



State of New Jersey

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TO: All County Extension Agents, Show Secretaries, and Veterinarians

FROM: Manoel Tamassia, DVM, MS, Ph.D., Dipl. ACT
Director, Division of Animal Health and State Veterinarian

DATE: March 14, 2022

SUBJECT: ***2022 Fair/Show Animal Health Recommendations, Regulations, and Forms***

The following is information from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) regarding recommendations, regulations, and forms for the 2022 fair/show season. Individual fair/show management may impose additional or more stringent health requirements as deemed necessary. It is also recommended that organizers include statements on registration and promotional materials that clearly indicate that participating in the event is at one's own risk and that of their animals' health.

Everyone associated with the 2022 fairs and shows is encouraged to remain vigilant for potential cases of unusual diseases or any suspicious or abnormal conditions in an animal, herd, or flock. In the event of such observations, please contact a veterinarian and the NJDA Division of Animal Health (DAH) (609-671-6400) or the USDA Veterinary Services office (609-259-5260) IMMEDIATELY.

Fair organizers should be particularly attentive to the following disease:

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) – Also known as “bird flu,” has been detected in the US in domestic poultry, backyard flocks, and wild birds in 2022. Although the disease has not been identified in domestic poultry, HPAI has been found in wild birds in NJ. All poultry owners need to look for signs of illness in their poultry and use good biosecurity practices to protect their birds. Signs of HPAI in poultry include sudden death; respiratory signs such as coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge; swelling around the eyes; open mouth breathing; darkening of the comb/wattles; reddening of the shanks or feet; decreased egg production; and lethargy. Outbreaks of HPAI have also been reported in Africa, Asia, and Europe in 2022.
- Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) – In March 2020, a case of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease virus was detected in New Mexico. Since then, the virus has been detected in many states, including the east coast. RHD can be caused by two different, related viruses, RHDV1 and RHDV2. The current outbreak is due to RHDV2. RHDV is highly contagious and affects both domesticated and wild rabbits. Almost all rabbits exposed to the virus die. The virus is transmitted by inhalation, ingestion, or by absorption through scrapes and wounds. It can be transmitted by direct contact with an infected rabbit or by contact with an object, person, clothing, or equipment infected with the virus. Rabbits are also able to catch the virus through the consumption of contaminated water or food. An experimental vaccine is approved for use in NJ by licensed veterinarians. Please consult with your veterinarian about the availability of the vaccine in their practices.

- African Swine Fever – African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious hemorrhagic disease of wild and domestic suids with extremely high morbidity and mortality rates. ASF is spread by contact with infected animals' bodily fluids. It can also be spread by certain ticks that feed on infected animals, by people moving the virus on vehicles or clothing, and by feeding pigs uncooked garbage that contains infected pork products. ASF is not a threat to human health and cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans. The disease is currently devastating pig populations in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti, where it is occurring.
- Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND) – formerly known as exotic Newcastle disease, is a contagious and fatal viral disease affecting the respiratory, nervous, and digestive systems of birds, especially poultry. VND spreads when healthy birds come in direct contact with bodily fluids from sick birds. The disease affects almost all birds and poultry, even vaccinated poultry. The virus can travel on manure, egg flats, crates, other farming materials or equipment, and people who have picked up the virus on their clothing, shoes, or hands. The disease is so virulent that many birds and poultry die without showing any clinical signs. The last outbreak in the US started in California in May of 2018 and took over two years to eradicate, involving 476 confirmed positive premises.

If outbreaks of infectious diseases warrant additional restrictions on the movement of any species of animals into and/or through New Jersey, emergency rules may be enacted, and all fair/show managers will be notified.

Security measures should also be considered to prevent unauthorized individuals from handling animals and/or their feed or water. Anyone acting in a manner that seems inappropriate or suspicious should immediately be reported to local law enforcement and the NJDA-DAH.

