

## Livestock At Risk

FFA and 4-H members understand the time and commitment it takes to earn Grand Champion honors; however, they may not be aware they need to be observing some basic biosecurity measures.

### ***Why should exhibitors be concerned about biosecurity during a fair or livestock show?***

At show events, animals from different species, breeds, age and sex are co-mingled. Also, animals come from different locations and are managed very differently. This co-mingling of animals creates an atmosphere that could lead to transmission of diseases. In addition, travel, close confinement in unfamiliar settings and other stressors can lead to increased disease susceptibility. Not to mention, fairs and livestock shows allow



people from a cross-section of the population to have close contact with animals. All of these factors combined put exhibitors' animals at risk of becoming exposed to a disease.

### ***What can you do?***

Follow the guidelines in this brochure, and visit with your veterinarian about additional ways you can incorporate biosecurity practices into your everyday farm management routine. You can also stay current on agriculture preparedness information through this Agriculture Preparedness Website: <http://aes.missouri.edu/swcenter>. Click on the Ag Preparedness link.



***Biosecurity is what each individual can do to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases.***

***Biosecurity should be part of daily animal care.***

***Exhibitors should sit down with their parents to discuss the biosecurity checklist included in this brochure.***

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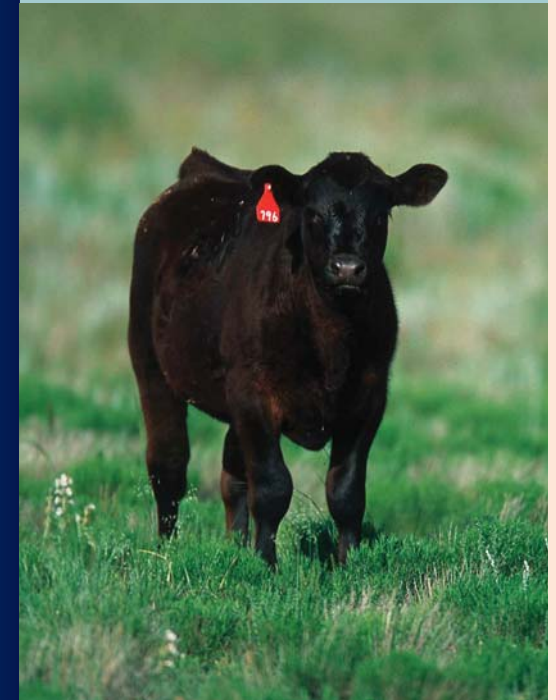


**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Visit University of Missouri (MU) Extension's Agriculture Preparedness website at <http://aes.missouri.edu/swcenter>.

Click on the Ag Preparedness link.

*Keep your livestock healthy during the show season!*

# Fair Exhibitors & Biosecurity: What do you need to know?



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# Biosecurity Checklist For Fair Exhibitors



Exhibitors may not realize that biosecurity is already part of their daily lives. Washing their hands before they eat is a biosecurity practice. This practice washes away disease-causing germs, such as bacteria and viruses that an exhibitor may have picked up when they shook someone's hand or turned a doorknob.

Biosecurity practices should be followed BEFORE, DURING and AFTER the show event in order to adequately protect livestock from obtaining and/or transmitting a disease.

Exhibitors can have a fun and educational experience showing livestock. Minimizing risk to livestock during show events should be an important aspect of this experience.

## Before and During Fair

- Work with veterinarian to establish a herd health program. Ensure all animals are well vaccinated before they are taken to a show or fair.
- Do not bring any visibly sick animals to show or fair.
- Make sure all veterinary health inspections and certificates of veterinary inspection are current for all show animals.
- Disinfect all equipment (shovels, buckets, wheelbarrows, lead ropes, clippers, scissors, show box, etc.) before entering fairgrounds.
- Don't share equipment with other exhibitors unless it has been cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
- Keep unused feed and equipment bagged or covered to reduce risk of contamination.
- Minimize stress prior to fair by providing a clean, dry and comfortable environment, plenty of water and the same feeds that will be taken to show or fair.
- Vehicles and trailers used to transport animals should be well cleaned and disinfected, inside and out. Do not transport other exhibitors' animals in the same trailer. Keep traffic between the animal areas of the fairgrounds and the home to a minimum.
- Minimize nose-to-nose contact with animals from other farms. Avoid contact with manure from other animals.
- Keep wheelbarrow tires, pitchforks and feeding equipment clean and free of manure.
- Avoid sharing grooming equipment as well as feed and water equipment.

If you loan equipment to someone, clean and disinfect it before it is returned.

- For milking animals, it is best to bring a portable milking machine from your farm. Avoid sharing milking units.
- Practice good personal hygiene – wash hands after touching animals and before eating.
- Clean and disinfect all items at the end of the fair before taking them home.
- Properly dispose of unused bedding, hay and feed after the fair. Do not bring it home.



## After the Fair

It is important to realize that good biosecurity does not end once the fair is finished!

- Isolate fair animals from other animals and pets for at least 30 days. If possible, you should quarantine the animals in a facility that is completely separate from other animals to avoid contact or airborne transmission of a possible disease.
- Check fair animals daily for any signs of disease.
- Whoever is caring for the animals should check the rest of the herd first and then the isolated animals. If the animals show any signs of disease, contact a veterinarian immediately.



## Protect Your Animals!

Your efforts to reduce the risk of spreading disease will protect your animals, other animals at your home/farm, and Missouri's livestock industry.

### Need More Information?

Check out our website at  
<http://aes.missouri.edu/swcenter>.  
Click on Ag Preparedness link.