

The Indiana State Fair 4-H Animal Testing Program is a joint effort between the Indiana State Fair and Purdue Extension – Indiana 4-H Youth Development, reflecting a shared commitment toward a standard of ethical exhibition of animals. This program focuses on:

- Youth learning to raise and exhibit livestock in ways consistent with responsible animal care
- Open and fair competition for all

Below is a list of Frequently Asked Questions to provide you a better understanding of the process:

1. **Why was I selected for testing?** Animals are selected randomly based on class numbers. You were selected for urine collection because you are a random selection.
2. **How are random samples selected?** Random samples are selected blindly before each show. They are simply 2<sup>nd</sup> place in class 3, 5<sup>th</sup> place in class 9, etc. Thus, specific animals are not known until judging of the particular class.
3. **Why do I have to stay here for the entire process?** This strengthens the integrity of the process as it ensures that the urine from your animal is handled and labeled appropriately.
4. **If I list a substance on the animal affidavit, does that release me from any penalty?** Listing substances on the animal affidavit that violates the Terms and Conditions does not release you from the penalties associated with the violation.
5. **Why is the sample split into two cups?** This is to provide a back-up sample in case confirmation testing is needed.
6. **Why do I have to sign the log sheet?** Again, this strengthens the integrity of the process. You are verifying that your animal's urine was collected, labeled and sealed properly.
7. **How is the urine stored and how does it get to the lab?** Urine samples are stored in a locked refrigerator until they are transported to the lab. They are typically picked up 2-3 times during the fair, which means samples will generally stay in the refrigerator anywhere from 1-3 days. The time spent in the refrigerator has no effect on the urine.
8. **How long does the testing process take?** Preliminary screens are likely completed the day they arrive in the lab. Confirmation testing takes another 2-3 days. If an outside lab is needed, that could add 2-3 weeks.
9. **If preliminary testing only takes 1 day and my animal is not positive for any substance, why can't you just let me know immediately that my animal did not have a positive test?** Results are not reported until all analysis is complete. This includes any testing by outside labs. This is to ensure that all exhibitors are notified at app. the same time.
10. **What constitutes a violation?** The determination of a violation will be based on a market animal being unable to pass a USDA meat inspection, which includes being free of non-FDA approved substances. Additionally, non-FDA approved substances found in any breeding animal will still be considered a violation of the Indiana State Fair 4-H Animal Testing Program.
11. **What specific substances do you test for?** While these substances are kept confidential, categories include steroids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatories and illegal feed additives.
12. **What constitutes a positive test?** An initial positive is retested by a different technician before being labeled Suspect. Suspect samples are confirmed via different technology. This could require an outside lab. Positive samples from confirmation testing are labeled Confirmed. For a sample to be Confirmed, it was Positive in 3-4 different tests.
13. **When will I get results?** After all analysis across all species is completed, you will receive a notification letter informing you of Non-Positive and/or Confirmed animals. This is likely within 1-2 months. If you have a Confirmed animal, there will be detailed instructions of the subsequent process.
14. **Why is the testing program such a long process?** This is a very deliberate process that can be perceived as slow. This is to the exhibitor's benefit, as accuracy is of the utmost importance. Patience with the process is greatly appreciated.
15. **Why is there a testing fee?** During testing hearings, families frequently request enhancements to the program. The testing fee is necessary to pay for these enhancements to the process and program.

If you have additional questions, please contact:

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