



Biosecurity Tips to Keep your Livestock Show Animals Healthy

Establishing and following sound biosecurity practices is the cornerstone for reducing the risk of spreading diseases. Consider the following to help minimize disease exposure before, during, and after livestock events.

Before You Leave For An Event

- Work with your veterinarian to develop a preventative health program, such as vaccinations, appropriate for your animals.
- Have your animals checked by a veterinarian and a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI or health certificate) issued prior to the event.
- Do not take animals that have clinical signs of disease to an event.
- Clean and disinfect all equipment (buckets, shovels, manure rakes, wheelbarrows, ropes, halters, brushes, clippers, etc.) before leaving home.
- Several days before departure, carefully inspect your livestock trailer to be sure it is in good operating condition. Be sure the trailer has adequate ventilation and secure, slip-resistant flooring that is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before and after each use.
- Avoid transporting animals from different farms in the same trailer. If you must, arrange for a pick-up and drop-off point to prevent haulers from entering your premises and keep the animals from different farms separate within the trailer. Know the health and vaccination status of animals that are hauled with yours, and avoid contact with all visibly ill animals or people.
- Take feed and hay that your animals are accustomed to consuming in sufficient amounts for the event.



What is biosecurity?

Practicing biosecurity means doing everything you can to reduce the chances of an infectious disease being carried onto your farm by people, animals, equipment or vehicles. It also means doing everything you can to reduce the chance of disease leaving your farm. Healthy animals and poultry contribute to the health of U.S. animal agriculture as a whole.

Why is biosecurity important?

“Biosecurity” may not be a common word but for livestock show exhibitors, it can be the difference between health and disease. Practicing biosecurity can help keep disease away from your farm and keep your animals healthy. Healthy animals mean the potential for event success and profit. Biosecurity measures are important for you as a livestock owner, for your community, and for the U.S. animal agriculture industry.

Biosecurity

6 Easy Steps

1

Keep Your Distance

Create a barrier between your animals, visitors, and other animals at the event.

2

Keep It Clean

Prevent germs from spreading by cleaning your hands, tools, equipment, vehicles, and trailers.

3

Don't Haul Disease Home

When traveling, keep animals from different farms separate within the trailer.

4

Don't Borrow Disease From Your Friends

Avoid sharing feed, tools, and equipment with fellow exhibitors.

5

Know The Signs Of Disease

Watch for early signs of illness to prevent the spread of disease.

6

Report Sick Animals

Let your local veterinarian, advisor, parent, or event staff know if you observe any signs of illness.

During An Event

- Keep copies of health certificates, vaccination records, and test results on hand and readily available if needed.
- Provide plenty of fresh water and feed. Avoid changing sources and types of feed and hay during the event. Do not allow manure to contaminate your animals feed, water, hay, or feeding equipment.
- Don't share equipment with other exhibitors' unless it has been cleaned and disinfected between use.
- Avoid contact with other exhibitors' animals and do not enter their pens. If contact is unavoidable, be sure to wash your hands and disinfect your shoes frequently.
- Keep unused feed and hay covered to reduce risk of contamination.
- Minimize stress by keeping animals cool, clean, and comfortable. Use recommended pest and fly control products as appropriate.
- Watch your animals closely for signs of illness and immediately report any suspicious symptoms.

Returning Home After an Event

- Properly dispose of leftover bedding, feed, and hay at the event facility or at an appropriate off-farm site before returning home.
- All equipment returning home should be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the event facility.
- Keep livestock show animals isolated from other animals on your farm for a minimum of 14 days and ideally 30 days.
- Feed, water, and tend to animals in isolation after caring for other animals on your farm to avoid any possible cross-contamination to other animals.
- Carefully monitor animals in isolation for signs of illness.

Be aware of the disease risks and create a plan. Practicing biosecurity will not eliminate disease exposure but it will reduce the risk of inadvertently introducing disease to your animals and farm.

Information provided by the Texas Animal Health Commission

www.tahc.texas.gov

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