

New Mexico Livestock Board Guidelines for County and Regional Fairs

New Mexico Livestock Board is monitoring the avian influenza (HPAI) situation in the state and would like to help ensure a safe fair season by providing these guidelines for Fair Boards, Extension Agents, and FFA teachers. Since the fair season starts in July and runs through October, it is important to note that the status and/or situation can change anytime, and updates to the guidelines may need to be made and followed accordingly to help reduce spread.

The decision to postpone or cancel shows, sales, or events is up to the event organizers, except in the event of quarantine, health order, or movement restrictions. If events do take place, the State Veterinarian's office recommends that livestock owners and event organizers implement the precautionary measures listed below to minimize the transmission of HPAI.

New Mexico livestock exhibitors have been learning good practices for biosecurity through the Youth Quality Assurance Program. Each participant must pass the course to exhibit at the New Mexico State Fair and Southern New Mexico State Fair.

General recommendations for all livestock include:

Show Organizers

- Have knowledgeable show staff or veterinarian inspecting animals upon arrival and conduct daily health checks. Sanitize hands and change disposable gloves between inspection of each exhibitor's groups of animals to avoid cross-contamination.
- Collect contact information, farm of origin, individual official identification of all animals, and stalling information/location for traceability purposes, if needed.
- For animals more susceptible (such as dairy cattle and poultry), consider adjusting the period that those animals are required to be on site.
- Limit co-mingling of animals from different herds. Avoid nose-to-nose contact.
- The building for poultry housing and shows should be limited to poultry only, be well-ventilated, and attempt to maintain a one-directional flow of traffic with one entrance and one exit. Cages should be disinfected and allowed to air-dry before arrival of poultry and after all poultry leave. Each entrance and exit should have a disinfectant foot bath or disinfectant foot powder as well as hand sanitizer to reduce the possibility of spread of disease.
- For poultry, judges should sanitize hands and change disposable gloves between exhibitor's groups of animals to avoid cross-contamination.
- Designate isolation areas for animals that become sick.
 - Locate an isolation area at least 30 feet away from any other animals or the public to hold animals until they can be removed from the premises.
 - Sick animals should be removed as soon as possible from the premises.

- Provide and use personal protective equipment (PPE) when caring for sick animals such as disposable gloves, coveralls, boot covers, eye protection, etc.
- Provide handwashing stations for use before and after taking care of sick animals.
- Proper disinfection of all areas should occur before and after the show.
- Restrict public access to any show animals to limit direct contact through petting.
- Consider pre-show testing of animals and a current record of Certificate of Veterinary inspection within 7 days before show day.

Exhibitors

- Minimize any unnecessary movement of animals before or during the show. Isolate all show birds to limit exposure to HPAI from any other birds, including wild birds.
- Become familiar with the clinical signs of illness:
 - Dairy Cattle: decreased milk production, reduced appetite, thickened/discolored milk, lethargy, fever, and dehydration
 - Poultry: purple coloring of comb & wattles, nasal discharge, difficulty breathing, sneezing, coughing, swelling head & feet, diarrhea, and/or sudden death
 - Horses, Pigs, and other Ruminants may show respiratory-related issues, lethargy, lack of appetite, or fever.
- If required by show officials, schedule an appointment with your veterinarian to complete a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) and/or test susceptible show animals (Dairy Cattle or Poultry) for influenza and communicate results to fair personnel.
- Observe and monitor animals several times a day and report any signs of illness. Keep sick animals home from the fair.
- Clean and disinfect any equipment that you take to the show or bring home to the farm. Disinfect using diluted bleach (1/4 cup of bleach to 2 quarts of water) or any similar disinfectant that is labeled effective against avian influenza.
- Do not share tools, feeders, waterers, grooming supplies, or any other type of equipment with other animals or exhibitors.
- Avoid transporting animals from different premises in the same trailer.
- Develop an enhanced biosecurity plan for animals when returning home. The plan should include:
 - Isolation and observation of show animals after returning home from the show. Quarantine animals between 14-30 days, depending on species.
 - Do not share equipment between show animals and any other animals on the farm.
 - Use different clothes and shoes when tending to show animals.
 - Minimize contact between show animals and the public during the quarantine period.
- Consider testing animals for influenza post-show.
- Notify your veterinarian of any influenza-like symptoms.

- If you or your family members begin to develop eye irritation or flu-like symptoms within 10 days of the show, consult your healthcare provider.

Sources

[Considerations and Information for Fair Exhibitors to Help Prevent Influenza](#)

[Considerations and Information for Fair Organizers to Help Prevent Influenza](#)

[El Paso County Fair in Colorado continues safety measures this year amid avian flu outbreak in cattle](#)

[Michigan resource: Cleaning for HPAI](#)

[USDA Guidance for Dairy Cattle Livestock Exhibition](#)



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