



## **KNOW ABOUT BIOSECURITY AND PROTECTING THE LIVESTOCK AT THE BOULDER COUNTY FAIR!**

Livestock exhibitors and their livestock are very important to us. However, livestock can be a source of communicable disease that cause exhibitors and guests to become ill, including pathogens and zoonotic animal diseases. Our goal at the Boulder County Fair is to create and maintain an environment where livestock, exhibitors and visitors to the fair can coexist in a safe and pleasurable place. The Boulder County Fair has recently placed a strong emphasis on Bio-Security against animal diseases and Pathogen Control for harmful bacteria like Salmonella and E. coli.

Pathogen Control: We have recently completed a comprehensive self-assessment of our entire site. As a result, we have reconfigured the location of our signage and hand washing stations as well as improved our sanitation and record keeping activities in order to keep our barns as clean and sanitary as possible.

Bio-Security: We have recently implemented a comprehensive bio-security protocol to minimize the risk of disease transmission from animals to humans, as well as between animals. This bio-security protocol includes veterinarian inspections prior to entry, and/or throughout the fair, as well as disinfection of all pens/stalls during changeover between each group of animals. Please also see the attached information for horse and Vesicular Stomatitis review at fair this year.

### **But we need your help!**

As an exhibitor we need you to be ROLE MODELS to visitors and others at the fair. This includes your ongoing efforts to manage animal waste, properly store waste management equipment (shovels, pitchforks, and wheelbarrows) away from visitors, and avoid drinking and eating in the barns. Additionally, we need you to notify us if you see any signs of illness in animals around you, and if any of your animals are showing signs of illness prior to fair, to leave them home. By doing YOUR part to reduce the spread of pathogenic bacteria and/or the transmission of zoonotic diseases at the fair we can continue to host animal events like the Boulder County Fair long in to the future. Thank you.



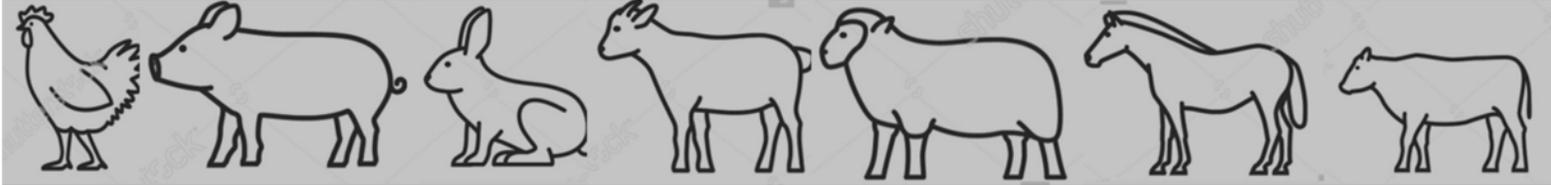


## **Boulder County Fair – Animal Health Check Process for 2019**

For the Boulder County Fair, we will be providing the following steps to provide a safeguard to our animals coming to the fair.

1. Participants should readily observe their animals at home and prior to hauling them to the Boulder County Fair. If there are any questions of potential illness they should consult a veterinarian.
2. Participants may choose to provide a health certificate (CVI) that was issued within 48 hours of the event. The health certificate is **not a requirement** for animals, but has been a prudent precaution to ensure that livestock arrive at the event free of clinical signs of VSV or other diseases.
3. Veterinarians and/or Fair administration (staff, superintendents or those of authority) will perform a visual check at the time the animals will arrive at the fairgrounds. It is important that animals only arrive on the grounds during these specific times. Health checks will take place for the following:
  - A. Horse – Thursday, August 1st from 1:00PM-5:00PM– Horses will be checked with an onsite Veterinarian. Horses planning to come to the 4-H Show at the Boulder County Fair must be checked during this time, or provide a health certificate (CVI) that was issued within 48 hours. Please have your horses checked prior to stalling. If arriving later in the show schedule/ weekend, you must come to the check on Thursday and receive health checkoff papers for your animals or choose to get your own health certificate from your vet within 48 hours of arrival.
  - B. Dairy goats/utility goats– upon arrival on Friday, 8/2 from 5-7pm fair vets will check animals. No arrival prior to 5pm.
  - C. Fiber goats– will be checked upon arrival Friday 8/2 from 9-10 AM
  - D. Swine – Animals arriving on fairgrounds on Monday 8/5 from 6-9AM will be checked and monitored when unloading and weighting.
  - E. Sheep and Market/breeding meat goats will be checked upon arrival on Tuesday 8/6 from 8-11am and prior to stalling.
  - F. Dairy Cattle – Arrival between 8-10AM only on Wednesday 8/7– cattle will be checked during this time.
  - G. Cattle- Arrival between 8-10AM only on Wednesday 8/7– cattle will be checked during this time.
  - H. Rabbits- will be checked upon arrival during and prior to placing in cages.
  - I. Poultry- will be checked by a team of CSU vets and students prior to going into the poultry barn and placing in cages.
  - J. Cavy will be checked upon arrival as they stay in their own cages.
  - K. Dogs will go through check upon arrival on show day.
  - L. Other Livestock entering the grounds will checked through coordination with the Fair administration and veterinarians for the protocol. (If your animal is not listed, please contact the Boulder County Fair Office 720-864-6460)
4. If at any point a questionable animal is identified, we may ask the animal to stay in their trailer/vehicle or will provide an area/stall away from others until a veterinarian can assess or ask the animal to go home. This all depends on the signs of illness.