The following signs may indicate an animal has been exposed to a toxin or infectious agent:

- Excessive discharges from body orifices
- Off-feed or weight loss
- Skin lesions including blisters, pustules, or discoloration around the animal's mouth, nose, teats, or hooves
- Abnormal behaviors, such as excessive vocalization or depression
- Excessive urination, excessive salivation, and/or excessive tearing
- Lameness, off-balance, falling, difficulty rising, circling and/or partial or complete paralysis
- Muscle tremors and/or seizures
- Sneezing, open-mouthed breathing, gasping for air, nasal discharge, coughing, difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea, vomiting, constipation, excessively dry manure
- Twisting of the head and neck
- Foaming at the mouth or nose
- Head pressing, stargazing, no menace response, uneven pupil sizes
- Drooping wings, feather or hair loss, excessive loss of mane and/or tail hairs
- Partial to complete drop in egg production, production of thin-shelled eggs
- Swelling of tissues around eyes, neck, or legs, or cloudiness of the eyes
- Abortions, stillbirths, weak neonates
- Abnormal body temperature
- Unusual ticks or maggots
- Staggering, falling, or central nervous system disorders

Animal Health Documentation

Fair/show management is responsible for ensuring that animals to be exhibited enter the grounds in good health and with proper documentation, including:

- **Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs)** - CVIs are completed and signed by accredited veterinarians for any animal being transported **interstate** (e.g., Pennsylvania to New Jersey) prior to traveling. CVIs are valid for 30 days from the date of examination. The official CVI must be serialized and include the following:
 - Complete name and complete address of the exhibitor,
 - Complete address of the premises of origin,
 - **Complete name and complete address of the fair/show to be attended (a separate CVI needs to be completed for each individual fair/show to be attended)**.
 - Species, breed, sex, the age of animals, and official identification, including:
 - Cattle and swine shall be identified by at least one of the following methods: official ISO 11784/85 compliant electronic ID (a.k.a. “840 tags”), official NUES ear tag, official tattoo, or registration name or number with registration papers.
 - Horses and other equine species shall be identified with an official ISO 11784/85 compliant electronic ID (a.k.a. “840 microchip”), unless the microchip was injected prior to March 11, 2014, physical description and/or tattoo. The physical description must match the EIA certificate.
 - Sheep and goats shall be identified by USDA-approved official identification (ear tag and/or approved registry tattoo). For questions regarding the USDA’s Mandatory Identification of Sheep and Goats regulation, or to obtain official identification tags for sheep and goats, call the USDA, APHIS, VS office at (609) 259-5260.
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/rule_movement_sheep.pdf
http://www.eradicatescrapie.org/State%20ID%20Requirements.html#Federal_Requirements
 - Other livestock shall be identified by ear tag, registration name, number, species, breed, physical description, or microchip.
 - A statement by the examining veterinarian that he/she personally inspected the animals described and found them free from visible clinical signs of infectious, contagious and/or communicable disease or known exposure thereto within 30 days of shipment.
- **VS (Veterinary Services) Form 9-3** (Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks, and Poultry) or **VS Form 9-2** (Flock Selecting and Testing Report) may be used for poultry in lieu of the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.
- **Animal Health Certificates (AHC)** - *AHCs may only be used for animals native to New Jersey attending New Jersey fairs/shows. An AHC is NOT VALID for interstate shipment of animals.* An AHC can be issued by an accredited veterinarian prior to or at the fair/show. Issuance of an AHC at the fair/show is at the organizers’ discretion as it requires the presence of a veterinarian on the premises. It should be signed by both the veterinarian and the animal owner. Based on his/her knowledge and judgment, the examining veterinarian must indicate on the form whether the AHC is valid for 30, 60, or 90 days from the date of examination. Animals listed on an AHC must be identified by an ear tag, tattoo, or other permanent identification or description (coat color, markings, age, etc.).
<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/pdf/HealthCertificate.pdf>
- **4-H Poultry, Rabbit, or Cavy Health Form** – This form can be used for the species indicated and can be completed by the 4-H leader or another qualified adult within 30 days before the exhibition at a 4-H sponsored show or demonstration. Animals listed on the 4-H Poultry, Rabbit, or Cavy

Health Form must be identified by an ear tag, tattoo, or other permanent identification or description (coat color, markings, age, etc.).

