Update from the WA State Vet Office

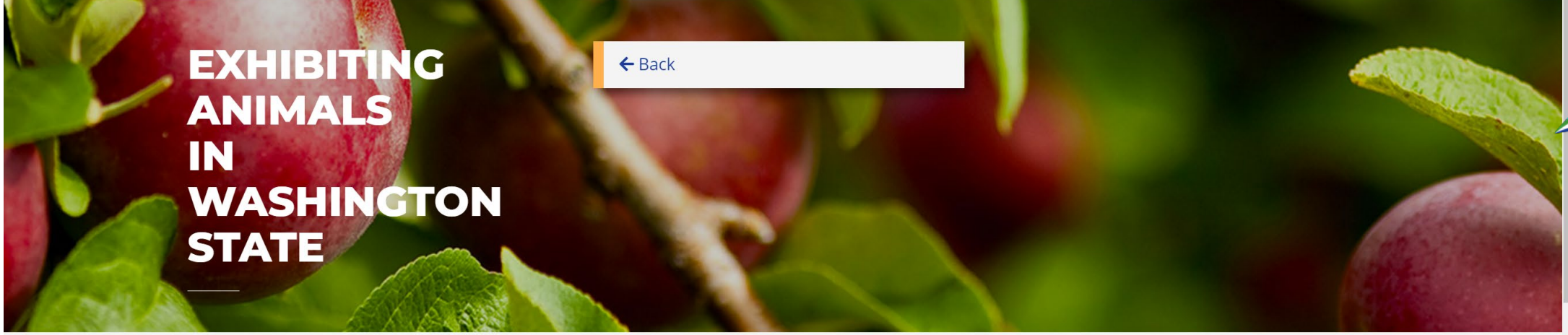
WSFA Meeting

Zac Turner DVM, MPVM, DACVPM

Washington State Field Veterinarian

Overview

- Introduction
- Fair Resources
- Biosecurity
- Diseases of concern (bird flu)
- Fair Check in by Species
  - PRRS virus detection notice



EXHIBITING ANIMALS IN WASHINGTON STATE

WHAT DO YOU NEED

REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Tips to Stay Healthy at Animal Exhibits
Fair Health Requirements
Importing from out of state

BIOSECURITY AT FAIRS

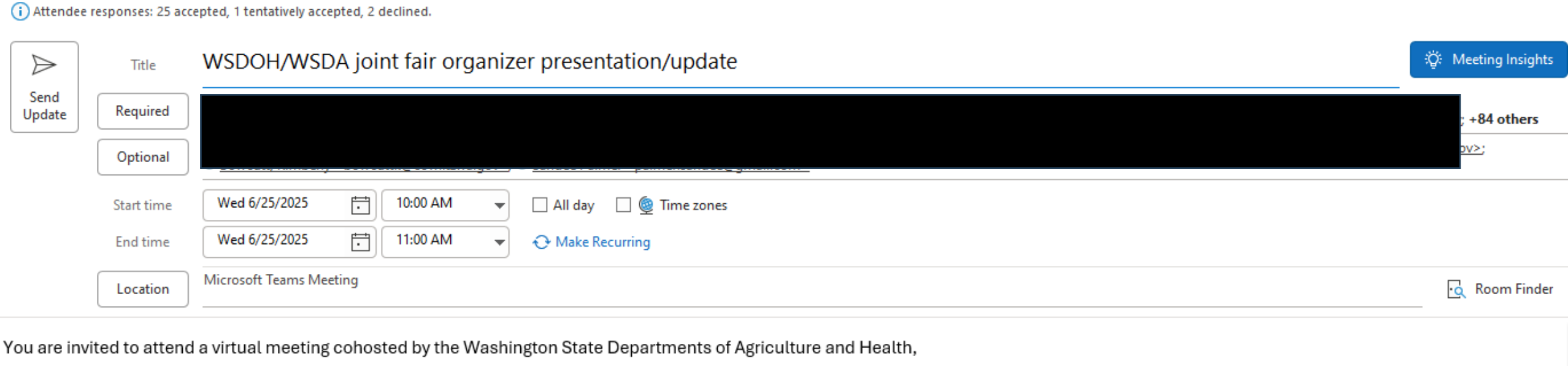
Biosecurity recommendations for livestock [PDF 265 kB]
Swine [PDF 1.3 MB]
Recommendations for swine going to exhibits [PDF 352 kB]
Biosecurity recommendations for poultry [PDF 290 kB]

DISEASES OF CONCERN

Cattle [PDF 268 kB]
Malignant Catarrhal Fever [PDF 269 kB]
Equine [PDF 631 kB]
Poultry [PDF 246 kB]
Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) [320 kB]
Sheep and goats [PDF 269 kB]
Swine [PDF 309 kB]
Swine Influenza [PDF 310 kB]
Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) [PDF 249 kB]

How we send out information

GOVDELIVERY



Reliable Information

1. Your Private Veterinarian
2. Your Regional Field Veterinarian
3. EDCC
4. WSDA Animal Health LIST-SERV
5. Quarterly newsletter
6. WSDA Ag Brief Blogs
7. AAEP
   - *NADPRP project includes developing new disease identification and prevention fact sheets and biosecurity tools, providing educational materials to help horse owners develop biosecurity plans, and sharing information about biosecurity in the horse industry.*

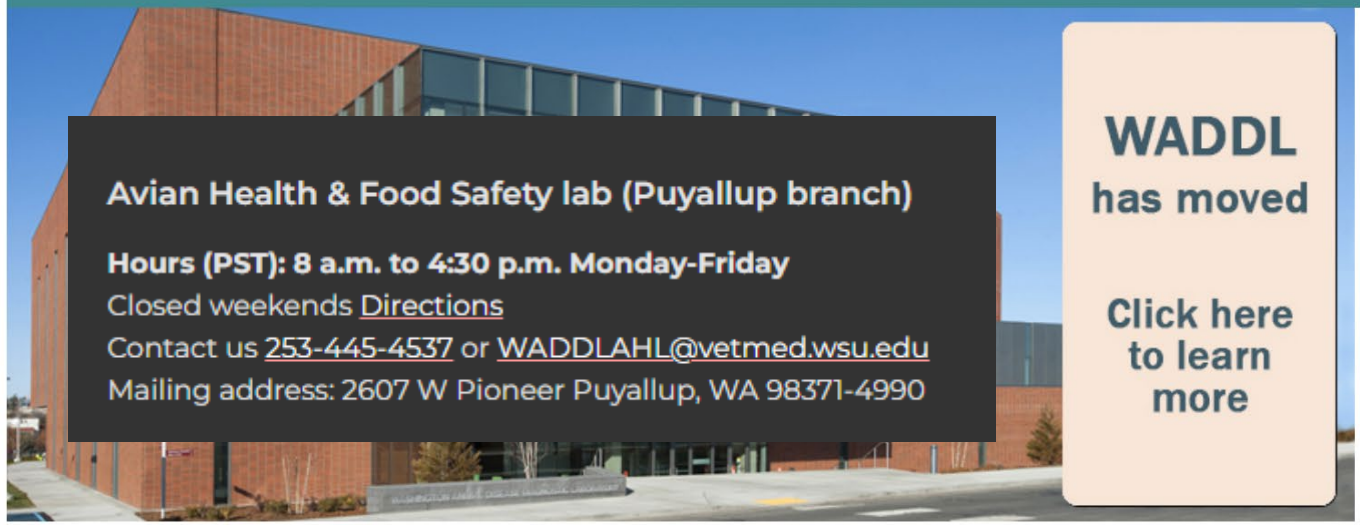
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Mon–Fri: 8am – 5pm
Sat: 8am – noon
Pacific Standard Time

College of Veterinary Medicine ↗

WASHINGTON ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

Welcome

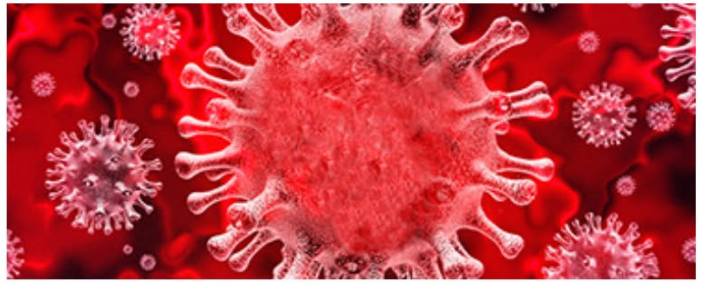


Online Ordering

Test Results

Tests & Fees

Contact Us



COVID-19 Response

WADDL is a nationally recognized, AAVLD accredited, full-service,

Goat & Sheep Testing

WADDL is a nationally recognized, AAVLD accredited, full-service,

Client Portal

Access all your results and cases.