*Fair Management reserves the right to modify this process as needed.*



## 4-H/FFA Livestock Ambassadors of Agriculture

To ensure that exhibitors, animals and public have a safe and healthy experience at this year's Boulder County Fair, please pass the following recommendations on to your exhibitors:

- While at the fair, make sure to maintain a regular feeding schedule, and make sure that the animals have clean water available at all times.
- Contact fair officials if you have any public approach you with in-depth questions concerning your animal's well-being. Look for the superintendent first or an adult in the barn.

4-H members are the ambassadors of the agriculture and they may not realize it. They are a producer of agriculture products just like the rancher with 1000 head of cattle. As ambassadors, we have responsibility over animals, the stewardship should involve humane care and treatment, and sharing our respect of animals while at a public event such as a fair is an extremely important aspect of being a 4-H member. An animal's welfare is the idea that animals should be treated with consideration and respect, no matter what their purpose is.

The 4-H Program teaches humane care and guidelines for animals. The members and families involved can share with others their importance as an ambassador with the public by thinking about the 4 "H's" of head, heart, hands, and health:

**Head:** the members who are raising animals learn to use their head to think about what they are doing, they gain knowledge and science-based experiences to apply to their lives, and they learn to manage livestock production while following USDA food and agriculture guidelines.

**Heart:** 4-H members use their heart to care about their animals and to treat them humanely. Many animals in the 4-H program are part of the members families and are cared for as such.

**Hands:** Hard work and daily care of the animals, their facilities, and responsibility are all things 4-H members with livestock devote to being involved with. The youth provide proper humane care for the animals.

**Health:** 4-H members work with knowledgeable leaders and adults to insure the healthy care of their animals. The members complete record books that detail the accurate health records of their animals, they keep a relationship with a veterinarian, and answer questions about their care.

Please be aware during fair, public will come up and ask questions and please have your exhibitors be aware of their responses. If the questions become more in depth the member should look for the superintendent or an adult in the barn.



**Virus season: Commonsense practices to keep your livestock healthy** – By *Ragan Adams, D.V.M.*, is coordinator of the Veterinary Extension Specialist Group at Colorado State University.

Summer in Colorado is finally in full throttle, especially green and lush due to the wonderful moisture we received this spring. People owning commercial and non-commercial livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, swine, mules/donkeys, camelids and horses) are moving and mingling their animals with others at shows, fairs, rodeos, markets, on grazing allotments, and during normal recreation.

A few commonsense practices will decrease the chance your animals develop an infectious disease.

Colorado is now the third state in the country to have a confirmed case of Vesicular Stomatitis Virus, according to the state Department of Agriculture's [Animal Health Division](#). See [updated situation reports on the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service site](#).

The virus causes vesicular or blister-like lesions that lead to painful erosions and sloughing of skin on the muzzle, tongue, teats and above the hoof (the coronary band) of infected animals. Depending on where the lesions are located, animals may be lame or not want to eat or drink.

Horses, cattle and swine are most often affected but mules/donkeys, bison, sheep, goats and camelids are susceptible.

VSV is a reportable disease because it resembles foot and mouth disease and swine vesicular disease, both of which are considered foreign animal diseases of considerable importance to international trade. The only way to tell these diseases apart is with laboratory tests.

Any livestock with signs of a vesicular disease must be reported to the State Veterinarian's Office in Colorado. To report a case in Colorado, call (303) 869-9130. Animals with clinical signs are then tested in order to rule out the other significant foreign animal diseases.

There is no vaccine for VSV, and the way it is transmitted is not completely understood. It appears to move in three ways:

- via insect vectors (black flies, sand flies, biting midges)
  - mechanically on shared equipment, clothes, boots
- contact of infected animals

Decrease the likelihood that livestock will get VSV by following the same commonsense biosecurity steps used to avoid many types of infectious diseases:

- Strict fly control.
- Avoid sharing equipment — feed tubs and water buckets, pitchforks, tack and halters, brushes and health care equipment — between herds or individuals.
- Check your animals on a regular basis for signs of lesions. If any signs are seen, isolate the animal away from the other susceptible animals on the property. Do not take them to a community event where other animals may be exposed. Report any lesions or abnormalities to your veterinarian or state health official.
- When returning home from an activity where your animals mixed with other animals, keep them away from the home herd for at least a week to be sure they are still healthy.

Clean equipment carefully before sharing with home herd.

[Download the USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's fact sheet on VSV.](#)