



# Biosecurity Guidance and Requirements

## FOR EXHIBITORS AND OWNERS OF LIVESTOCK BEING EXHIBITED

Fairs and exhibitions provide an opportunity for learning and to showcase the hard work invested in agricultural animals. Unfortunately, these exhibitions also provide an opportunity for illness to spread among animals from multiple herds. Appropriate measures should be taken to minimize the potential for spread of disease. It may not be possible to prevent all transmission of influenza viruses at livestock exhibitions. The recommendations listed apply to all livestock at an exhibit or sale that are physically on the premise. Having a plan in place to identify and handle sick animals properly will help reduce the chance of disease spread.

## Prior to the Exhibition

- Consult a veterinarian to understand and implement applicable biosecurity and animal health practices; keep the veterinarian's phone number in your barn with your animal's records, and if possible, in your cell phone.
- Have a premises identification number for your farm or where your animal(s) are housed (a PIN is required for many shows and sales).
- Utilize an individual, readable identification method for each animal:
  - Individual identification helps accurately and quickly identify an animal in the event of a health issue, validation of ownership or for other exhibit needs; papers can get lost or misplaced, but individual identification will remain with the animal.
  - Refer to the exhibit organizers and the State Veterinarian for specific requirements for individual animal identification.
- Become familiar with the clinical signs of a sick animal (such as fever, off-feed, lethargy, nasal discharge, cough, "thumping" or hard time breathing, and diarrhea).
  - Normal rectal temperatures for common livestock species are listed to the right.
  - During hot weather, animals' temperatures may be elevated.
    - Because they are not able to sweat, pigs are particularly susceptible to high temperatures.
  - If its temperature is raised, allow the animal to cool off and re-take the temperature in 15 minutes.
  - Contact your veterinarian if your animal becomes sick.
- Some diseases can transmit from humans to animals and from animals to humans, so it is important to not go to the exhibition or show if you or your animal are sick.
  - **Requirement:** The following animals must test negative for H5N1 influenza by PCR test, using the sample types designated below within 10 days prior to entry into the exhibition.
    - Waterfowl – Cloacal swab; up to 5 animals from the same pen or group may be pooled by the sample collector into a single sample.
    - Lactating dairy cattle – Milk sample; pooling milk from all four quarters; Up to 5 animals from the same pen or group may be pooled by the laboratory into a single test.
- Make sure that you have all of your equipment, including your show box and its contents, clean, disinfected, and ready to go prior to the exhibition. Do not share any equipment with other exhibitors once at the exhibit.
  - Use approved disinfectants that are safe for human and animal contact: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-m-registered-antimicrobial-products-label-claims-avian-influenza>.

- Fill out the appropriate paperwork for the exhibition including health certificates and other documentation required by the exhibition. Be prepared to provide the following information:
  - Exhibitor contact information (name, address, phone number, email address),
  - The physical address of the farm where the animals live,
  - Official identification (if present),
  - Other individual animal identification present (herd tag, registration number, etc), and
  - Negative test results for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (if required).

## During the Exhibition

- Keep copies of certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs), vaccination records, and test results on hand and readily available.
- Observe animals regularly for signs illness.
  - Report any animal health issues to the exhibit organizer (i.e. the species superintendent) or show veterinarian so they can assess the animal in question
- Sick animals should be immediately removed from the exhibition or moved to the designated temporary isolation area; sick animals should be removed from the exhibition site as soon as possible.
  - Interaction with the sick animal should be limited to only people caring for the animal.
  - Dedicated personal protective equipment (PPE) such as disposable gloves, gown/coveralls, boots or boot covers, should be worn by people caring for sick animals.
  - No treatment supplies, feed or water, portable milking equipment and supplies, or grooming supplies should be shared between sick animals and healthy animals.
  - Additional precautions such as hand washing before putting on and taking of PPE, changing clothes and boots should be taken by those caring for sick animals to minimize the opportunity for disease transmission to other cattle or people.
- Follow the event's biosecurity plan.
  - Avoid close contact with other exhibitor's animals and avoid nose to nose contact between animals.
- Follow the event guidance for handling milk from lactating cows.
- Do not share tools, feed and water, portable milking equipment and supplies, or grooming supplies with other exhibitors.
- Keep your area clean and free of manure contamination
- Do not bring your pets (cats or dogs) to the exhibit

## After the Exhibition

- Isolate returning animals from the other animals at your farm.
  - Work with your veterinarian for an isolation plan. The isolation/observation should be at least 30 days in order to detect an illness.
  - Do not share equipment between exhibition livestock and other animals at home.
- Clean and disinfect equipment, clothing, shoes, show box and contents, and vehicles/trailers that were used at the exhibition.
  - Use approved disinfectants that are safe for human and animal contact: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-m-registered-antimicrobial-products-label-claims-avian-influenza>.
- Consult a veterinarian if your animal becomes ill.
- Consult a health care provider and your state or local public health department if exhibitors or family members develop influenza-like illness (e.g., fever or chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, tiredness, and/or vomiting and diarrhea).
  - Tell your healthcare provider if you worked with dairy cattle or waterfowl.