



County Check-In/Weigh-in Biosecurity Recommendations



It is important for exhibitors to remember that any time animals from multiple sources are commingled or held in common areas at an event like a weigh-in or county fair that there is an increased risk for disease spread. Good biosecurity can dramatically reduce the risk of disease transmission between exhibitors' animals and can reduce the risk that exhibitors will be the source of transmission of disease to other animal herds. Below are recommendations that exhibitors should follow.

Premises ID Numbers

Make absolutely sure that you have a premises ID number (PIN) for where you are housing your animals!

Movement Records:

Movement records for each animal should be kept by the exhibitor. The following movement information should be recorded every time animals are moved between sites.

- Name, address or PIN of where the animals were purchased
- PIN (where the animals are housed or raised)
- Animal ID for each animal (lists all tags, tattoos or ear notches)
- Date the animals were moved
- Destination PIN (where animals were weighed, exhibited or moved to)

Records should be kept in a safe place and copies of those records should be with exhibitors anytime they move their animals.

Isolation

Animals returning from weigh-in should be isolated away from other animals for a minimum of 30 days. You should identify your isolation area which should be at a minimum 300 yards away from other livestock. Separate handling, grooming, feeding or watering equipment should be designated and only used with the isolated animals. You should also designate a pair of boots and coverall that will only be used with the isolated group. These items should not be used with other animals on the farm unless they have been cleaned and disinfected.

Disinfectants

Use Environ^T, Virkon S^T, Nolvasan, or other disinfectants found at vet clinics, farm stores or online. Mix disinfectants according to label directions. You can mix bleach and water (3/4 cup to one gallon of water), however have an adult assist in mixing as bleach can be dangerous and should not be mixed with any other agents. Diluted disinfectants should be changed each day or better yet mix up just before using. Clean boots beforehand removing all organic material and disinfectant should be effective within 5 minutes of contact time and most effective at room temperature or warmer.

Important: Handle bleach with care & all disinfectants are more effective when all organic material is removed prior to disinfecting.

Prior to loading for Weigh-in

Animals exhibiting clinical signs of **ANY** contagious disease or in the early treatment phases for a disease should not be taken to weigh-in or to an exhibition. This includes not bringing other animals to the weigh-in that look healthy but have been in contact with or exposed to sick animals. **Humans exhibiting signs of flu like symptoms should stay home and avoid animal contact.**

At the Weigh-in

Some items to consider: Allow one farm/trailer to unload, weigh, and reload back into the trailer before allowing someone else to unload. Recommend having a weigh container (garbage can, gunny sacks, etc..) supplied by each farm. This container can bring the animals one at a time from the trailer to the scale. Remember to get a tare weight on the farm's container. Make sure the exhibitor is the one handling the animals, NOT weigh-in management. Try in every way possible not to contaminate the scales. Don't allow feces and other material direct contact with the scales. If direct contact happens, clean and disinfect the scale after each farm has been weighed-in but before the next farm. Make sure you clean and disinfect equipment that is used, such as an ear notcher, ear tagger, etc. You also might want to consider having a veterinarian at the weigh-in to identify sick animals before unloading. Have a disinfectant there!!!

After animals return from weigh-in

Change clothing and shoes worn to weigh-in before returning to work with other animals at home. Clothing worn at weigh-in should be thoroughly washed before wearing it around the livestock at home. Boots should be disinfected before leaving the fairgrounds. Provide a scrub brush, water to clean and rinse and disinfectant for this purpose.

Vehicles used to transport your animals should be cleaned, disinfected and allowed to dry before other animals are hauled. Clean and disinfect the inside and outside (wheels, bumpers, etc..) of trailers.

Animals returning from weigh-in should be isolated from other animals for a minimum of 30 days before reintroducing them.

Animals should be observed daily for signs of disease or infection. Contact your veterinarian if your animals become sick.

Information from the following resources

National Pork Board and Wisconsin Pork Association materials.

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