Fair Supervisors and Veterinarian's Role

If you see something, say something.

REPORT

- Animal diseases or disease clusters with zoonotic potential
- New or emerging diseases never or rarely been observed in WA
- Diseases that appear in a new species or show evidence of higher pathogenicity than expected
- Unusually high morbidity or mortality

How can disease be transmitted

- Direct Transmission
  - Physical Contact
  - Semen and Embryos

Examples

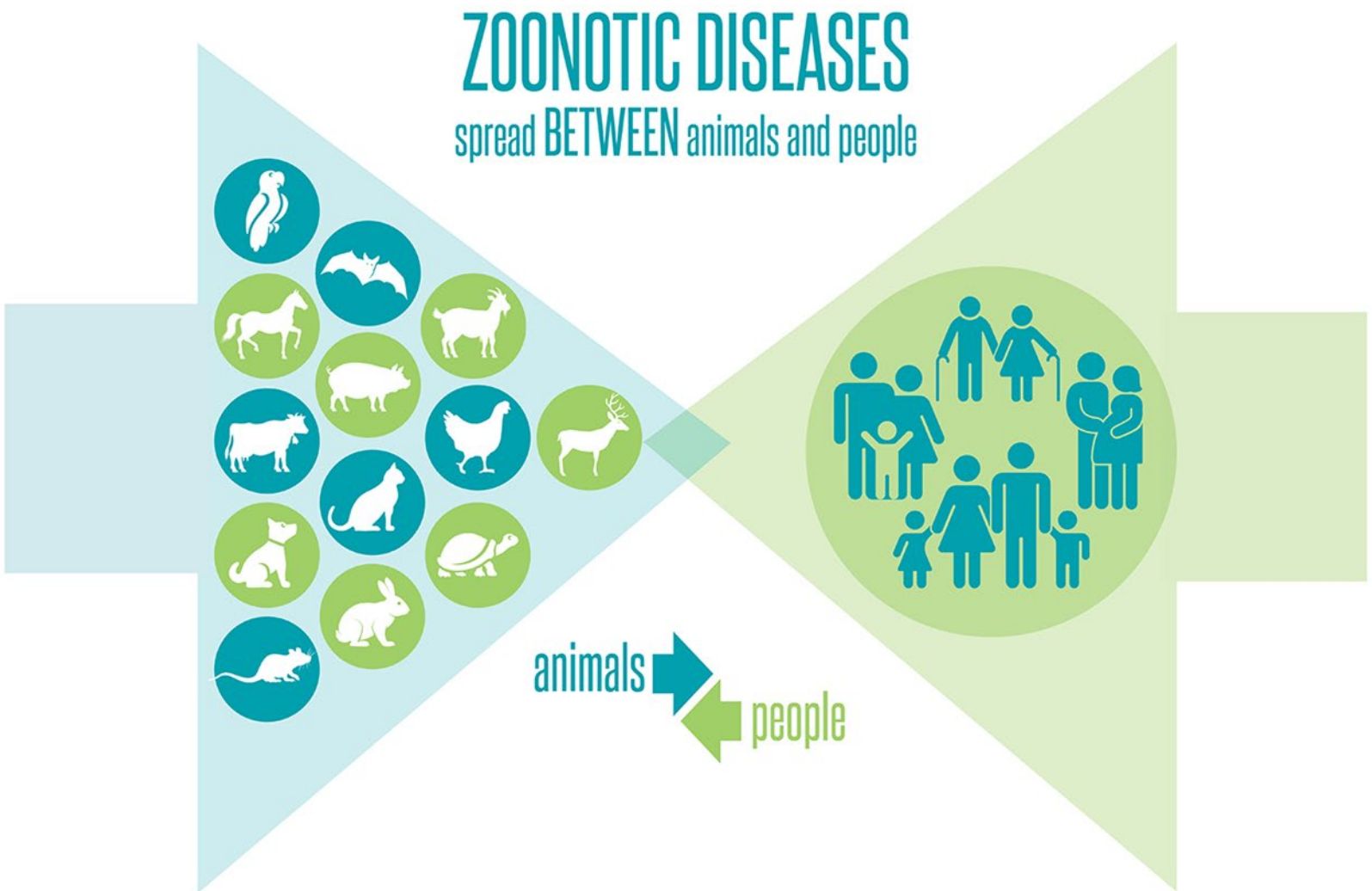
Bites
Scratching
Touching
Sexual Contact

- Indirect Transmission
  - No Physical Contact
  - Aerosol, Vectors, Fomites

Examples

Sneezing, coughing
Feed, Bedding
Equipment, tools, supplies
Wildlife
People

Photo credit: The horse, equi-med, Zoo and Aquariums, stock photo, nasal discharge



A few examples:

- Rabies
- Leptospirosis
- West Nile
- Tickborne diseases
- Ringworm
- Salmonella
- E.coli

Photo credit: CDC

What is Biosecurity?

- Management practices used to limit introduction and spread of infectious and zoonotic disease
- Important in keeping animals and people safe as well as maintain business continuity
- Prevention is key
- Personnel/animal flow

Keep Infectious Disease Out:

- Screen prior to entry*
- Physically- fences/coops/barriers
- Clean and disinfect- with what? Disinfectant vs. Antiseptic
- Isolate sick animals- infectious disease can be a like a fire

Reduce disease risk for you and your animals!

CLEAN UP YOUR ACT

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Wash your hands before and after contacting animals.

Keep **vaccinations up-to-date** for you and your animals.

Control vermin such as rodents and wild birds.

Stay home if you or your animal are sick.

Clean and disinfect footwear before and after visiting animal facilities.

Do not share tools, tack, or equipment with others.

Protect animal feed and water from contamination.

Keep communal hoses out of water buckets.

Use an **effective disinfectant** at the **right concentration** and recommended **contact time.**

Do not allow smoking, food, drinks, or strollers in animal areas.

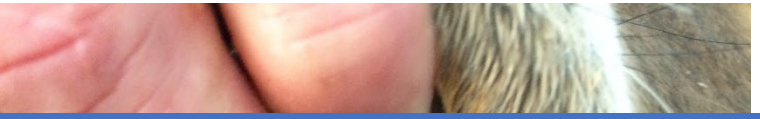
Clean equipment with soap and water before disinfecting.

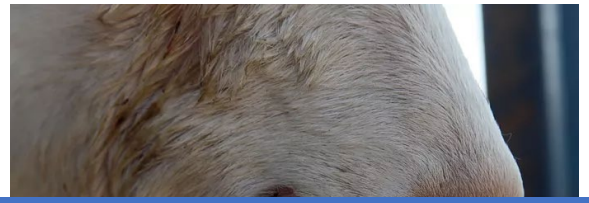
Quarantine new animals or those returning from an event for 30 days.

Prevent direct contact between animals at an event.

