

WSDA -- BIOSECURITY CHECKLIST FOR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS

Help Protect Your Animals and Washington's Animal Agriculture Industry

Animals are an important component of Washington's agriculture industry and fairs and shows across the state. Livestock shows and exhibition allow individuals the opportunity to showcase their animals and educate the general public about food animal production. The commingling of animals of different species, breeds, and ages, from multiple premises and herd management backgrounds creates an environment for potential exposure and spread of animal diseases. The stresses of travel, close confinement, and a changing environment, may compromise an animal's resistance to disease. People, exhibitors and general fairgoers, can also contribute to potential disease spread. For these reasons, responsible animal owners need to implement practices before, during, and after the fair to protect their animals and Washington's \$1.99 billion dollar animal agriculture industry. Implement the following BioSecurity practices to help protect your animals at the fair and at home on the farm.

Before and During the Fair

- Monitor visitors to your animals and farm especially if they have traveled outside the country within the past week.
- Make sure all veterinary health inspections and certificates of veterinary inspection are current for all the animals you will take to the fair.
- Recommend separate barns for separate species.
- Follow the fair vaccination guidelines and give recommended vaccinations at least 10 days before the event.
- Disinfect all equipment, such as buckets, shovels, wheelbarrows, manure baskets, lead ropes, blankets, snares, clippers, scissors, brushes, show box, and so forth before entering the fairgrounds.
- Don't share equipment with other exhibitors unless it has been cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
- Avoid entering the pens/stalls and coming in contact with animals from other farms. Contact the fair veterinarian or exhibition manager when animals are in need of attention. If you must contact animals from different premises, properly wash your hands and thoroughly clean and disinfect your boots and clothing before returning to your animals.
- Eliminate traffic between exhibitors of different species (especially sheep/goats and cattle). If it is not possible to eliminate this traffic, change clothing and disinfect hands before handling a different species.
- As much as possible, minimize feed and water changes from home to fair.
- Keep unused equipment and feed bagged or covered to reduce the risk of contamination.
- Vehicles and trailers used to transport animals to and from the fair should be well cleaned and disinfected, inside and out, between uses.
- Do not mix species in the same trailer (especially sheep/goats with cattle). Avoid commercial haulers with multiple animals from multiple farms.
- Clean and disinfect all items at the end of the fair before taking them home.
- Properly dispose of unused bedding, hay, and feed after the fair. Do not bring it home.
- Minimize stress by keeping animals cool, well bedded and comfortable.
- Carefully consider whether exhibition animals should return home after the fair, and what risk that presents to other animals at home.
- If an animal becomes ill at the exhibit, consult a veterinarian and isolate the animal.

After the Fair

- The safest way to transport your animals is in your own vehicle. Do not haul animals from other farms.
- Keep fair animals isolated from other animals and pets for at least 30 days.
- Check these isolated animals every day for any signs of illness.
- Care for isolated animals separately, then shower, change your clothes, and clean and disinfect your boots before going to other areas of the farm.
- The person caring for animals at the fair should not perform animal-related chores at home. If the same person must do both, chores at home should be done first. Do not wear the same clothes, hats, and shoes to care for the animals at home and the fair animals. Garments should be cleaned and disinfected between each trip to the fairgrounds and barn/pasture. (It's also a good idea to shower between trips.)
- Horses taken to the fair should be isolated from livestock and pets for at least 30 days after returning to the farm.
- Contact a veterinarian as soon as you see any unusual symptoms in any animal. Many diseases look like FMD; only a veterinarian can tell for sure.

These recommendations were provided by the Washington State Department of Agriculture, adapted from the Indiana Department of Agriculture and appeared in the January 2009 issue of the Ketch Pen.

Reference -- Seibert D, Firkins L, Wallace D, Ernst M. BioSecurity Considerations When Exhibiting Animals. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign URL: <http://www.livestocktrail.uiuc.edu/biosecurity/>

These BioSecurity practices are a good idea no matter what disease might be of concern.

The goals are to keep every animal healthy and to safeguard the Washington livestock industry.

TOP FIVE DISEASE PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Segregation -- Prevent contact of your livestock with other animals
- Restrict use of feed, equipment, and trailers to your animals and disinfect after use
- What happens at the fair stays at the fair. This includes equipment (unless cleaned and disinfected), feed and bedding.
- Notify a veterinarian immediately if an animal becomes ill
- Isolate animals returning home

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