

Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show

Animal Health Emergency Plan

Introduction

This document has been created to serve as a guideline for the procedures in place to avoid severe animal health situations at the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show. It serves as a guideline and a starting point and names the individuals who will help make decisions in the process. The Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show is administered by the Washtenaw Farm Council, and is housed on the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. In all situations, Farm Council staff and board members will be key players in the decision making process that may take place in response to animal health concerns during, before, or after the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show. Farm Council staff and board members will work with the Animal Health Committee, Species Point People, and Veterinarians to make decisions in the best interest of fair exhibitors and the Farm Council Grounds.

Species Point People and Contact Information

Each Species has point people identified. The primary contact in each species area will be the superintendent listed in the Youth Show Book, and the back-up will be the assistant Superintendent (where applicable). For Horses, the Horse Board (consisting of 6 adults) serves as the Superintendents. The point person identified for horses is the President of the Horse Board, the back up is the Vice President of the Horse Board. Understanding that all members of the horse board will work in tandem to make decisions affecting their species, the two point people for the purposes of this plan are identified below.

For 2011, these people are as follows:

Dairy- Jennie Breuninger and Jeannie Gilbert

Goat- Elaine Bater and Melanie Pitts

Beef- Jessica Hammer and Jeff Grau

Feeder Calves- Stephanie Fischer and Christopher Fischer

Sheep- Mark Summerville and Terri Cook

Swine- Lewis Gilbert and Matt McCalla

Rabbit- Kim Graham and Cathie Mason

Poultry- Susan Zalucha and Marion Benton

Horses- Diane Tenerowicz and Amy Creteau

Dogs- Jereen Rice

Cats- Janet Figarra

Llama- Betty Burns and Ginger Burns

Auction- John Hammer
Small Animal Auction- Frank Cousino

In all situations, species point people should always receive information about animal health first, keeping the fair office, veterinarians, and officials informed as needed.

Point people play a major role in assuring animal health and well-being and assuring communication is open between themselves, the exhibitors, and the fair office and officials.

In determining the best procedures for handling emergency situations beyond “normal circumstances” or in situations that the point people don’t feel comfortable handling, the following committee will be called:

Animal Health Committee

Members: The four officers of the Livestock and Dairy Association, the three officers of the Small Animal Association, the four officers of the Horse Board, and the Youth Show manager.

In 2011, the Animal Health Committee will consist of:

Mark Summerville, Livestock and Dairy President
Terri Cook, Livestock and Dairy Vice President
Bev Olberg, Livestock and Dairy Treasurer
Rhonda Summerville, Livestock and Dairy Secretary
Diane Tenerowicz, Horse Board Adult Advisor
Amy Creteau, Horse Board Adult Advisor
Ann Stalhandske or Marilyn Johnston, Horse Adult Advisors
Cindy Strader, Horse Board Adult Advisor
Cathie Mason, Small Animal President
Melanie Pitts, Small Animal Vice President
Sheri Bellairs, Small Animal Secretary
Lynn Rich, Farm Council Youth Show Manager

The Animal Health committee members (or their designated representative) will work as a group in all situations involving animal health emergencies or questions, and should not be segmented (only referring to one set of officers) in making decisions. The Animal Health Committee will work hard to be sure they are fully informed by species point people and understand their opinions on any issues at hand. Understanding that it may be impossible for all members of the Animal Health Committee to be present for meetings and decisions, at least one representative from each committee/board must be present.

The Animal Health Committee is responsible for guiding decisions in an emergency situation and establishing consequences for members and families who are not in adherence with the plan.

A complete listing of emergency contact information for individuals listed above is included in Appendix A of this document.

Prevention and Safety

Public Education and Safety to Prevent Spread of Disease

In order to assure animal and human welfare, facilities where animals are housed are disinfected prior to animals' arrival on the grounds. An exhibition building or yarding facility shall be cleaned and disinfected with an United States Department of Agriculture approved disinfectant used in accordance with label instructions before livestock are admitted by removing from the premises all manure, litter, hay, straw, and forage from pens, runways, and show rings and thoroughly disinfecting walls, partitions, floors, mangers, awarding facilities, and runways in a manner approved by the director. MDA is currently using Virkon S for field activities. For a complete list of disinfectants, please refer to Appendix D.

In an effort to protect the public from the potential spread of disease, the public is discouraged from feeding the animals or putting hands in/near animals' mouths. Clubs and exhibitors are not permitted to sell or give animal feed to visitors to feed to the animals.

Hand washing stations are available at various locations on the grounds to provide the public with an opportunity to wash their hands to further protect them against potential diseases.

Exhibitor Education and Communication to Prevent Spread of Disease

Species meetings will be held in preparation for the youth show on an annual basis to make all exhibitors aware of the Emergency Animal Health plan and inform exhibitors of specific signs of disease to note.

Keeping species point people informed is critical in preventing the spread of disease. To accommodate this, species superintendent contact information will be posted in each barn.