<http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/pdf/4-Hpoultryrabbitcavyform.pdf>

Additional information regarding Fair and Show Animal Health Recommendations, Animal Health Certificates and the 4-H Poultry, Rabbit or Cavy Health Forms are available on the web at <http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/ah/news/fairsshows.html>

Please note:

The NJDA recommends that fair/show management arranges for veterinary medical assistance to be on-call for the exhibition's duration. All animal exhibitors should be aware of the local livestock accredited veterinarian(s) willing to provide medical attention for the animals being exhibited. Any animal showing clinical signs including, but not limited to, warts, ringworm, footrot, parasites, pink eye, enlarged and inflamed lymph nodes, draining abscesses, or open wounds must not be exhibited or allowed to remain on the fair or showgrounds.

All animals eligible for an approved USDA rabies vaccination should be current on rabies vaccination, and proof of vaccination by a veterinarian should be provided upon entry. Domestic mammalian species susceptible to the disease for which there is no USDA-approved vaccine are recommended to be vaccinated against rabies. Individual fairs/shows may require rabies vaccination for mammalian species for which there is no USDA-approved vaccine. If vaccination is waived, the exhibitor and show should ensure these animals are separated from the public by sufficient means to disallow direct animal/public contact.

Sale of Poultry

Any person selling poultry (including baby chicks) at a fair/show shall provide to the buyer a copy of the VS Form 9-2 or VS Form 9-3, which certifies the poultry originated from a pullorum-typhoid clean/ NPIP approved hatchery or flock.

Permit Requirement to Sell Baby Chicks

Any person planning to sell baby chicks (which did not originate from a farm in New Jersey) at a fair/show must obtain a permit from the NJDA-DAH no later than one month in advance of the event (N.J.S.A. 4:3-12-19). Permit applications are available by calling (609) 671-6400. There will be a \$5.00 per day fee charged for each day chicks will be offered for sale. The seller will also need to specify the number and breed of chicks to be offered for sale and provide documentation the chicks offered for sale are from a pullorum-typhoid clean /NPIP approved hatchery or flock. Along with the permit application, the seller will be provided with a spreadsheet that needs to be completed and returned to the NJDA-DAH within three days following the end of the fair/show. The following information must be recorded on the spreadsheet:

- the number and breed of chicks sold,
- the date they were hatched,
- by whom they were hatched, and
- name and complete address of each buyer.

Humane Issues

The treatment of all animals present at the fair/show must adhere to the New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C.) 2:8 "[Humane Treatment of Domestic Livestock](https://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/ah/pdf/2-8%20Humane%20Treatment%20effective%2010%2026%2017%20OCR.pdf)." These rules establish minimum humane standards for the raising, keeping, care, treatment, marketing, and sale of domestic livestock and procedures for the enforcement of those standards. These standards can be found on this website: <https://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/ah/pdf/2-8%20Humane%20Treatment%20effective%2010%2026%2017%20OCR.pdf>

It is recommended that the fair or show make contact with both their county and local Humane Law Enforcement Officers (HLEO) before the fair or show. Should an animal control officer, HLEO, or any

other person(s) investigate animal cruelty at the fair, they must abide by these rules. NJDA suggests that any investigators be provided with a copy of [N.J.A.C. 2:8](#) and be reminded they may not handle animals, touch feed or water or enter livestock areas without complying with biosecurity protocols under 2:8-8.1 (c), which requires them to wear clean clothing and shoe protection to prevent the spread of infectious or contagious agents on or from the premises. Additionally, the NJDA should be contacted if the fair/show is visited by anyone inspecting livestock for any stated reason. All inspectors should be accompanied by a fair/show manager at all times while on the fair/show premises.

Questions and concerns regarding [N.J.A.C. 2:8](#), including the failure of inspectors to adhere to biosecurity protocols, must be reported to the State Veterinarian at 609-671-6400.

