

CDFA Biosecurity Recommendations for Poultry and Dairy Cattle Exhibition Organizers

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) supports safe, responsible livestock and poultry exhibitions that protect animal health, public health, and California agriculture. While exhibitions may resume, strong biosecurity practices remain essential to reduce the risk of H5N1 Avian Influenza transmission. Detailed biosecurity planning helps protect exhibitors, animals, and surrounding agricultural communities.

Core Biosecurity Principles

- **Do not allow sick animals on site.** Animals showing clinical signs of illness should be denied entry.
- **Prevent commingling of species.** In an abundance of caution, dairy cattle should be physically separated from other livestock as they can be asymptomatic (an infected animal that appears healthy) for H5N1.
- **Limit public contact.** Limit direct contact between the public with poultry or dairy cattle especially if both species are on the premises at the same time. Provide handwashing stations for the public to use before and after any contact with any animal.

Event Biosecurity Manager

- Designate a Biosecurity Manager for the event to ensure the health and safety of both the animals and the public.
- The Biosecurity Manager should support and enforce all event space specific biosecurity requirements.

Key Poultry Biosecurity

- **REQUIRED for fairs:** Upon arrival at the fair (and before coop-in), all poultry will be inspected for symptoms of disease or illness by a certified Poultry Health Inspector (PHI) from the designated CDFA/UC Certification Program. Any suspect animals may be dismissed from the fairgrounds.
 - If the fairgrounds will hold marketing or breeding classes, the poultry coming onto the fairgrounds will be examined by a PHI.
 - For more information on PHIs, visit: poultryhealthinspection.ucdavis.edu
- Place hand washing or sanitizing stations at all barn and show-ring entry and exit points.
- Have exhibitors use their own feed and water equipment and prevent sharing between households or farms.

- Clean and disinfect pens and equipment using products labeled for *Avian Influenza A Virus*.
- Poultry should not be housed with and be physically separated from dairy cattle.

Key Dairy Cattle Biosecurity

- Only cattle from non-quarantined premises may enter exhibitions.
- Dairy cattle should be free of clinical signs of illness.
 - Animals with elevated temperatures (>103°F) should be denied entry.
- Clean and disinfect pens and equipment using products labeled for *Avian Influenza A Virus*.
- Have exhibitors use their own feed and water equipment and prevent sharing between households or farms.

Traceability & Planning

- Events should clearly communicate in advance that entries will be denied if an animal arrives or becomes visibly sick on site.
- Obtain contact information from each entry in the event an animal disease is detected.
- Have a plan to isolate any sick animals if they become visibly ill on site.
- Have a plan including contact information for a veterinarian or your [local CDFA office](#) if H5N1 is suspected in any of the livestock and poultry.