Pharmaceutical Use in Show Animals

Drug testing programs at livestock shows are intended to uphold ***federal and state laws*** governing pharmaceutical use in food producing animals. Cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and rabbits are considered food producing animals by the FDA and improper use of pharmaceuticals in these species is essentially ***food product tampering***.

Dos and Don'ts

- Always involve a veterinarian and keep records
- Only use products that are either FDA or EPA approved for that particular species
- Follow label instructions exactly (dose, route of administration, etc.)
- Don't use animal or human over-the-counter (OTC) drugs without veterinary direction
- Only feed animals food made specifically for that species-food for people can have products that will produce a positive drug test

Rules of Thumb

- Just because you can purchase something does not mean it is allowed under law to administer to a food producing animal
  - Beware of "natural" products-many are illegal including natural "calming" products
  - Beware of vitamin shots not approved for the species
  - Beware of things like CBD oil and melatonin
- If the product does not specify a meat and milk withdrawal time, then it may not be legal
- Sedatives are not legal for anything other than a medical issue and must be given under direction of a veterinarian
- Extra-label use (which any non-medical performance use falls under) is prohibited except under direction of a veterinarian
- No product can be administered
- There is no such thing as a "pet" food animal in the eyes of the law-no exceptions to these laws even if you say you will never consume the animal

Drug Use Mishaps that Have Led to Disqualification

- Nicotine exposure from tobacco
- Human OTC drugs (i.e. Benadryl, Advil, Tylenol)
- Human OTC topical antibiotic ointment with lidocaine to treat a sore on the face of a lamb-positive for lidocaine
- Chocolate ensure in a sheep-positive for theobromine
- Flunixin meglumine (Banamine) in a goat without proper records from veterinarian
- Feeding coffee grounds-any number of stimulants can show up positive
- Feeding ration containing Paylean to breeding gilt (legal only for market gilts)

For more detailed information go to:
http://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/livestock/animal_health/understandingdruguseregulationsinfoodproducinganimals