



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

## **Vesicular Stomatitis Guidelines for Shows and Fairs**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture recommends that livestock event organizers consider extra precautionary measures to minimize the risk of transmission of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV). The following strategies may be implemented:

### **ENTRY CONTROL MEASURES**

#### **Timed certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs):**

Participants (regardless of origin) should, when possible, arrive at the event with a health certificate (CVI) that was issued within 2-5 days of departure for the event. The health certificate is not a state requirement for in-state animals, but has been a prudent precaution to ensure that livestock arrive at the event free of clinical signs of VSV. Event organizers may choose to allow livestock that arrive with a health certificate issued within 48 hours entry without a check-in exam at the entry gate of the facility.

#### **VSV Statement on CVI:**

The health certificate (CVI) should contain the following statement: "I have examined the animal(s) represented on this certificate of veterinary inspection and have found no clinical signs of vesicular stomatitis and they have not originated from a premises under quarantine for vesicular stomatitis."

#### **Out-of-state participants:**

Out-of-state participants should check with their state animal health officials prior to leaving for the event to determine the requirements for the return of livestock to their state after the event.

#### **Oral arrival exam of all incoming livestock:**

All susceptible species of livestock - cattle, horses, mules, donkeys, swine, sheep, goats, camels, llamas, and alpacas – should receive an oral examination for VSV lesions upon arrival at the event. A qualified, licensed, and accredited veterinarian should be on site to oversee the examination process. If any livestock are suspected of having VSV, the animals should not be permitted to enter the event and must be reported to the CDFA office at (916) 900-5002.

## **PREMISES CONTROL MEASURES**

**Minimize common water and feed source use during the event.** Discourage use of shared feed bins, water troughs, equipment and tack between participants.

**Insect control and abatement** is very important in controlling the spread of VSV. Fly wipes, sprays, foggers and other repellents for use on animals and premises should be applied as directed by label instructions. Manure management, elimination of fly breeding areas, and appropriate insecticide use for premises are important prevention techniques.

**Regular observation of all susceptible livestock for clinical signs of VS** by event organizers during the event. Often, excessive salivation is the first sign of the disease. Close examination of the mouth initially reveals blanched and raised vesicles or blister-like lesions in affected livestock. These blister-like lesions can form in the mouth and on the dental pad, tongue, lips, nostrils, ears, sheath, prepuce, and coronary band. Suspect VSV cases should be isolated and reported to the CDFA office at (916) 900-5002.

**Additional information** can be found at the CDFA VSV website at [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal\\_Health/VS.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/Animal_Health/VS.html).