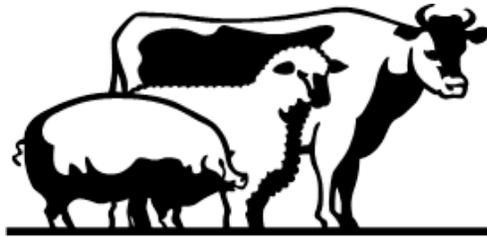


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ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR VERMONT FAIRS, FIELD DAYS AND FESTIVALS



Guidelines for Exhibitors to Minimize Animal Health Risks

As most of the country moves away from farms and into cities, Vermont strives to stay connected to our agriculture roots. Fairs, school farms and programs, petting zoos, and exhibitions provide the public an opportunity for both entertainment and education. Unfortunately, bringing together people and animals from all corners of the state and region increases certain health risks, a concept we have become all too familiar with. This year we add Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to the list. While cases have slowed in the heat of the summer, the virus remains. The Agency of Agriculture (VAAFAM) recommends not featuring poultry at events this year. If you are going to have poultry at your fair, please consider the poultry recommendations below to minimize the risk of HPAI.

Beyond the HPAI pandemic, the risks for *Salmonella*, rabies exposures, injuries, and other health problems among visitors, especially children or vulnerable adults, remain. To help keep everyone safe, VAAFAM encourages organizers of all livestock events to follow these guidelines. This document outlines the **requirements** that must be followed when moving livestock into or throughout the state and **recommendations** to decrease the spread of disease and other risks. It is the shared responsibility of everyone who participates in these events to work together to protect herd health and public health, and we appreciate your attention to safe practices. More information on all of these recommendations and requirements can be found at our [Fair, Shows, and Exhibition website](#).



Mandatory requirements for animals attending a fair, field day, or festival

The VAAFM inspectors will complete site visits and monitor for compliance with the following requirements. To decrease disruptions to participants and events, fair personnel should ensure exhibitors are aware of the following:

Livestock and Poultry from within Vermont

All livestock from within VT are required to be identified with **official individual identification prior to leaving the farm**. Livestock include dairy and beef cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and camelids. Official individual ID include metal NUES or RFID ear tags, Scrapie tags for goats and sheep, an official registry tattoo, or microchips in camelids.

Vermont-origin poultry must have been tested for pullorum-typhoid and found to be negative within the current calendar year.

Livestock and Poultry from Outside of Vermont

All livestock and poultry imported into Vermont must comply with the [Rules Governing the Importation of Domestic Animals Including Livestock and Poultry](#). Livestock import requirements vary by species so please call the State Veterinarian's Office at 802-828-2421 for specific information.

General Requirements:

- A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) dated within 30 days of the event
- Identification with an official identification device (examples include official metal ear tags or RFID tags, Scrapie tags for goats and sheep, an official registry tattoo, or microchips for camelids)
- An import permit (horses are exempt)

Disease Testing Requirements:

- A valid Coggins test for horses within 12 months of importation into Vermont
- Camelids are required to have a negative brucellosis test within 30 days of importation and a negative TB test within 90 days of importation.
- Out of state poultry over 20 weeks old must originate from an NPIP P/T Clean flock or have been tested negative for pullorum-typhoid within 30 days of importation.
- Additional tests for livestock and poultry may be required if traveling from outside of New England. Interstatelivestock.com provides easy look up for requirements base on state of origin and species.

NOTE: It is illegal in Vermont to use animals as an award or prize. For complete information about this law, please review Vermont Statutes [Title 13, Chapter 008: Human Treatment of Animals](#).



Recommendations for animals attending a fair, field day, or festival

The following **recommendations** are aimed at protecting the animals and people attending events throughout Vermont. They represent **best practices** but are not mandatory or required by VAAFM

General Recommendations:

