

2026 PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANIMAL EXHIBITION, INCLUDING COMMERCIAL EXHIBITION

This document provides the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's (PDA) animal health requirements and recommendations for all animal exhibitions in the Commonwealth including Pennsylvania County and Community Fairs. All exhibitors are encouraged to check with the management of each fair in advance to ensure compliance with all fair requirements. Each Fair and exhibition will need to abide by the requirements sections for in state and out of state animals and are strongly encouraged to adopt the recommendations based on their own perceived liability and risk for the exhibition and its audience.

Fair management is requested to maintain records and are asked to provide contact information of owners of all animals which are exhibited to PDA upon request. Please note, there are sales slips/records requirements, and documentation needed to move with sheep and goats after a sale.

The following Animal Owner or Caretaker's Verification of Veterinary Consultation Relationship statement for the livestock and poultry being exhibited must be included with a signature line for 1/10/23 the owner or caretaker on the fair registration form: "I attest and affirm that a "veterinarian consultation relationship" – as that phrase is defined in the Animal Exhibition Sanitation Law found at 3 Pa.C.S.A. § 2501 et seq. and any amendments thereto – "exists with regard to any animals I will be exhibiting." Animals entering with a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) are exempt from this statement requirement.

For specified events at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, including the Pennsylvania Farm Show, the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show, the Pennsylvania State Junior Dairy Show, the Keystone International Livestock Exposition, the Pennsylvania Fall Holstein Show and the Pennsylvania State 4-H Horse Show, exhibitors will need to consult the 2023 show managements' additional requirements.

SECTION 3: PENNSYLVANIA CATTLE

Requirements:

1. Sexually intact cattle shall be identified by an official ear tag or other unique identification device approved by PDA. Official identification includes:
 - A USDA issued National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tag; or
 - A 15 digit Animal Identification Number(AIN(ear tag Starting with "840" ; or
 - Other identification approved by the PDA (brands and breed registrations with tattoos are not acceptable).
 - ID requirements specific to the Farm Show Complex: All cattle entering the complex must be identified with a 15 digit 840 ISO-compliant RFID ear tag. The only exception to this will be for cattle who were identified using a 900 series 15- digit ISO-compliant tag placed before January 1, 2015. No other exceptions will be granted. If you intend to exhibit at the complex, please distinguish between 840 tags with RFID capabilities versus 840

tags that do not have those capabilities prior to placing identification in your animal.

2. See Rabies Requirements in the General section for animals exhibiting at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex.

Recommendations:

1. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued within 30 days of the exhibition. In addition to the identification for sexually intact cattle, all non-sexually intact cattle including steers and spayed heifers should be identified with forms of ID consistent with # 1 in requirements above.
2. All animals must be free of evidence of infectious and contagious diseases and a statement of this should be written on the CVI.
3. A current rabies vaccination administered by a licensed veterinarian for animals 3 months of age and older (observe appropriate slaughter withdrawal time). Market cattle consigned for immediate slaughter following exhibition can be exempt.
4. Rodeo: It is recommended that Pennsylvania-origin rodeo cattle of all ages be negative on an official tuberculin test within 60 days prior to the start of the fair unless they are members of and originate from an accredited tuberculosis-free herd. The cattle can be accompanied by the negative test report or the tuberculosis test results can be recorded by the veterinarian on a CVI.

SECTION 4: OUT OF STATE CATTLE

Requirements: See Fair Office for requirements

SECTION 7: PENNSYLVANIA DOGS

Requirements:

1. Proof of a current rabies vaccination is required for all exhibition dogs 12 weeks of age and older. All rabies-vaccinated dogs should be accompanied by a rabies vaccination certificate.

Recommendations:

1. All rabies-vaccinated dogs should be accompanied by a rabies vaccination certificate. The certificate must contain the name of the product used, the date of vaccination and the legible name, contact information, and signature of the veterinarian who administered the vaccine. A copy of the rabies vaccination certificate is acceptable.
2. All animals are free of evidence of infectious and contagious diseases.

SECTION 8: OUT OF STATE DOGS

Requirements: See Fair Office for requirements.

SECTION 9: PENNSYLVANIA EQUINE ANIMALS

Requirements:

The Department of Agriculture has no specific requirements for Pennsylvania equines at fairs. However, fair management has the authority to impose requirements designed to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

See Rabies Requirements in the General section for animals exhibiting at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex.

Recommendations:

1. A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued within 30 days of the exhibition.
2. All animals must be free of evidence of infectious and

contagious diseases and a statement of this should be written on the CVI.

3. It is recommended that all equine animals be test negative for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) by an official test within the 12 months prior to the opening date of the exhibition. Laboratory test results should accompany each animal to its final destination (a copy of the original lab report is acceptable). The CVI shall specify the date of sample collection 1/10/23 and EIA test results. Foals less than six months of age accompanied by a test-negative dam are exempt from EIA testing requirements. If the foal is not accompanied by the dam, a copy of the dam's test results must accompany the foal to its final destination.
4. A current rabies vaccination administered by a licensed veterinarian for animals 3 months of age and older. The name of the product used, date of administration and veterinarian administering the rabies vaccination should appear on the CVI or on a rabies vaccination certificate and this information should correlate to a written description of the horse, and any and all forms of identification associated with the horse- such as lip, tattoos, brands, or microchips.