The fair or show management are reminded:

- Rabbits, turtles, baby chicks, ducklings, or other fowl under two months of age may not be sold, offered for sale, bartered, or given away for use as household or domestic pets (N.J.S.A. 4:22-26q);
- Baby chicks, ducklings, or other fowl or rabbits, turtles or chameleons which have been dyed or artificially colored or otherwise treated so as to impart to them an artificial color, may not be sold, offered for sale, bartered, given away, or displayed (N.J.S.A. 4:22-26r).

Food Safety

Any food animal exhibited should be accompanied by a Drug Use Form available at: <https://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/ah/pdf/DrugUseForm.pdf>

This form will certify that:

- The animal has not been treated with drugs or medications, OR the animal does not contain a drug for which the withdrawal period has not yet elapsed as per label directions, or
- The animal has received drugs or medication, and the withdrawal period has not yet elapsed as per label direction.

The form should be made available to in-state and out-of-state exhibitors since it helps protect the consumer and teaches exhibitors responsibility in the management and care of food animals (this documentation should follow the food animal to its final slaughter destination). If the animal received drugs or medications for which the withdrawal period has not yet elapsed, this must be documented on the form. The animal identification, drug name, date(s) of administration, the route of administration, and the drug withdrawal time prior to slaughter must be documented. **Animals cannot be turned away from the show because they received medications. The drugs simply need to be documented, and the withdrawal time clearly stated.** *Certain drugs, such as gentamicin, are illegal for use in food animals.* It is the animal producer's responsibility to check with his or her veterinarian as to what medications can be given. It is recommended that exhibitors read about the proper use of antibiotics and other medications.

Public Health Concerns

Interactions between people and animals provide valuable and enjoyable educational experiences that should be encouraged. However, during such contact, there is some risk of disease transmission. To protect both humans and animals, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Health, encourages all fairs/shows to implement the following precautionary steps to protect both visitors and animals from disease:

- Provide hand-cleaning stations/facilities for use prior to and after contact with animals.
 - Provide running water and soap, or antibacterial hand wipes to clean dirt off hands.
 - Provide *alcohol-based hand rubs* for use on clean hands.
- Maintain safe and clean stations/facilities to protect visitors and animals.
 - Trash cans should be available and emptied regularly.

- Post signs indicating the location of hand-cleaning stations and or facilities.
- Do not allow human food or drink in animal contact areas.
- Forbid smoking in animal contact areas and at hand-cleaning stations/facilities.
- Ensure that no feed is fed to the animals unless specifically provided by the fair.

Also, the “Lose the Germs” poster series intended for posting at hand-cleaning stations/facilities is available at <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/news/biosecurity.html>

Recent Travel in Foreign Countries

Fair/show attendees should be questioned before entry onto the fair/showgrounds about recent travel to foreign countries to determine potential exposure to disease-infected livestock and poultry. Anyone who has been within one mile of foreign livestock or poultry areas, zoos, or game parks in the past five days should be considered potentially exposed. These individuals should have their shoes cleaned and disinfected at the fair/show entry point and be discouraged from visiting the livestock and poultry. Vinegar should be offered to disinfect watches, eyeglasses, etc. If a single-entry point/control point cannot be established on fair/show grounds to question attendees, it is recommended that attendees not be allowed to get close to or touch the animals.

Species-Specific Health Regulations and Recommendations

- *Regulations are identified by an arrow that must be enforced.*
- *A bullet identifies recommendations.*

NEW JERSEY CATTLE ATTENDING A NEW JERSEY FAIR/SHOW:

- Shall be accompanied by an official CVI or AHC.

IMPORTED CATTLE ATTENDING A NEW JERSEY FAIR/SHOW:

- Shall be accompanied by an official CVI.
- Shall be negative to a tuberculosis test within 60 days of entry – Cattle from an accredited-free State, zone, or herd are exempt from testing.
- For an accredited herd, the CVI shall include the date on which the herd of origin was last tuberculin tested, and a statement by the accredited veterinarian that the cattle to be imported were:
 - Included in the most recent test of the herd of origin and testing with negative results occurred within one year prior to the date of movement, or
 - They are natural additions to the herd.
- Six months of age or over shall be negative to an official brucellosis test within 30 days of entry – brucellosis vaccinated heifers under 14 months of age, steers, and spayed heifers are exempt from brucellosis testing. Cattle to be imported that originates from a Class Free State or Area are exempt from brucellosis testing.
- Shall be negative to an official anaplasmosis or bluetongue test within 30 days prior to entry if they originate from a state that is determined by the USDA to be endemic for anaplasmosis or Bluetongue.

