



Guidance for Livestock Shows and Events in Nebraska to Slow the Spread of COVID-19 November 20, 2020

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) understands that the COVID-19 pandemic is making it difficult to plan for upcoming December and January livestock progress shows. NDA encourages show managers and livestock event organizers to make the best decision for their event keeping local, state and federal regulations and health guidelines in mind.

The below guidance for livestock shows and events in Nebraska was originally created in cooperation with representatives from NDA, the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers, the Nebraska State Fair, Nebraska Extension, Nebraska FFA and local health officials.

All livestock shows, clinics, jackpot shows, etc. should adhere to the following guidance.

*In the event of changes to the DHM or additional statewide restrictions or relaxations, this document will be updated as needed.

PRIOR TO THE EVENT:

- **All livestock event organizers should first consult with their local health department to ensure their events are able to meet all local health department guidelines.** Be aware of the COVID-19 situation in the community where the venue is located. A listing of local health departments can be found [here](#).
- **Ensure that your event will be able to adhere to the requirements set forth in the current DHM.**
- Speak with the venue manager. Discuss the venues expectations, including any new procedures for the facility and sanitization practices they may require.
- Consider limiting the overall number of participants and the number of participants in individual classes. Thus, reducing the size and duration of the show to minimize time spent on site.
- Require pre-registration to minimize in-person interaction on site.
- If charging registration or entry fees, develop a flexible refund policy. Allow participants to stay home without penalty if they are sick, need to care for someone who is sick, or are at high risk for complications from COVID-19.
- Determine what you will do if you must postpone or cancel the event. Make clear to participants how they will be notified if last-minute changes occur.
- It is strongly encouraged that event organizers consider hosting “show and go” types of events, where the livestock are brought in, shown and leave immediately following the show.
- To cut down on in person spectator attendance and to enable you to adhere to the current DHM gathering limitations, consider a livestream of the event.
- **Communicate and enforce new policies with exhibitors and the public.** Make expectations clear to participants before the event and consider using signs and staff to provide reminders and guidance during the event.

AT THE EVENT:

- Event managers will be responsible for ensuring that guidelines are being followed by participants.
- Any person showing any signs of illness should stay home.
- Children who are not competing are encouraged to stay home.
- Implement cleaning and disinfection practices according to [CDC guidelines](#), with regular sanitation of high-touch surfaces at least every two hours.
- Post signage around the facility including:
 - Avoid the [3 C's](#).
 - Wear proper [masks](#).
 - [Wash your hands](#).
 - [Symptoms of COVID-19](#).
- Wearing cloth face masks is encouraged, but, if adhering to the 6 feet social distancing recommendations are not necessary unless otherwise noted below.
- Provide handwashing or sanitizing stations for participants throughout the venue.
- Participants should not congregate. At least 6 feet of distance must be maintained between people not in the same household unit. This includes the prep areas, wash racks, at the gate, and while in the showring. It may be necessary for these areas to be marked to show proper distancing.
- Additional show staff may be needed in these areas to provide reminders and guidance to participants.
- Spectators should be limited, and if present, appropriate distancing maintained. DHM guidelines must be met. It is advised to restrict access to bleachers or group seating areas. (i.e. seating taped off/blocked so that only every third seat on every other row can be utilized). Consider providing a livestream of the competition online to help limit crowds.
- Follow the food and beverage guidance as outlined in the "[Guidance for Restricted Fair Openings in Nebraska to Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)".
- If hosting a "show and go" type of show (strongly encouraged), ensure that parking areas are managed to provide at least 6 feet of distance to be maintained between household units. If necessary, to maintain proper distancing, have animals be prepped next to the trailer, shown and returned to the trailer.
- If hosting a "show and stay" type of show, ensure that tie areas, stalls and wash racks are managed in a way that will allow at least 6 feet of distance to be maintained between household units. (i.e. place a 6-foot empty pen space between livestock owned by each household unit).
- If possible, participants should leave the event venue as soon as they have finished showing.
- Limit paper materials at the show (i.e. programs, weigh cards, etc.)

IN THE SHOW RING:

- Require the judge and any ring personnel to wear a face covering and have their temperatures checked (must be under 100 degrees Fahrenheit) before each show begins.
- Ring personnel should help maintain proper distance of participants.
- For younger participants, it may be necessary to place marks in the show ring to signify proper spacing to adhere to the 6 feet social distancing recommendations.

- Anytime there is a potential for a risk exposure, where 6 feet of distancing cannot be maintained in the show ring, wearing a mask is recommended.
- Some EXAMPLES to consider:
 - For pig shows: pigs should be penned in every other pen before entering the ring. Keep the number of participants in the ring to a minimum to allow proper spacing. If you feel proper spacing cannot be maintained, then masks must be worn by everyone in the ring.
 - For rabbit and poultry shows: break classes into smaller groups and add more tables (only allow at the table what can be properly distanced). Another option is to judge the species from holding cages. For showmanship, ensure that proper distancing between the judge and the participant can be maintained.
 - For sheep and goat shows have the show ring marked to show 6 feet of distancing per exhibitor/animal.
- Ring personnel should use hand sanitizer before touching and after distributing ribbons and other awards.
- Limit the number of people in the staged photograph areas.

These guidelines are intended as a supplement to assist with safe operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and are subject to change. Please continue to check the Nebraska Department of Agriculture website (www.nda.nebraska.gov) as your event approaches.