Animal Check-In

All animals undergo some type of check-in before being permanently housed on the grounds. Vaccinations and testing procedures vary by specie and may be required prior to or upon arrival at the grounds. These requirements are outlined in the Youth Show Book (See Appendix E) , and are obtained from the Michigan Department of Agriculture Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan (See Appendix C).

Check-In Procedures for Each Species are as follows:

- Cattle, Sheep, Swine, Goats: A veterinarian does a visual check of animals of the following species at the gate as they arrive on the grounds. These species then proceed to the barns to be checked-in by species superintendents.

- Horse: A veterinarian performs a brief but thorough examination of horses at the back ring after horses are unloaded from trailers and before they can be stalled.
- Llamas, Poultry, Rabbits/Cavies: Species superintendents check-in llamas, poultry, and rabbits/cavies before they are stalled/caged on the grounds.
- Dogs and Cats: Dogs and Cats are only on the grounds for the period of one day. These animals are also checked in by species superintendents and must submit complete health forms indicating vaccination records.

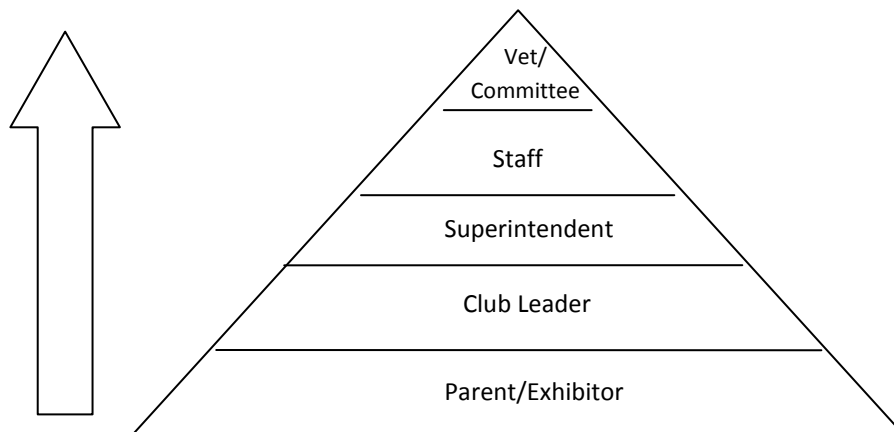
All animal species exhibitors must turn in a completed and signed “Exhibitor Agreement” at animal check-in for each species exhibited. All exhibitor contact information will be collected on “Exhibitor Agreements” when submitted at animal check-in to be used in case of an emergency. Current Exhibitor Agreements can be found in Appendix B.

Animal Health Situations

On rare occasions, animals housed on the grounds may become ill. Species point people, in cooperation with the fair vet must be informed of animal health updates. No one is permitted to give medication to their animal without the approval of a veterinarian or superintendent. In all cases, species superintendents should be notified of any treatment/medication given.

Flow of Communication

In any animal health situation, it is important that the proper individuals are notified. Parents, leaders, and exhibitors can refer to the communication chart below to make sure all necessary parties are informed. If you have a concern regarding an animal’s health, please start at the bottom of the communication chart. It will be the responsibility of each corresponding person to contact the next person in charge. If it is not possible to reach the person you should contact next, it is acceptable to move up to the next person in line. Please refer to the chart below which defines the most appropriate flow of communication.



Treatment Authorization

In extreme circumstances, animal treatment may be necessary. Fair officials will make at least two attempts to call animal owners for approval before authorizing treatment. If owners cannot be reached after two attempts, treatment will be authorized, and exhibitor will be responsible for any cost incurred.

Animal Dismissal

Upon the advice of a veterinarian, the animal health committee may dismiss an unhealthy animal from the grounds. Further, any animal with a disease communicable to animals or people- as diagnosed by a veterinarian- must be sent home or isolated as advised by a veterinarian. Superintendents also have the authority to dismiss animals only if the exhibitor/owner agrees that dismissal is in the best interests of the animal's health. If an animal is sent home for any reason, a 3-part Animal Release form must be completed and signed by a veterinarian or superintendent. A copy of the form must be distributed to the Fair Office, the species superintendent, and the exhibitor.

Severe Animal Health Situations and Quarantine

There are rare situations that additional animal health authorities may be called in to monitor an animal health situation- which could potentially lead to quarantine. The veterinarian is responsible for contacting additional authorities when/if he/she deems necessary. In all severe animal health situations, including those involving animal quarantine, the Animal Health Committee will advise procedures based on the advice provided by the fair veterinarian.

Communication with Authorities

It is the responsibility of the fair veterinarian, or other designated veterinary professional to make contact with local/state authorities as necessary. These may include, but are not limited to: Washtenaw County Public Health, Michigan Department of Agriculture, etc.

Facilities

If animal disease necessitates further disinfection of barns/facilities, the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds staff and fair authorities with adhere to the advice of a veterinary professional. A clean livestock trailer may be used as a quarantine/isolation area for sick animals that need to be separated from healthy animals. This will be done under the guidance of a veterinarian.