NEW JERSEY GOATS ATTENDING A NEW JERSEY FAIR/SHOW:

- Shall be accompanied by an official CVI or AHC.
- **All goats** of any age must be identified by USDA-approved official identification - approved ear tag and/or tattoo. A microchip is also acceptable, but it must be a USDA-approved ISO 11784/85 compliant device. If a microchip is used for ID, the animal owner must bring the microchip reader to the fair.

IMPORTED GOATS ATTENDING A NEW JERSEY FAIR/SHOW:

- Shall be accompanied by an official CVI.
- **All goats** of any age must be identified by USDA-approved official identification - approved ear tag and/or tattoo. A microchip is also acceptable, but it must be a USDA-approved ISO 11784/85 compliant device. If a microchip is used for ID, the animal owner must bring the microchip reader to the fair.
- All goats to be imported shall be negative to an official tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to entry. Goats from an accredited-free State or zone or from an accredited herd shall be exempt from testing.
- For an accredited herd, the CVI shall include the date on which the herd of origin was last tuberculin tested, and a statement by the accredited veterinarian that the goats to be imported were:
 - Included in the most recent test of the herd of origin and testing with negative results occurred within one year prior to the date of movement, or
 - They are natural additions to the herd.
- All goats to be imported four months of age or over shall be negative to an official brucellosis test within 30 days prior to entry. Wethers shall be exempt from brucellosis testing.

Please note: In lieu of brucellosis testing, the State Veterinarian will allow goats that do not originate from brucellosis-free herds to attend New Jersey fairs/shows if the owner contacts the New Jersey Division of

Animal Health at (609) 671-6400 between 9:00 am - 4:30 pm M-F to obtain a permit number to be included on the CVI. Owners will need to provide the following information:

- Name of owner,
- National Premises Identification number or scrapie flock identification number,
- Address of premises of origin,
- Address of premises of destination,
- Number of goats to enter into New Jersey, and
- Precise dates of movement.

NEW JERSEY HORSES ATTENDING A NEW JERSEY FAIR/SHOW:

- Shall be accompanied by an official CVI or AHC.
- Shall be accompanied by a valid EIA (Coggins) form certifying the animal has had a negative official test (AGID or ELISA) for equine infectious anemia within the past 24 months – a horse younger than six months, that is accompanied by its dam that has a negative official Coggins test within the past 24 months, is exempt from testing.
- Horses that are to change owners via sale, barter, or trade – shall have a negative Coggins test within 90 days prior to exchange.

IMPORTED HORSES ATTENDING A NEW JERSEY FAIR/SHOW:

- Shall be accompanied by an official CVI.
- Shall be accompanied by a valid EIA (Coggins) form certifying the animal has had a negative official test (AGID or ELISA) for equine infectious anemia within the past 12 months – horses younger than six months and accompanied by a dam that has a negative official Coggins test within the past 12 months are exempt from testing.
- Horses that are to change owners via sale, barter, or trade – shall have a negative Coggins test within 90 days prior to sale, barter, or trade.

NEW JERSEY LLAMA (all species of the genus **Lama**) ATTENDING A NEW JERSEY FAIR/SHOW:

- Shall be accompanied by an official CVI or AHC.

IMPORTED LLAMA (all species of the genus **Lama**) ATTENDING A NEW JERSEY FAIR/SHOW:

- Shall be accompanied by an official CVI.
- Shall be tested negative for Bluetongue within 30 days prior to entry. Camelids to be imported that originate from states where Bluetongue is not endemic or considered low risk shall be exempt from testing.
- Shall be negative to an official tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to entry. Camelids to be imported that originate from an accredited-free State or zone shall be exempt from testing. All camelids to be imported six months of age or over shall be negative to an official brucellosis test within 30 days prior to entry. Neutered male camelids are exempt from testing.