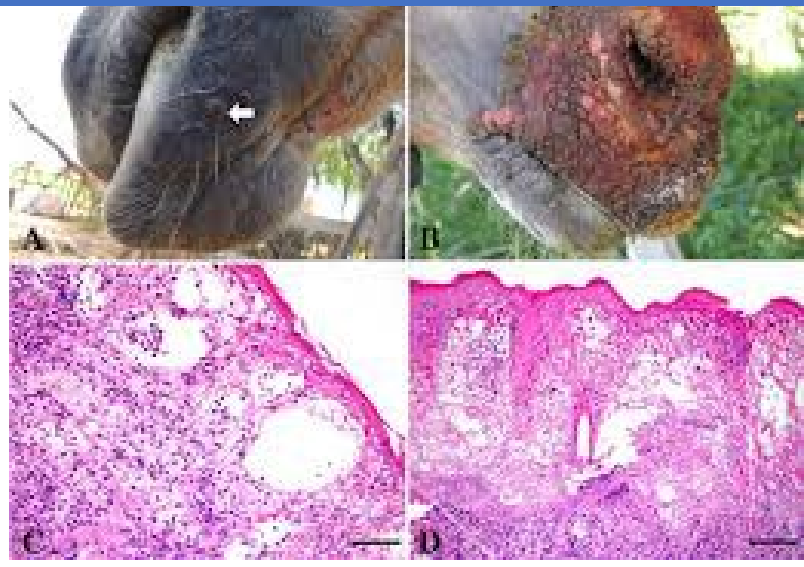
AGR PUB 442-715 (N/N/19) Do you need this publication in an alternate format? Please call the WSDA Receptionist at 360-902-1976 or TTY 800-833-6388.

Foreign Animal Diseases can look like Endemic Diseases



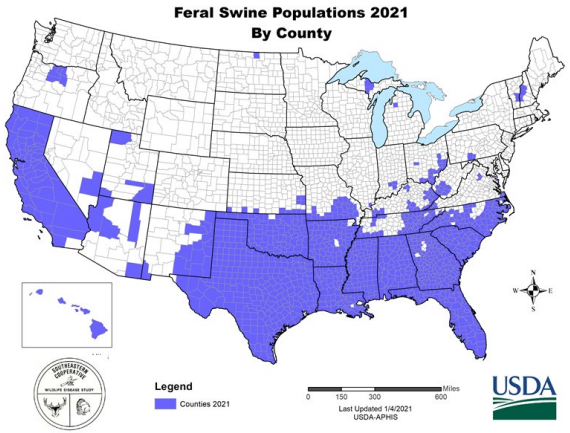


AND CANNOT BE DIFFERENTIATED FROM EACH OTHER WITHOUT DIAGNOSTICS!!



Why is ADT important?

- Knowing where the diseased or at-risk animals are, have been and when they were there
- In response to a foreign animal disease
- Reduces impact on owners and affected communities
- The US has a Wild Hog Problem
- ASF situation from WOAH



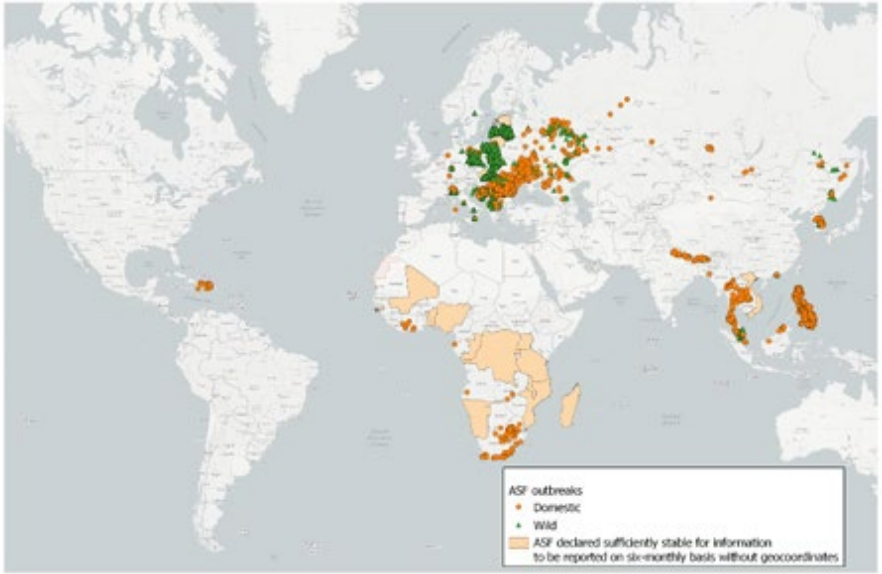


Photo credit: ASF, Boar, Map

ADT Program

- David Hecimovich- Program manager

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION TAGS

WHO CAN GET OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION (EID) TAGS?

Producers can purchase official 840 EID tags (*previously known as RFID tags*) and tag applicators directly from livestock eartag distributors or talk to your local veterinarian.

Note: in order to purchase 840 EID tags, you must have a Premises Identification Number (PIN) assigned.
Washington's accredited veterinarians can obtain regulatory tags and forms from WSDA.

How to get EID tags

1. If you have a Premises Identification Number, have forgot, or are unsure if you have one, please call (360) 725-5493 or (360) 902-7566.
2. Order Tags from a manufacturer or distributor listed below.

- Allflex USA, Inc. (800) 989-8247
- All Data Tags (470) 210-4075
- Shearwell Data (800) 778-6014
- Animal Health International
- MWI Animal Health
- Cattletags.com
- CKK Outfitters
- QC Supply
- Valleyvet.com

**Note: Additional manufacturers and distributors for 840 EID tags are available by searching online for "USDA 840 Tags."*

Infectious DZ outbreak- fair scenario

- Who is exposed?
  - Can we identify the affected animals (ADT)?
  - Owner decided not to bring- consulted with private vet
    - Reported to WSDA/WSDOH/USDA
  - Screened at entry
  - Found on-site in a pen -> Quickly isolated
  - Multiple animals/species affected -> No containment possible
- What is the disease?
  - Severity?
  - Infectivity?
  - Reportable?
  - Zoonotic?

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Fair Exhibition Identification Requirements

Animal Services Division

General information:

A general overview is presented below, though more information can be found on our Fair and Exhibitions webpage: https://agr.wa.gov/departments/animals-livestock-and-pets/animal-health/fairs-and-exhibitions. Fairs and shows must meet basic federal and state regulations; however, they may choose to exceed these standards on a show to show and state to state basis.

Fair exhibition requirements:

All out-of-state livestock attending fairs must meet import animal health requirements when attending fairs and exhibitions within Washington. Comprehensive import requirements to the state of Washington can be found outlined in (WAC) 16-54-31. **Call the Help Desk with questions or concerns: (360) 902-1878.**

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 16-54-31 Physical address requirements:

Certificate of veterinary inspection, entry permit, movement permit, and temporary grazing permits shall contain the destination physical address for animals entering Washington state except where specifically exempted in this section. For purposes of this section, a physical address is the actual street location of the destination.

Fair exhibitors' additional identification requirements for swine, sheep/goats, and cattle/bison

Swine – official identification:

- All swine leaving the farm of origin, passing through livestock markets or collection facilities, or participating in exhibitions must have USDA-approved identification.
- FREE USDA-approved electronic ID tags and applicators for Washington fairs and youth exhibitors.

FREE IDENTIFICATION TAGS & APPLICATORS TO WA FAIRS & YOUTH SWINE EXHIBITORS

Contact our animal disease traceability coordinator, David Hecimovich, at (360) 725-5493 or dhecimovich@agr.wa.gov to obtain your free tags.

Sheep and goats – scrapie identification:

- Goats traveling, sold, or shown without registration papers require an official scrapie tag, or a tattoo which lists the entire scrapie flock ID and individual animal ID; for example, WAABC 001 or WA1234001. WA livestock markets request that all goats be tagged.
- Castrated sheep and castrated goats under 18 months of age do not require a scrapie id, however most WA markets, fairs, and other areas of commerce require identification.

