Six Disease Prevention Tips

1. **Keep your animals separate as much as possible.**
2. **Don't share equipment or feed.**
3. **Don't bring anything home until it is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.**
4. **Notify a veterinarian immediately if an animal gets sick or has a change in behavior.**
5. **If you bring an animal home, keep it separate from others for at least 30 days.**
6. **Take and record rectal temperatures of your animals before, during and after the fair.**

These biosecurity practices are always a good idea. The goal is to keep animals and the public healthy while safeguarding the Washington livestock industry.

Help protect fair goers

To prevent the spread of animal diseases, discourage the public from touching or petting exhibition animals or their equipment.

If people visit fair barns, provide handwashing stations to reduce possible disease transmission between people and animals.

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KEEP YOUR ANIMALS HEALTHY AT THE FAIR

Tips and best practices for fair exhibitors

Washington State Department of Agriculture

ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION

Exhibiting at the Fair

Fairs can help educate the public about farming and animal agriculture, but fairs also put exhibition animals at risk of becoming sick.

Good biosecurity can reduce the risk and help keep animals healthy. “Biosecurity” refers to steps taken to keep diseases from infecting your herd or flock.

Animals can become sick from interacting with other animals, lots of contact with people, and even contaminated equipment.

But good biosecurity practices can manage these key risks and help keep your animals healthy at the fair.

FAIR BIOSECURITY

Before the Fair

Disease prevention starts before exhibitors leave home. Only healthy animals should be entered in the fair. You should also:

- Make sure veterinary health inspections are current for all animals you take.
- Follow veterinary guidelines on vaccination and withdrawal times.
- Clean and disinfect tools, equipment, and trailers, since these items could carry disease.

At the Fair

The fair environment can be stressful for animals, making them more likely to become sick. To limit this risk, follow these guidelines:

- Limit contact between animals.
- Limit contact between people and animals.
- Avoid sharing equipment with other exhibitors.
- Change your fair clothing, including shoes, before going home.

After the Fair

If your animal returns from the fair, here are steps to protect your farm from disease.

- Keep animals returning from the fair isolated for at least 30 days.
- When doing chores, always care for your fair animals last.
- Watch all your animals daily for signs of illness including a lack of appetite, fever, or changes in behavior.

Some animal diseases spread quickly and can be hard to stop or slow down. The best defense against any disease outbreak is to keep it from spreading in the first place.