Care and Feeding

In a severe health situation or quarantine, the species superintendent, in cooperation with the Animal Health Committee, has the authority to designate certain individuals to handle care and feeding. This means exhibitors/families/owners may be restricted from barns/animals during an emergency situation. Following the advice of a veterinarian or species superintendent, feeding may be simplified and all animals fed the same rations.

Treatment

In an extreme animal health situation, treatment will be given as directed by the Animal Health Committee and species superintendents, based on the advice of a fair veterinarian.

Dead Animals

In the case of a dead animal, the Animal Health Committee will adhere to the advice of a veterinarian in order to properly dispose of the animal and will require the exhibitor/owner of the deceased animal to dispose as directed. Exhibitors are responsible for any costs associated with the removal of dead animals and must abide by the correct disposal procedures as outlined by the Animal Health Committee, under the guidance of a veterinarian. Proof of proper disposal may be required.

Cost Considerations

An animal is the responsibility of the exhibitor until it leaves the grounds. If excessive costs are incurred to the Youth Show as a result of a severe animal health situation, ALL exhibitors in the affected specie(s) area(s) agree to divide costs equally. In most cases, the Youth Show account will cover the initial costs, and bills will be sent to exhibitors reflecting expenses incurred. In the case that market animal exhibitors incur costs, costs may be deducted from animal sale checks. Though individual animals may not be sick, or have caused the sickness, the sometimes costly precautions keep all people and animals safe. Applicable costs may include, and are not limited to: disinfecting, feed, medication, veterinary services, manure/waste removal, etc.

Internal Communication

Species point people will work with Washtenaw Farm Council officials, MSU Extension, and the Animal Health Committee as necessary to coordinate regular updates of animal care and health concerns in a severe animal health situation.

External Communication

The designated media spokesperson is the sole individual who will communicate with media in an emergency situation. The Washtenaw County Ag Literacy MSU Extension Educator will serve as the media spokesperson in handling all external communication. In 2011, this individual is Nancy Thelen. In cooperation with MSU's Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Communications, Washtenaw Farm Council, fair veterinarian, and species point person, news releases or other external communications may be developed. In the case that Nancy is not available, Jackie Martin will be the spokesperson who will handle external communication. The Washtenaw Farm Council staff and/or board must approve any written media communications before they are released.

Market Animal Implications

If a severe animal health situation affects the livestock auction and a veterinarian has determined it is unsafe for animals to be in the auction ring, alternative auction methods will be determined based on the guidance of species superintendents, fair veterinarian, and the Animal Health Committee.

If animals have been sold through auction before a severe animal health situation has been identified, the auction superintendent, appropriate species superintendent, and the MSU Extension Office will notify buyers, processors, and truckers as necessary and directed by the fair veterinarian and Animal Health Committee.

Exhibitors are responsible for the care of the animal until it leaves the grounds, regardless of if the animal has been sold through auction.

If a severe health situation leads to costly expenses for veterinary services and/or care, expenses may be deducted from sale checks to exhibitors.

Special Circumstances

Because not all severe animal health situations can be predicted and planned, the Animal Health Committee has the final authority in making decisions about animal health, treatment, and care. All exhibitors are responsible for following the instructions as determined by the committee. They will abide by the advice of a professional veterinarian in all applicable situations.

Responsibilities and Adherence to Plan

All exhibitors are responsible for understanding and abiding by the policies and procedures as stated in the above plan and the Youth Show Book. Exhibitors in direct violation of any prescribed policies may be banned from exhibiting livestock at the Youth Show in the future, at the discretion of the Animal Health Committee and other authorities when appropriate.

Creation and Revision of Plan

This plan was drafted on May 7, 2008 by the following individuals: Jason Jedele, Amy Creteau, Sherry Wagar, Bev Olberg, Terri Cook, Betty Burns, Ginger Burns, Amy Rentschler, Dan Grau, Jackie Martin. The following individuals were available for consult when the plan was drafted: Cathie Mason, Steve Thelen, Stan Poet, Nancy Thelen.

This plan was adopted on June 9, 2008 by Washtenaw Farm Council and will be utilized during the 2008 Youth Show.

This plan was revised on April 9, 2009 by Jackie Martin, MSU Extension, approved on April 20, 2009 by the Livestock and Dairy Committee.

This plan was revised on April 13, 2010 by Jackie Martin, MSU Extension and members of the Animal Health Committee, and approved on April 19, 2010 by the Livestock and Dairy Committee.

This plan was revised on June 13, 2011 by members of the Animal Health Committee, and presented to the Washtenaw Farm Council on June 13, 2011.

The plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis by members of the Animal Health Committee and other volunteers.

Appendices

(Available at the Youth Show Office)

- Appendix A: Contact Information for Species Point People, Animal Health Committee, Fair Veterinarian(s), Fair Officials, MSU Extension Staff
- Appendix B: Exhibitor Agreement
- Appendix C: Current MDA Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibited in Michigan
- Appendix D: Approved list of disinfectants (and the names of the ones used by Farm Council)
- Appendix E: Early Release Form
- Appendix F: Current Youth Show Book