Cattle and bison — official identification:

- Effective November 5, 2024, newly applied cattle and bison official ID tags will need to have both a visual and an electronic component. Currently, the only official tags that meet these requirements are 840 RFID tags.
- Cattle and bison tagged with metal official tags, including the orange tags used for brucellosis vaccination, will be considered officially identified for their lifetime if the tags were applied before November 5, 2024.

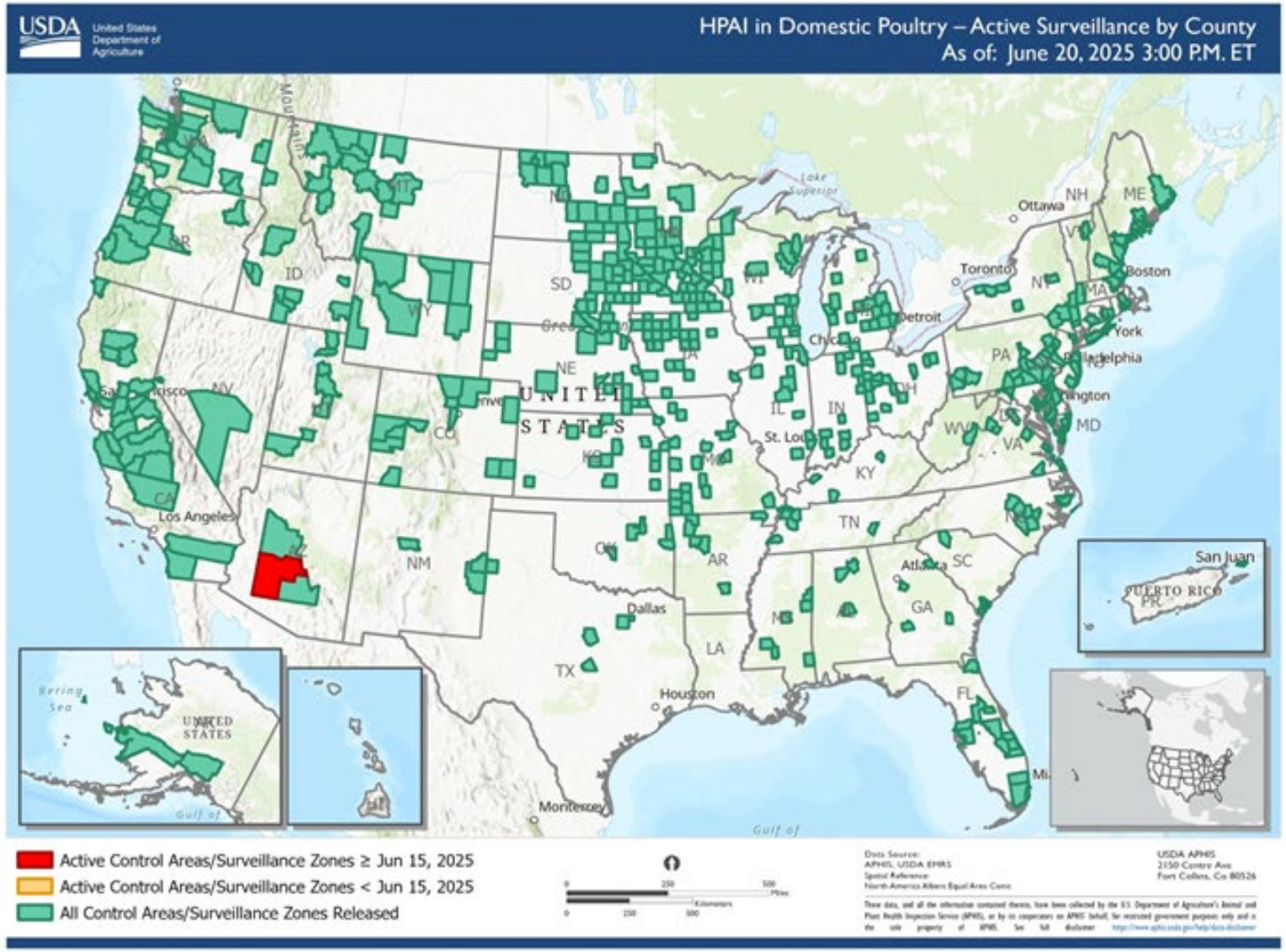
AGR3-2503-04

https://agr.wa.gov/departments/animals-livestock-and-pets/avian-health/avian-influenza - Google: WSDA HPAI/Bird Flu

HPAI in Poultry

The avian perspective/How this started

Ongoing outbreak and risks



50 Affected States, 1 Affected Territory

1708 Confirmed Premises

1260 Control Areas/ Surveillance Zones Released

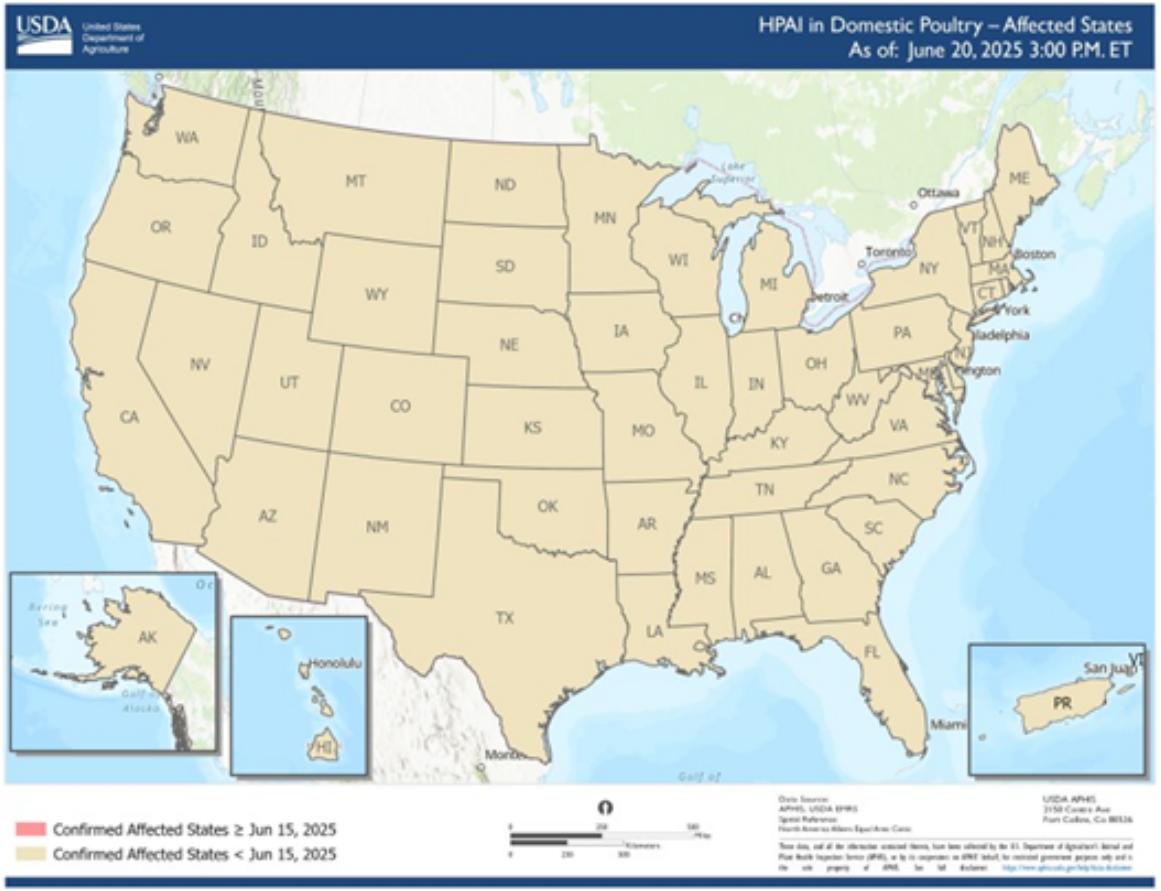
**Note: This map displays domestic Control Areas and the status of each affected county.
It is not reflective of the trade status of the counties.