NEW JERSEY POULTRY AND HATCHING EGGS ATTENDING A NEW JERSEY FAIR/SHOW:

- All poultry and hatching eggs, including chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, peafowl, quail, grouse, chukars, pheasant, ratites (ostrich, emu, rhea, and cassowaries), waterfowl, pigeons and doves shall be accompanied by an official CVI, AHC, VS Form 9-2 or 9-3, or a 4-H Poultry, Rabbit, or Cavy Health Form.
- All poultry (with the exception of waterfowl, pigeons, and doves) and hatching eggs:
 - Shall originate from U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean or equivalent flocks; or
 - Shall have an individual negative Pullorum-Typhoid test performed within 90 days prior to the exhibit by meeting the testing requirements below:

- Poultry (with the exception of those types listed below) shall be tested when more than 4 months of age. Poultry under 4 months shall originate from Pullorum-Typhoid negative flocks.
- Turkeys shall be blood tested when more than 12 weeks of age. Turkeys under 12 weeks of age shall originate from Pullorum-Typhoid negative flocks. Turkeys shall only be tested by NJDA authorized personnel.
- Game birds (includes quail, chukar, grouse, and pheasant) shall be tested when more than 4 months of age or upon reaching sexual maturity, whichever comes first. Game birds under 4 months shall originate from Pullorum-Typhoid negative flocks.
- Ostrich, emu, rhea, and cassowaries shall be blood tested when more than 12 months of age. All ostrich, emus, rhea, and cassowaries less than 12 months shall originate from Pullorum-Typhoid negative flocks.
- Waterfowl, pigeons, and doves are exempt from Pullorum-Typhoid testing.

Contact information for certified pullorum testers is available by calling the Division of Animal Health at (609)-671-6400.

IMPORTED POULTRY AND HATCHING EGGS ATTENDING A NEW JERSEY FAIR/SHOW:

- All poultry and hatching eggs, including chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, peafowl, quail, grouse, chukars, pheasants, ratites (ostrich, emu, rhea, and cassowaries), waterfowl, pigeons, and doves shall be accompanied by an official CVI or VS Form 9-2 or 9-3.
- All poultry (with the exception of pigeons and doves) and hatching eggs:
 - Shall originate from U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean or equivalent flocks; or
 - Shall have an individual negative Pullorum-Typhoid test within 90 days prior to the exhibit by meeting the testing requirements below:
 - Poultry (with the exception of pigeons and doves) shall be tested when more than 4 months of age. Poultry under 4 months shall originate from Pullorum-Typhoid negative flocks.
 - Turkeys shall be blood tested when more than 12 weeks of age. Turkeys under 12 weeks of age shall originate from Pullorum-Typhoid negative flocks. Turkeys shall be tested using a microtiter or tube agglutination test.
 - Game birds (includes quail, chukars, grouse, and pheasants) shall be tested when more than 4 months of age or upon reaching sexual maturity, whichever comes first. Game birds under 4 months shall originate from Pullorum-Typhoid negative flocks.
 - Ostrich, emu, rhea, and cassowaries shall be blood tested when more than 12 months of age. All ostrich, emus, rhea, and cassowaries under 12 months shall originate from Pullorum-Typhoid negative flocks.
 - Doves and pigeons are exempt from Pullorum-Typhoid testing.
- All poultry and hatching eggs, including chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, peafowl, quail, grouse, chukars, pheasants, ratites (ostrich, emu, rhea, and cassowaries), waterfowl, with the exception of pigeons and doves:
 - Shall originate and move directly from an established flock that participates in the NPIP U.S. Avian Influenza Clean program or NPIP U.S. H5/H7 Avian Influenza Clean or Monitored program; or
 - Shall originate and move directly from a test negative Avian Influenza monitored flock ([as defined in N.J.A.C. 2:9-2.1](#)); or
 - Shall originate and move directly from a test negative Avian Influenza tested flock ([as defined in N.J.A.C. 2:9-2.1](#)).

