



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DON KOIVISTO
DIRECTOR

October 14, 2008

Dear Fair and Exhibition Board members:

The Michigan Department of Agriculture recently received a call regarding concern over the practice of "rounding up" the weight of livestock at youth livestock sales so that they meet the minimum weight threshold for sale. The purpose of this letter is to clarify the rules outlined under the Michigan Weights and Measures Act of 1964, Public Act 283.

Under the Weights and Measures Act, anyone who knowingly inflates the weight of an animal being offered for sale at a youth livestock sale is guilty of a felony. If this practice occurs and is discovered, it would lead to prosecution.

As a reminder, livestock offered for sale must be weighed in on a certified scale and must be represented and sold at the certified weight. Rounding up of the weight is not acceptable and is, in fact, illegal. Please share this reminder with your county 4H leaders and others who work on the youth livestock sales.

Protecting the integrity of our youth livestock sales is crucial to the continued success of the programs. Thank you for your assistance in making sure our state's sales remain fair, equitable and profitable.

If you have questions, please contact me at 517-373-9790 or lipej@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeanne M. Lipe
Agriculture Outreach and Tourism Manager
Fairs, Exhibitions & Racing Division

cc: EJ Brown
Ken Guens