Surveillance Zones for non-poultry premises were in place prior to November 15th.

TOTAL # OF CONFIRMED PREMISES

State	WOAH Poultry	WOAH Non-Poultry	Grand Total
Alabama	3	3	6
Alaska	2	9	11
Arizona	6	6	12
Arkansas	8	9	17
California	113	31	144
Colorado	19	28	47
Connecticut		5	5
Delaware	6	3	9
Florida	18	32	50
Georgia	3	3	6
Hawaii		2	2
Idaho	16	44	60
Illinois	9	7	16
Indiana	34	11	45
Iowa	50	19	69
Kansas	23	22	45
Kentucky	3	1	4
Louisiana		3	3
Maine	1	21	22
Maryland	11	6	17
Massachusetts	1	7	8
Michigan	25	25	50
Minnesota	143	43	186
Mississippi	6	2	8
Missouri	40	20	60
Montana	7	22	29

State	WOAH Poultry	WOAH Non-Poultry	Grand Total
Nebraska	13	17	30
Nevada	1	3	4
New Hampshire	1	2	3
New Jersey	9	4	13
New Mexico	4	5	9
New York	40	20	60
North Carolina	14	9	23
North Dakota	25	15	40
Ohio	81	11	92
Oklahoma	5	11	16
Oregon	11	38	49
Pennsylvania	75	18	93
Puerto Rico	1		1
Rhode Island		2	2
South Carolina	1	4	5
South Dakota	124	19	143
Tennessee	8	5	13
Texas	3	11	14
Utah	27	11	38
Vermont		5	5
Virginia	4	8	12
Washington	10	45	55
West Virginia	1	1	2
Wisconsin	23	17	40
Wyoming		15	15



Grand Total	1028	680	1708

**Note: This map displays Affected States and any recent confirmations in the last week (starting on Sundays).

★ = *Affected States this week not currently shaded on the map.*

HPAI Epidemiological Curve
of Presumptive Cases

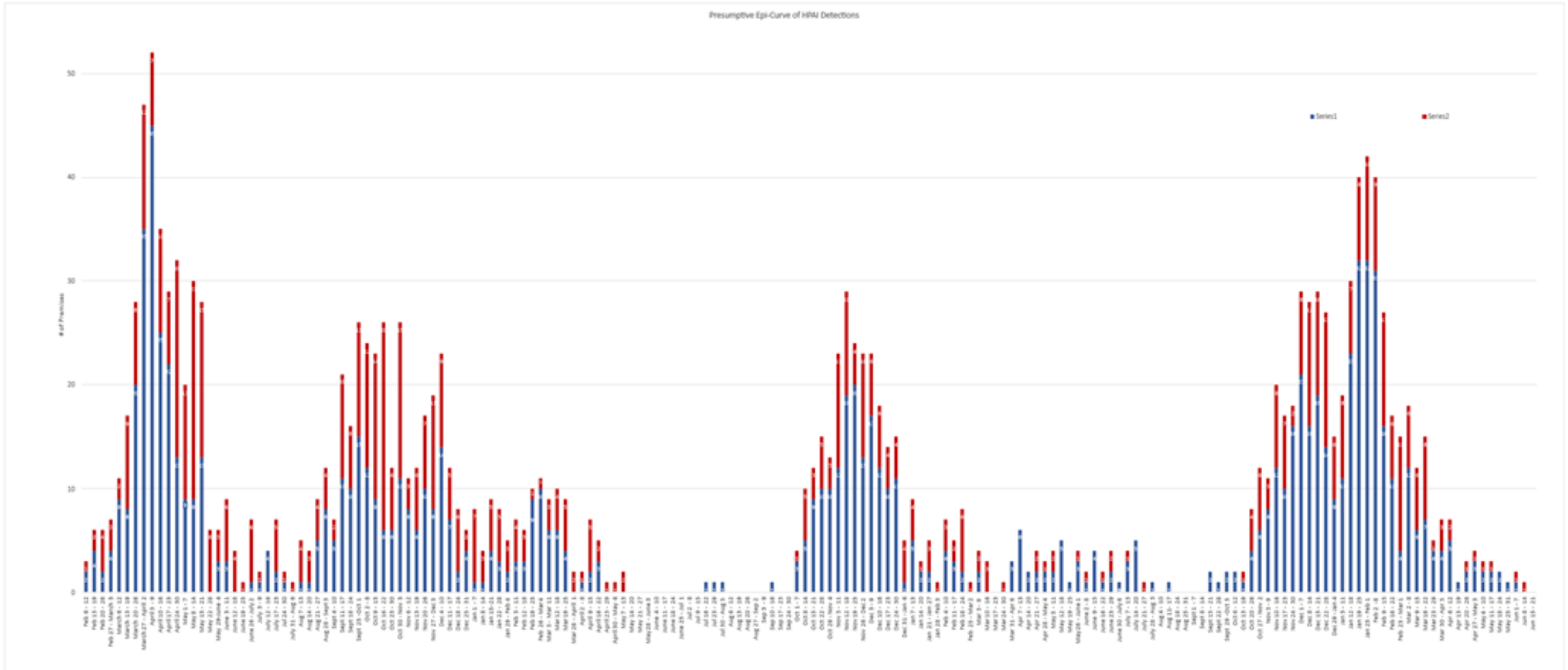


Image credit: AVMA.org

HPAI surveillance in our state

Poultry Check in

- Respiratory signs
- Coughing/ sneezing
- Conjunctivitis
- Swollen eyes
- Discolored legs/ combs
- Diarrhea

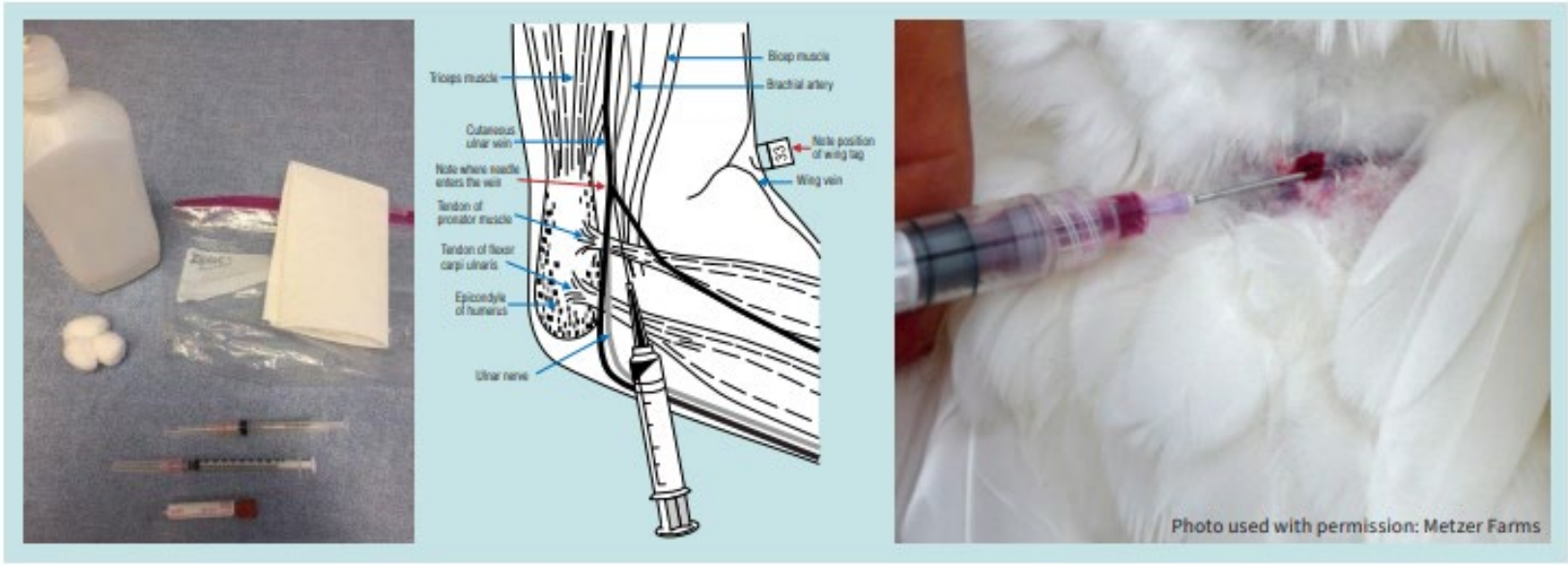
Table 1. Comparison of the disease characteristics of AI, Marek's disease, vND, and ILT in birds.

