by the no change rule package may appear and be heard in person, by his attorney, or both, may present his position, arguments, or contentions, orally or in writing, offer and examine witnesses, and present evidence tending to show that the no change rule package, if adopted or effectuated, will be unreasonable or unlawful.

More information on the rule package, including a business impact analysis and copies of the rules, can be found at <http://www.agri.ohio.gov/proposedrules/proposedrules.aspx> or by visiting the Register of Ohio at www.registerofohio.state.oh.us.



Any person who wishes to present his position, arguments, or contentions in writing, other than at the public hearing, may do so by either mailing his or her written comments to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, c/o Legal Section, 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068; by email at ecomments@agri.ohio.gov, or by transmitting by facsimile at (614) 995-4585. Written comments sent by mail shall be postmarked no later than the day of the hearing. Written comments transmitted by facsimile shall be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the hearing.

