

Public Health Checklist: **Best Practices for Agricultural Fairs**

The checklist below, based on the [Compendium of Measures to Prevent Diseases Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2023](#), developed by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, provides considerations for organizing and operating an agriculture event, such as fairs, to protect the health and safety of visitors and animals.

Facility Design

- ☐ Handwashing stations.
 - ☐ Running water.
 - ☐ Accessible for children and persons with disabilities.
 - ☐ Plan for restocking of supplies (paper towels, soap, and water).
- ☐ Hand sanitizer (should be used as a supplement but not a replacement for soap and water).
 - ☐ Plan for restocking hand sanitizer.
- ☐ Visitors not allowed in pens.
- ☐ No petting of animals allowed over/through fences/barriers.
- ☐ Traffic patterns for the public to flow through animal areas and reduce overcrowding.
 - ☐ Transition area at the entrance, between non-animal and animal areas.
 - ☐ Stroller and bag storage to reduce items brought into animal areas.
 - ☐ Transition area at the exit, as people leave animal areas.
 - ☐ Handwashing stations and associated signage near the exit to remind visitors to wash their hands.
- ☐ No physical contact by the public with chicks, ducklings, reptiles, calves, or dangerous or exotic animals (e.g., primates, wolf pups, alligators, etc.).
- ☐ Separation of dining areas and food concessions from animal areas.
- ☐ Adequate ventilation in animal areas while avoiding air movement that disturbs dust.

Visitor Education

- ☐ Educational messages in multiple formats (e.g., signs, videos, recorded messages, stickers, bracelets, interactions of staff with visitors, etc.).
- ☐ Signage in transition area at the entrance.
 - ☐ Animals can carry germs that can make people sick.
 - ☐ No food or drinks in animal areas.
 - ☐ Avoid touching face and hand-to-mouth activities in the animal areas.
 - ☐ Supervise young children closely.
 - ☐ Children under five years old, senior citizens, women who are pregnant, and people with underlying health conditions are at higher risk of becoming sick from germs that animals can carry.
- ☐ Signage in transition area at the exit.
 - ☐ Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water immediately after visiting the animals.
- ☐ Staff members present to encourage safe animal contact.
 - ☐ Remind visitors that animals carry germs that can make people sick.
 - ☐ Remind visitors to refrain from risky activities in the animal area (i.e., eating, drinking, bottles, pacifiers, strollers, hand-to-mouth contact, etc.)
 - ☐ Remind visitors to wash their hands after visiting the animal area.
 - ☐ Reminder parents to closely supervise young children with the animals.

Animal Care and Management

- ☐ Sick or injured animal(s) are immediately removed, especially if they have respiratory signs or diarrhea (scours).
- ☐ Manure/soiled bedding removed promptly.
 - ☐ Limit visitor contact to manure/soiled bedding (e.g., use of double barriers, sweeping walkways, use of solid bottom fencing, etc.).
- ☐ Surfaces, especially pen railings, cleaned daily using soap and water or disinfectant.
- ☐ Animals housed in a way that minimizes stress and overcrowding (decreasing shedding of germs in feces).
- ☐ Feed provided in containers that will not be confused with human food.
- ☐ Encourage vaccination of animals against rabies. (Dogs, cats, cattle, horses, and sheep have approved vaccines against rabies).

Staff Education

- ☐ Review best practices and recommendations from the Compendium on an annual basis.
Educate staff on:
 - ☐ The risk of disease and injury associated with animals.
 - ☐ How diseases are transmitted from animals to humans.
 - ☐ Prevention messages that should be shared with visitors.
- ☐ Ensure staff feel comfortable explaining these concepts to visitors.
- ☐ Explain staff members' role(s) at the fair or agricultural event.
 - ☐ Teach people about animals and how to enjoy them safely following these best practices.