	LPAI and HPAI	Marek's disease	vND	ILT
Cause	Avian influenza Type A virus strains	Alphaherpes virus	Newcastle disease virus	A herpes virus (natural field strain and vaccine-like strain)
Transmission	Direct or indirect contact with discharges and droppings of infected birds; contaminated surfaces, clothing, footwear, and equipment; airborne transmission for short distances. Wild waterfowl carriers and movement of infected poultry moves virus to new areas.	Highly contagious. Virus grows in feather follicle cells and is released into environment. Can live for months in dust and poultry litter; much transmission via dander (sloughed skin cells). Infected birds perpetuate the disease.	Extremely contagious and pathogenic to poultry and birds. Virus spreads through direct contact with discharges from sick birds; contaminated footwear, clothing, equipment, and human hands; and droppings. Easily transported in infected birds.	Direct or indirect contact with inapparent carriers, sick or recovered birds, or their discharges. Also contaminated footwear, tools, clothing, droppings, and dead birds. Can be airborne for hundreds of feet.
Signs	LPAI: decreased egg production, ruffled feathers. HPAI: sneezing, coughing, eye and nose discharge, swollen sinuses; severe illness and rapid death of most chickens.	Leg, wing, and/or neck paralysis; weight loss; change in eye color or pupil shape; blindness; rough skin; decreased growth rate and egg production; tumors of internal organs, skin, muscle, and nerves; depression; death.	Sudden death, increased flock deaths. Nervous, respiratory, and gastrointestinal system signs: diarrhea, sneezing, coughing, nasal discharge, difficulty breathing, stiffness, tremors, lethargy, twisted neck, swollen eyes and neck, circling,	Mild to severe illness 6 to 14 days after viral exposure. Respiratory distress and general ill health: difficulty breathing, coughing, sneezing, watery eyes, swollen sinuses, nasal discharge, blood-tinged mucus, lethargy, poor appetite, decreased egg production, increased death rates.
Prevention	Effective and comprehensive biosecurity plan. Vaccination under veterinary guidance.	Vaccination of eggs or day-old chicks greatly reduces clinical cases. Keep housing clean and minimize dust through good ventilation. Remove sick birds promptly. Select for resistant birds.	Effective and comprehensive biosecurity plan. Vaccination under veterinary guidance, though vaccinated birds can still become ill during vND outbreak.	Keep a closed flock; do not go to shows; effective biosecurity practices; possible vaccination with tissue culture origin vaccine under veterinary guidance.
Relevance to fairs	Stress can precipitate clinical illness in infected individuals. Highly contagious to chickens and turkeys, so increased risk whenever birds from multiple premises have contact with each other. Must separate poultry and swine and not let exhibitors show both.	Stress can precipitate clinical illness in infected individuals. To minimize viral airborne transmission, avoid getting feathers and dust into the air via aggressive sweeping, and/or mist litter with water before sweeping.	Disease easily spread through movement of infected birds. Mingling then dispersal of birds from fairs could easily expand outbreak area.	Do not admit poultry for showing if they have been vaccinated with the TCO vaccine in the 30 days before an exhibition.
Human health concern?	Some strains may be transmissible to humans and/or swine.	No.	Conjunctivitis and fever possible.	No.

Washington State Department of Agriculture

ANIMAL SERVICES DIVISION
ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Important Update -
Salmonella Pullorum Typhoid Poultry Testing for Fairs



Cattle Check-in

- Diarrhea
- Poor body condition
- Oral lesions
- Skin lesions
- Cough
- Hypersalivation

Table 1. Comparison of the disease characteristics of Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD), Warts, Ringworm, and Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex (BRDC).

	BVD	Warts	Ringworm	BRDC
Cause	Bovine viral diarrhea virus	Bovine papilloma virus	Various fungi in the *Trichophyton* and *Microsporum* genuses.	Combination of viruses and bacteria, including BVD, Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Parainfluenza Type-3 (PI-3), and Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (BRSV) viruses and *Mannheimia haemolytica, Pasteurella multocida, Histophilus somni, Mycoplasma bovis,* and other bacteria secondarily.
Transmission	Infected needles or tools, in utero, via breeding, direct contact with infected animals, biting insects?	Direct contact with infected animals or contaminated environments or grooming tools.	Direct contact with infected animals or contaminated environments or grooming tools. Flies?	Depends on pathogen and includes infected needles or equipment, breeding, aerosolization, direct contact with infected animals or their secretions.
Signs	Extremely variable: fever, poor appetite, bloody diarrhea, abortion, respiratory distress, oral ulcers, poor conception rates.	One to hundreds of raised gray skin growths, usually on head or neck. Can be on teats.	Non-itchy hairless, scaly, or crusty gray patches, especially on head and neck.	Fever, coughing, respiratory distress, elevated respiratory rate, nasal discharge, poor appetite, death.
Prevention	Effective vaccination program; no re-use of needles or rectal sleeves; no pooling of colostrum; AI from negative bull stud.	Environmental sanitation, metal vs. wooden facilities, no overcrowding, minimize stress. Commercial and custom vaccines available and effective before warts develop. Disinfect tattoo gun and ear tagger between uses; use needles only once; have designated grooming	Good nutrition, sunshine exposure, environmental sanitation, metal vs. wooden facilities, no overcrowding, minimize stress. Have designated grooming tools and disinfect after use. No vaccine available in the U.S.	Multi-factor vaccines available; should be boostered one month before anticipated risk. Good nutrition, no overcrowding, avoid wetness/chilling, good ventilation and air quality, low-stress weaning, handling, and transport.
Relevance to fairs	Persistently-infected (PI) cattle can put others at risk through viral shedding, which can be increased during stressful periods such as exhibitions.	Animals with visible warts should be denied entry unless fair veterinarian rules otherwise. Fairgrounds are probably already widely contaminated with the virus.	Animals with visible lesions should be denied entry unless fair veterinarian rules otherwise. Fairgrounds are probably already widely contaminated with the fungus.	Fair animals are at high risk: stressed during transport and at fair; exposed to new cattle and pathogen strains; often hot fair weather. Risk increases with duration of event and multiple exhibitions for an animal.
Human health concern?	No	No	Yes	No