- 1) Adopt and implement the Animal Health Recommendations (see below) recommended for Vermont Fairs, Field Days and Festivals.
- 2) Fair organizers should ensure all livestock are identified with an official individual identification tag.
- 3) Contract with a local veterinarian to monitor your event for contagious diseases and provide necessary veterinary services.
 - a. All animals should be in good physical condition and be free of visual evidence of infectious, contagious, or parasitic diseases at time of arrival.
- 4) Provide the following recommendations to exhibitors on how to limit exposure of their animals to infectious diseases:
 - a. Abide by all animal health requirements established by the event organizers and make sure that your animals are vaccinated according to your veterinarian's recommendations.
 - b. While at the event, use appropriate means of limiting contact of your animals with the public and with other animals. (i.e. use of signs, ropes or other barricades).
 - c. Do not share feeding, watering, cleaning or grooming equipment used for other animals.
 - d. Supply your own feed and bedding and keep it separate from other animals.
 - e. Clean and disinfect milking units between cows.
 - f. Avoid using stalls recently occupied by other animals unless the stalls have been cleaned and disinfected.
 - g. Have disinfectant available for cleaning and disinfecting equipment when necessary.
 - h. Quarantine animals returning to the farm from an event for at least two weeks before reintroducing the animals into the herd or farm population.
- 5) Post information about handwashing in areas that house livestock and poultry. Examples of handouts can be found on the VAAFM website above.
- 6) If fairgrounds or premises will be host to multiple livestock events over the season, livestock barns and stalls should be cleaned and disinfected between events.
- 7) Superintendents should consider practices that will limit contact among and between animals and people such as creative use of barriers, signs, space or physical separations between groups of animals and walkways.
- 8) If suspicious activity is observed or if signs of illness or disease occur in exhibition animals or fair attendees, contact the appropriate authorities and personnel.
- 9) **Due to the ongoing threat of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), VAAFM recommends omitting all waterfowl, especially ducks, from exhibitions this year.** Ducks often show no sign of illness when infected with HPAI and yet spread the disease to all other domestic birds. If you choose to allow ducks and waterfowl at your event, please see below for additional recommendations and safeguards.



Animal Health Recommendations:

While **not required**, VAAFM recommends that fairs institute the following practices to ensure the health of all participating livestock and poultry.

- **Veterinary Exam**
Even owners of Vermont resident animals should ensure that their livestock and poultry are healthy and do not pose a risk to other animals. This can be best accomplished through a veterinary exam prior to transporting animals to a fair. A veterinarian can also help apply official ID and vaccinate for rabies.
- **Rabies Vaccination**
It is strongly recommended that all animals at the event over 3 months of age for which there is an approved rabies vaccine, including cattle, horses, sheep, dogs, cats and ferrets, have a current rabies vaccination. The vaccination should be administered at least 28 days prior to the event and be current according to the vaccine label. Vaccination less than 28 days can be accepted for younger animals not old enough to vaccinate in sufficient time prior to the event. Although an approved rabies vaccine does not exist for goats, camelids, swine, and wolf-hybrids, it is acceptable for veterinarians to administer the vaccine in an off-label manner.

Poultry Recommendations

In addition to the requirements listed in the previous section, poultry should be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: avian influenza, infectious bronchitis, coryza, Pullorum-typhoid, fowl-pox, external parasites, and laryngotracheitis.

If allowing ducks to be exhibited, please review the [biosecurity recommendations to decrease transmission of HPAI](#). Ducks raised with access to outdoor ponds and possible exposure to wild waterfowl pose the greatest risk of HPAI infection. While these animals will often not show signs or symptoms, they can easily spread HPAI to chickens, turkeys, or other poultry. For this reason, ducks raised in duck/waterfowl exclusive flocks are the at the greatest risk of bringing HPAI to an event as illness will be more apparent in mixed flocks.

Cattle, Sheep, Goat, and Camelid (alpacas, llamas, etc) Recommendations

In addition to the requirements listed in the previous section, livestock should be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: foot rot, mange, pink-eye, ringworm, warts, cow-pox, and open or draining wounds.

Cattle Shipping Fever Vaccination - It is recommended that cattle have a shipping fever vaccination within 6 months but no less than 14 days prior to the event which includes IBR, BVD, PI3, and BRSV.

Equine Recommendations

All horses originating from *outside* of Vermont must travel with a negative equine infectious anemia test (Coggin's test), but even horses that originate from *within* Vermont should have a negative Coggin's test dated within 12 months of the event. Equine should be free of visual evidence of the following conditions: mange, ringworm, soring, strangles, and open or draining wounds.



Equine Vaccination for Flu and Rhino (EHV1) between 14 days and 6 months prior to the event is recommended.

Swine Recommendations

In addition to the requirements listed in the previous section, swine should be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: erysipelas, atrophic rhinitis, mange, and open or draining wounds.

Rabbit Recommendations

With the threat of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) and no vaccine currently available in Vermont, prevention and biosecurity will be important. Consider restricting to only Vermont-origin rabbits. A recent veterinary exam and strong biosecurity can reduce the risk of RHD, Pasteurella, mites, and other contagious diseases.

For additional rabbit show and exhibition recommendations and biosecurity information, please visit our website for [Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease](#).

If you have questions or comments, please contact the State Veterinarian's office at (802) 828-2421 or agr.animalhealth@vermont.gov.

