

2009 WSF Tail Dock Rule (proposed 1/08/09, revised 1/26/09):

Sheep presented for exhibit at Wyoming State Fair shall have no evidence of rectal prolapse, nor evidence of surgical tail removal. Following visual examination by the Animal Care Committee, evidence of either of these conditions is cause for immediate disqualification without recourse. Sheep presented for exhibit at Wyoming State Fair that are visually examined by the Animal Care Committee and determined to lack visible tail length may be evaluated by palpation for the presence of tail vertebrae. If no tail vertebrae are found it is cause for immediate disqualification without recourse. Disqualified sheep shall be released and removed from the exhibit area. Determinations and decisions of disqualification by the Animal Care Committee are final and subject to confirmatory testing as specified in the Animal Care Statement section of the WSF Premium Book.

In years previous, increased frequency of surgical removal of sheep tails and instances of extreme tail docking of sheep led the Wyoming Board of Agriculture to take decisive action by implementing a Tail Dock Rule at the Wyoming State Fair which required the presence of three full coccygeal vertebrae on sheep exhibited at the Wyoming State Fair.

At this time, the Wyoming Board of Agriculture feels significant progress has been made by members of the show sheep industry in addressing the concerns of surgical tail removal and extreme tail docking of sheep, and therefore chose to adopt this rule.

If at any time the Wyoming Board of Agriculture determines that members of the show sheep industry are reverting to the practice of extreme tail docking or the surgical removal of tails of sheep, the Board of Agriculture will direct the Wyoming State Fair to re-instate the rule requiring the presence of three full coccygeal vertebrae on sheep.

Wyoming State Fair and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture encourage exhibitors to practice the highest standards in animal agriculture. Therefore, all sheep shown at the Wyoming State Fair should be docked in a manner that does not compromise the animal's health and well being.