Photo Credit: Farm and Dairy. com

HPAI in Dairy Cattle

Spillover event/Where do we go from here

WSDA

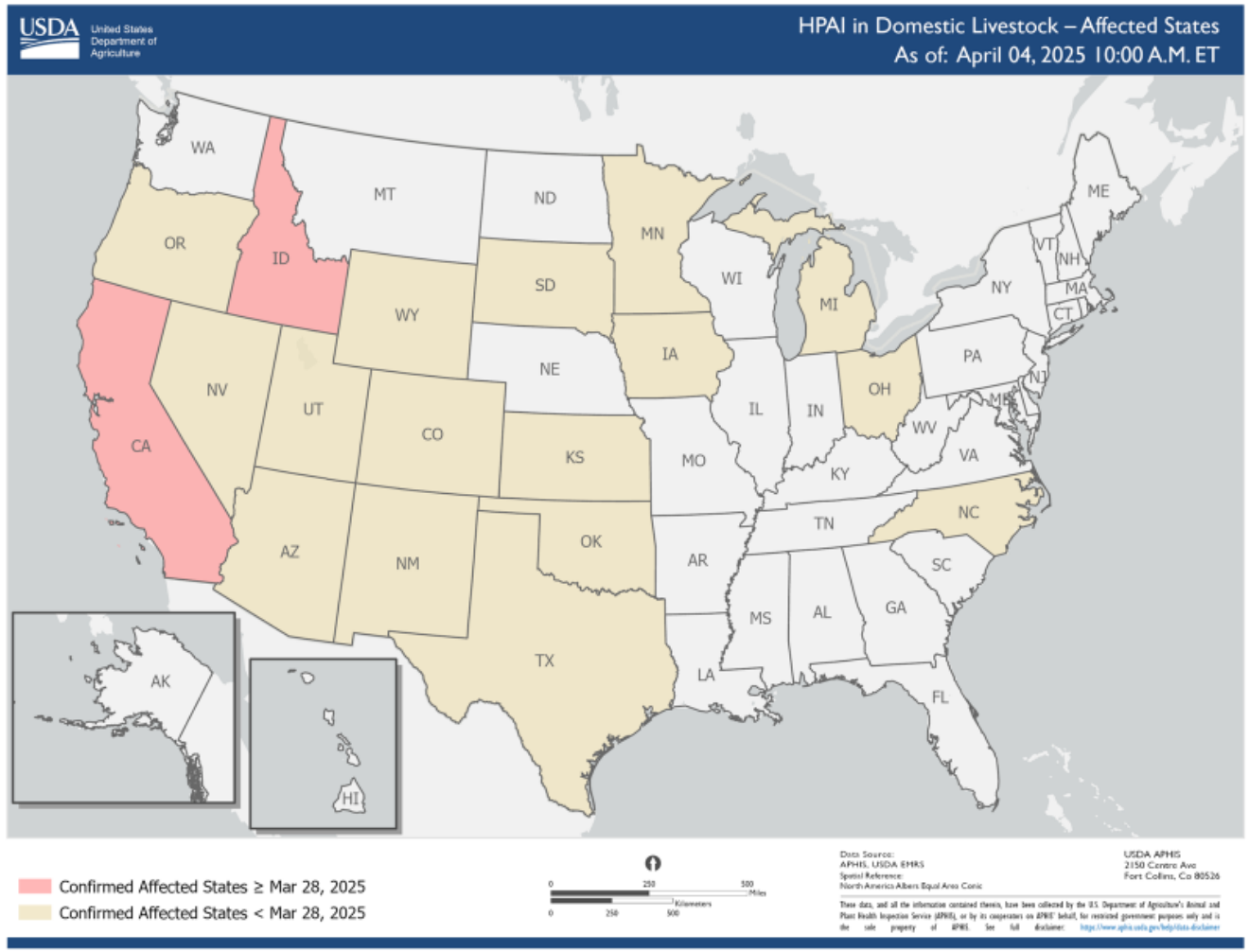
NATIONAL SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF HPAI H5N1 IN DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK

On March 25, 2024, the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory confirmed the first detection of HPAI H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b in a Texas dairy herd. Phylogenetic analysis and epidemiology support a single introduction into this novel host followed by onward transmission.

The total confirmed detections for the domestic livestock incident includes:

- 1000 premises in 18 states

State	# of Confirmed Detections
Arizona	1
California	758
Colorado	64
Idaho	48
Iowa	13
Kansas	4
Michigan	31
Minnesota	9
Nevada	10
New Mexico	9
North Carolina	1
Ohio	1
Oklahoma	2
Oregon	1
South Dakota	7
Texas	27
Utah	13
Wyoming	1
Grand Total	1000



Key concepts

- Spillover event- Bird flu detected in new species
- First detected in March 2024 Texas, spread to other states including Idaho and California
- Occupational hazard to dairy workers
- Persistent milk drop with population level impacts
- Shed in high quantities in milk, so lactating dairy cows are the primary source!
- Ongoing USDA FSIS research shows that pasteurization and cooking kill virus
- No cases in WA despite ongoing surveillance***

Surveillance of H5 Avian Influenza in Dairy Cattle
State Statuses based on Testing/Surveillance Activities, as part of the National Milk Testing Strategy (NMTS)

Report Date: June 20, 2025

Data updated every Friday

45 States Enrolled in the NMTS and Performing Active Surveillance

16 States are Unaffected

24 States are Provisionally Unaffected

Choose Map Type

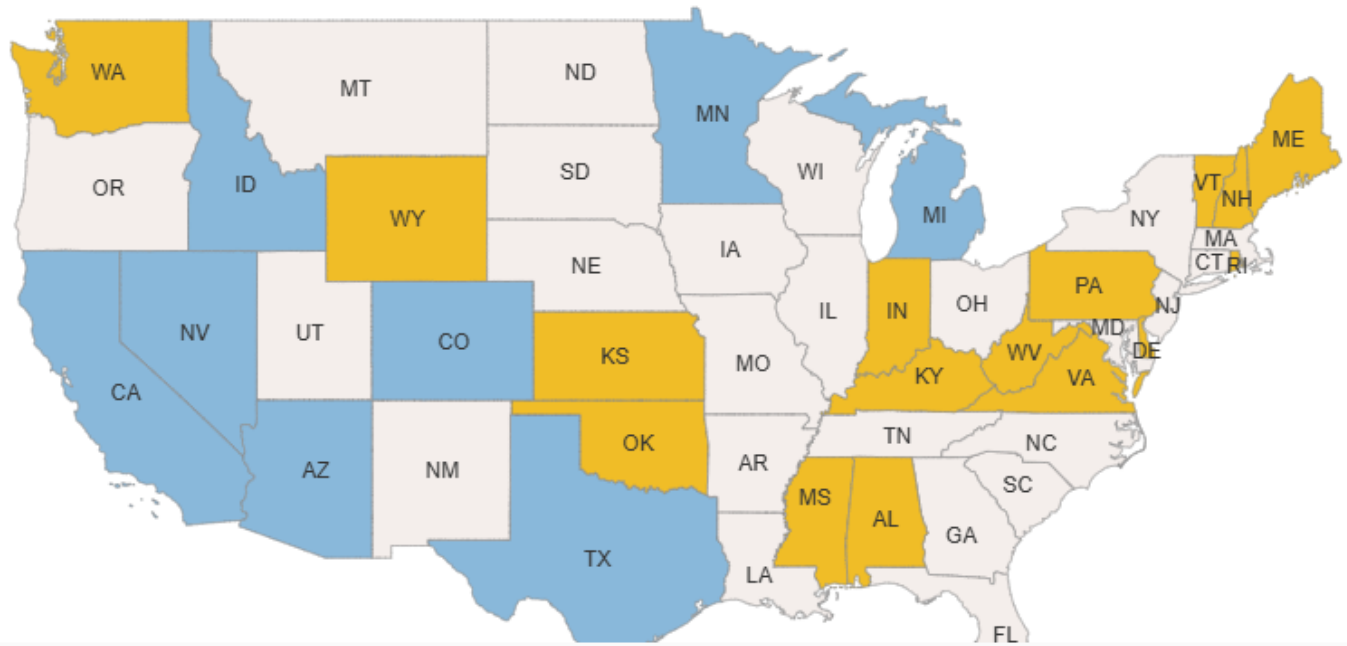
- (•) NMTS State Status
- ( ) NMTS State Enrollment

NMTS State Status

Hover over States for more information

Map Legend

Provisional Unaffected | Affected | Unaffected



HPAI in Swine?