- Poultry less than 7 days of age is exempt from testing requirements if these birds originate and move directly from a breeding flock that meets the requirements above.
- Pigeons and doves are exempt from Avian Influenza testing.

Please note:

Concerns regarding the Avian Influenza virus (also known as “bird flu”) continue.

All poultry owners need to be on the lookout for signs of illness in their poultry and use good biosecurity practices to protect birds. Signs of HPAI may include a sudden increase in bird deaths, sneezing, gasping for air, coughing and nasal discharge (runny nose), watery and/or green diarrhea, lack of energy and poor appetite, drop in egg production, or soft- or thin-shelled misshapen eggs, swelling around the eyes, neck, and head and purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legs. Additional information on biosecurity for backyard flocks (including handouts on avian influenza and on biosecurity) can be found at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian-influenza-disease>

To protect the State’s poultry industry, the NJDA recommends that the fair or show management adopt rules requiring all exhibited poultry and hatching eggs to be accompanied by a certification that they are free from avian influenza, regardless of where the birds originated.

NEW JERSEY SHEEP ATTENDING A NEW JERSEY FAIR/SHOW:

- Shall be accompanied by an official CVI or AHC.
- Sexually intact sheep of any age must be identified by USDA-approved ISO 11784/85 compliant official identification such as approved ear tag, tattoo and/or microchip. The microchip reader must be provided if identification is by microchip.

IMPORTED SHEEP ATTENDING A NEW JERSEY FAIR/SHOW:

- Shall be accompanied by an official CVI.
- Sexually intact sheep of any age must be identified by USDA-approved ISO 11784/85 compliant official identification such as approved ear tag, tattoo and/or microchip. The microchip reader must be provided if identification is by microchip.
- Sheep from states with endemic Bluetongue must have a negative test within 30 days prior to entry.

NEW JERSEY SWINE ATTENDING A NEW JERSEY FAIR/SHOW:

- Shall be accompanied by an official CVI or AHC.
- Pigs attending fairs/shows should not return home or be re-introduced to other pigs. If pigs are to return to the herd, preventive measures should be put in place to reduce the chance of introduction of swine enteric coronavirus disease (SECD) into the herd (isolate and test for SEDC prior to returning to the herd). For more information on SECD, visit the following website <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/ah/prog/swineentericdiseases.html>
- SECD is not zoonotic and does not pose public health risks. However, the public can spread the virus to other pigs at the fair/show. Public separation is not required but is recommended. Enhanced biosecurity measures to prevent the potential spread of this disease are recommended.

IMPORTED SWINE ATTENDING A NEW JERSEY FAIR/SHOW:

- Shall be accompanied by an official CVI.
- The CVI must contain a statement from the issuing veterinarian that he/she personally inspected the pigs, and they are free of clinical signs of infectious contagious or communicable diseases or known exposure within 30 days of the shipment.
- Shall be negative to an official brucellosis test within 30 days prior to entry – swine from a validated brucellosis-free state or a validated brucellosis-free herd are exempt from testing.

- Shall be negative to an official pseudorabies test within 30 days prior to entry – swine from a pseudorabies IV or V State/Area or originate from a qualified pseudorabies negative herd are exempt from testing.

Please note:

Swine Enteric Coronavirus Disease (SECD) is a gastrointestinal disease of swine that can cause severe production loss to pork producers. Fair organizers should be attentive to this disease. It is a viral disease of concern to the U.S. swine industry, causing severe diarrhea and high mortality in young pigs. It entered the US in 2013 but has yet to be diagnosed in NJ despite being found in neighboring states. This disease does not affect humans or compromise food safety.

NJDA recommends that the planning and implementation of biosecurity measures for SECD be done at the local level with the collective input from veterinarians, swine farmers, 4-H livestock committees, and fair manager/fair board. Hopefully, these measures will increase awareness and promote better animal health practices at home and at fairs/shows.

It is also recommended that organizers include statements on registration and promotional materials that clearly indicate participating in the event is at one's own risk and that of their animals' health.