



VESICULAR STOMATITIS

Guidance for Shows, Fairs, and Equine Events



Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) is a viral disease that usually affects equines and cattle, but can also affect sheep, goats, pigs, llamas, alpacas, and camels. This disease is common in South and Central America, but occasional outbreaks are seen in North America.

The disease is spread by biting insects, direct contact between animals, and shared equipment that is contaminated with saliva or nasal discharge. UDAF recommends livestock and horse event organizers consider taking the measures below to minimize the risk of transmission of vesicular stomatitis (VS).

ENTRY CONTROL MEASURES

Health Certificates

Participants should, when possible, arrive at the event with a health certificate issued within 7 days prior. The health certificate is not a requirement for in-state animals, but can help ensure livestock and horses arrive at the event free of clinical signs of VS. The health certificate should include the following statement from the veterinarian: "I have examined the animal(s) represented on this certificate and have found no clinical signs of vesicular stomatitis."

Out-of-State Participants

Out-of-state participants should check with their state prior to the event to determine the requirements for returning to their state after the event.

Examination of All Incoming Animals:

All susceptible animals should be examined for VS lesions upon arrival at the event by a veterinarian or fair/show staff under a veterinarian's oversight. Animals should be inspected for blisters, sores, or scabbing around the mouth, nostrils, hooves, teats, and ears. Examiners should wear gloves and change them between animals or groups of animals. If any animals are suspected of having VS, they should not enter the event and must be reported to the State Veterinarian.

Animals From Counties Known to Have VS

Animals from known VS-affected counties should be housed in a separate area, away from other animals, if possible. These animals should be observed daily for signs of disease.

ON-SITE CONTROL MEASURES

Shared Equipment

Discourage the use of shared feed bins, water troughs, equipment, and tack between participants. Common areas and equipment should be disinfected regularly.

Insect Control

Use manure management, elimination of fly breeding areas, removal of standing water, and appropriate insecticide for premises to reduce the number of flies in corrals and barns. Fly wipes, sprays, foggers, and other repellents for use on animals and facilities should be applied according to label directions.

Regular Observation

All susceptible animals should be checked regularly for signs of VS during the event. Excessive salivation (slobbering) is often the first sign of disease. Blisters, sores, and scabbing may form on the hairless areas of the body, especially around the mouth or on the tongue, gums, lips, nostrils, ears, sheath, prepuce, teats/udder, or coronary band. Suspected cases should be isolated away from other animals and reported to the State Veterinarian.

End of the Event

Collect destination and contact information for all animals leaving the fair or show, in the event VS is diagnosed in an animal that participated in the show.