Federal and State Veterinary Agencies Share Update on HPAI Detections in Oregon Backyard Farm, Including First H5N1 Detections in Swine

Print

There is no concern about the safety of the nation's pork supply as a result of this finding.

Press Release

Contact:
aphispress@usda.gov

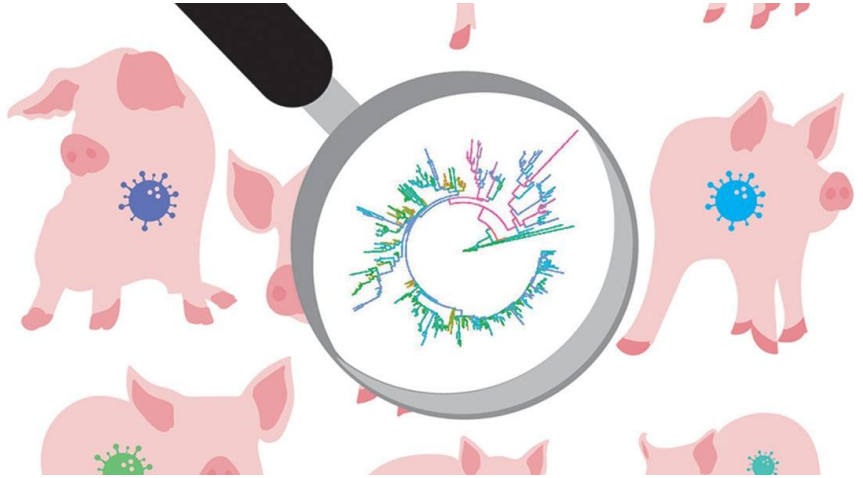
WASHINGTON, Oct. 30, 2024 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Oregon state veterinary officials are investigating positive cases of H5N1 in a backyard farming operation in Oregon that has a mix of poultry and livestock, including swine. The Oregon Department of Agriculture announced on Friday, Oct. 25, that poultry on this farm represented the first H5N1 detection in Crook County, Oregon. On Tuesday, Oct. 29, the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories also confirmed one of the farm's five pigs to be infected with H5N1, marking the first detection of H5N1 in swine in the United States.

Transmission of HPAI to carnivorous mammals

- Significant exposure through oral ingestion of infected poultry carcasses
- Transmission between animals?
  - Appear to be ‘dead-end hosts’
- Other species: captive wild cat, bear, wild canine, marine mammal, raccoon, rodent, skunk

PRRS Virus notification through Govdelivery

- Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)
- Initially mystery pig disease (1980s), later renamed PRRS following viral identification (90s)
- Sows- depression and repro issues
- Weaners and Growers- persistent respiratory issues
- Variety of problems in herds without immunity*
- Historically low prevalence in WA
- Easily spread between pigs!
  - Humans can assist in movement
  - Not zoonotic*



Washington State Department of Agriculture

Office of the Washington State Veterinarian

May 30, 2024 |

State Veterinarian aitle@agr.wa.gov

What Washington Pig Growers Need to Know about PRRS Virus

Recently there have been positive pig detections of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus (PRRS) and circovirus in Washington.

Where did the virus come from?

Historically, Washington has enjoyed a low prevalence of PRRS virus in its pig population but it is unclear what the true burden of disease is in our swine industry today. Recent detections may highlight an increase in risk for this disease compared to the past. There are no requirements for PRRS testing for pigs moving from one state to another as long as the pigs appear healthy at the time of inspection.

How is PRRS virus spread?

The major way virus is spread is by direct contact between infected and uninfected pigs. The more intensive the swine operation the more likely the virus is to spread between pigs. The sow is the reservoir animal for PRRS and can pass the virus to her unborn piglets who in turn pass the virus to other pigs after weaning. Actually, although PRRS is infectious, meaning it is caused by a disease-causing virus, it is not highly contagious. There are instances where infected pigs are penned with uninfected pigs and the uninfected pigs remain free of the virus despite close association with infected pigs known to be shedding virus.

There are other ways the virus is spread. It can be carried on trucks and trailers that have become contaminated with virus from infected pigs. The virus can even be carried on a workers hands, boots, or clothing for a short (less than an hour) period of time. Virus can be transferred from one pig to another by using instruments (castration, detailing, milk teeth cutters, and needles) on an infected pig followed by use on an uninfected pig.

If a pig is infected with PRRS virus how long can it be a risk for infecting other pigs?

Although many pigs remain infected with the virus for life they actually only shed the virus for a short period of time. Younger animals tend to shed virus longer than older animals. Generally, shedding occurs for only 30-60 days after initial infection but in rare cases can continue for up to 5 months. Boars can also shed virus in their semen but usually only do so for a few weeks but there have been boars that have shed virus in their semen for up to 6 months. All semen used for AI should be periodically tested for PRRS virus.

Fair Biosecurity Recommendations

In addition to the cleaning/disinfection information presented, a more comprehensive list of animal agricultural biosecurity practices can be found here:

https://agr.wa.gov/departments/animals-livestock-and-pets/animal-health/animal-health-biosecurity

WSDA recommends against any unnecessary commingling of swine from multiple sources where infected material can be spread over shared surfaces like a scale (Without thorough cleaning and disinfection) or direct (nose-to-nose) contact may occur.

Critical advice for exhibitors:

- Obtain livestock from low disease risk sources.
- Vaccinate for relevant diseases.
- Prevent contact of your livestock with other livestock.
- Designate clothing and footwear for barn use; clean and disinfect after wearing.
- Only take healthy animals to shows or fairs.
- Quarantine new or returning animals from home herd for 30 days; take temperature twice daily and monitor for signs of illness.
- Perform home herd chores first.
- Use separate equipment, footwear, and clothing for quarantined animals.
- Wash hands after handling each animal.
- Isolate sick animals and contact a veterinarian about them.
- Clean and disinfect equipment.
- Vaccinate for relevant diseases.
- Minimize stress for animals at home or away.
- Always provide excellent nutrition.

More information on swine health requirements and recommendations can be found on our website:

https://agr.wa.gov/departments/animals-livestock-and-pets/animal-health

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Washington State Department of Agriculture

Fairs - Diseases of Concern

Animal Services Division

General information:

A general overview is presented below, though more information can be found on our Animal Diseases webpage.

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- Isolate sick animals and contact a veterinarian about them.
- Clean and disinfect equipment.
- Vaccinate for relevant diseases.
- Minimize stress for animals at home or away.
- Always provide excellent nutrition.

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 16.36.082:

Infected or exposed animals—Unlawful to transfer or expose other animals.

It is unlawful for any person with an animal having any contagious, communicable, or infectious disease to knowingly stable the animal or allow the animal to be stabled in any barn with other animals without notifying the other owners.

Critical advice for organizers:

Caution needs to be taken when planning animal exhibition events to not only ensure the health of animals and people in attendance, but to uplift and support the livestock animal industry. Many attendees or fair participants may have limited agricultural experience making this a great opportunity for a strong first impression. Unsightly injuries, growths or signs of infection may disenfranchise these people even if the health of the animal is not immediately threatened. The most common issues preceding the exhibition may include ringworm, papillomas (warts), castration/dehorning wounds, diarrhea, cough/runny nose and improper paperwork/testing requirements. These can be screened for (along with many other diseases of concern) at Veterinary Check-in *before* animals are allowed into the exhibition venue. Note that if these animals are allowed inside, disease transmission can easily occur between animals and even to the public.

Critical advice for attendees:

In regard to zoonotic diseases (spread between animals and people): E. coli 0157H7, Salmonella, swine influenza, ringworm, orf, and other infectious diseases can be transmitted by contact with animals. Children, seniors and immune-impaired persons are particularly susceptible to contagious and/or zoonotic diseases. Hand washing facilities should be available wherever human-animal or animal waste contact is possible; signage directing the public to those facilities needs to be highly visible.

Questions?

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