



Preventing Disease at Fairs & Exhibitions



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Fairs and exhibitions give livestock owners an opportunity to show off the quality and diversity of Utah animal agriculture, and the hours of training and hard work invested in these animals. Exhibitions, however, can pose a threat to animal health by mixing animals of different sources and species. Stress from travel and the show can make animals more susceptible to disease. Animals returning home may then spread disease to their home herd or flock.

Biosecurity refers to actions an exhibitor can take to prevent bringing diseases home to their herd or flock. The greatest threats of disease at a fair are mixing animals, contact with multiple people, and contaminated equipment or water sources. These biosecurity recommendations can help protect your animals.

At the fair:

- Watch animals for disease, and report concerns to a veterinarian
- Do not share tools or equipment, including water buckets
- Minimize nose-to-nose animal contact and animal-human contact
- Keep animals cool and comfortable
- Provide food and water from home
- Change clothes to avoid cross-contamination between home and the fair
- Wash hands well after handling animals

When returning home:

- Clean and disinfect tools, equipment, vehicles, and trailers and allow to dry
- Throw away unused bedding, hay, and feed
- Quarantine returning livestock for up to four weeks
- Feed and care for returning livestock after the rest of the herd or flock
- Wear different clothes and boots when working with returning livestock



Tools and Equipment to Clean and Disinfect:

- **Feed:** buckets, feeders, hay racks
- **Cleaning:** shovels, pitchforks, wheelbarrows
- **Grooming:** clippers, brushes
- **Vehicle:** trailer interior and exterior

Common Disinfectants:

- Bleach, Virkon, Dichlor
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Vinegar (acetic acid)

For more information on biosecurity and livestock diseases, visit ag.utah.gov

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