SECTION 10: OUT OF STATE EQUINE ANIMALS

Requirements: See Fair Office for requirements.

SECTION 11: PENNSYLVANIA GOATS

Requirements:

1. Individual official animal identification is required for all goats. Official ID includes:
 - A USDA ear tag with a US shield ; which includes scrapie program tags (animals bearing identification with blue colored scrapie program tags labeled "meat" with a US shield are not permitted to be exhibited in Pennsylvania please call the department at 717-783-6851 if such a tag is encountered);or
 - A legible tattoo with herd and individual identification recognized in an approved USDA Scrapie database a.k.a. scrapie tattoo (flock ID in the right ear—state postal code and letters/numbers—and individual animal ID in the left ear); or
 - A breed registration tattoo if the animal is accompanied by a registration certificate and the tattoo is legible.
 - Identification used for sheep and goats must be permanently affixed to the individual animal.
2. For post-exhibition sales the following requirements apply:
 - a. Market goats must be documented on sales slips which contain the following information:
 - Official identification (as described above)
 - Sale date
 - Sale location
 - Name, address and phone number of the exhibitor
 - Hauler contact information
 - Destination name and contact information
 - Total number of animals in the shipment
 - Type of goat (i.e. meat, dairy, specific breed)
 - Signature of consignee, agent, or haulerThose slips or a document capturing all of the above must follow the goats to their final destination (including slaughter facilities).
 - b. Goats which are purchased with the intent of breeding and are traveling via interstate movement must have a valid interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI)

prior to movement to the destination state.

- c. A copy of the sale records slips as delineated above and a copy of any ICVIs (in b. above) must be kept by the sale organizer/extension for 5 years.
- d. ID requirements specific to the Farm Show complex: Market goats entering the complex must be identified with a 15 digit 840 ISO-compliant RFID ear tag. This can be in addition to the forms of ID listed above so long as only one 840 ID is used. No exceptions will be granted. If you wish to exhibit at the complex please distinguish between 840 tags with RFID capabilities versus 840 tags that do not have those capabilities prior to placing identification in your animal.

Recommendations:

1. A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued within 30 days of the exhibition.
2. All animals must be free of evidence of infectious and contagious diseases and a statement of this should be written on the CVI.

SECTION 12: OUT OF STATE GOATS

Requirements: See Fair Office for requirements.

SECTION 15: PENNSYLVANIA RABBITS

Requirements:

The Department of Agriculture has no specific requirements for Pennsylvania rabbits at fairs. However, fair management has the authority to impose requirements designed to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

While on exhibit or at any time following exhibition, you are obligated to report all mass mortality events and all rabbits who are ill and bleeding from eyes, nose, mouth, or have bloody stools to the department emergency line 717-772-2852 option

1. We need your help to quickly identify and stop dangerous transmissible diseases such as Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Type 2 (RHDV-2) from spreading.

Recommendations:

1. A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). It is highly recommended that fairs and exhibitions ask that each exhibited rabbit be listed on an intrastate CVI written within 14 days of entrance. The Certificate of Veterinary Inspection shall be written by an accredited veterinarian and contain the following statements: "All Rabbits in the shipment have been examined for and found free of infectious, contagious or communicable diseases including RHDV-2 and there have not been multiple mortality events or rabbits exhibiting hemorrhages within the last 90 days. The rabbits in this shipment have not been housed or exhibited with any rabbits associated with known mass mortality or hemorrhage events." "In the last 90 days, the rabbits in this shipment, have not been exhibited in, housed in, or traveled to, any state or territory in which RHDV-2 has been diagnosed within the last 12 months. In addition, during the last 90 days, they have had no contact with any captive or wild rabbit which originated from or travelled to one of those affected states or territories." Please note: Vaccination of Pennsylvania origin rabbits against RHDV-2 is encouraged through a licensed veterinarian. However, vaccination should not exempt the participant from having to adhere to and attest to the above statements on the CVI.

SECTION 16: OUT OF STATE RABBITS

Requirements: See Fair Office for requirements.

SECTION 17: PENNSYLVANIA SHEEP

Requirements:

1. Individual official animal identification is required for all sheep. Official ID includes:
 - A USDA ear tag with a US shield ; which includes scrapie program tags (animals bearing identification with blue colored scrapie program tags labelled "meat" with a US shield are not permitted be exhibited in Pennsylvania please call the department at 717-783-6851 if such a tag is encountered).or
 - A legible tattoo with herd and individual identification recognized in an approved USDA Scrapie database a.k.a. scrapie tattoo (flock ID in the right ear—state postal code and letters/numbers— and individual animal ID in the left ear); or
 - A breed registration tattoo if the animals are accompanied by a registration certificate (copy acceptable) and the tattoo is legible.
 - Identification used for sheep and goats must be permanently affixed to the individual animal.
2. For post-exhibition sales the following requirements apply:
 - a. Market sheep must be documented on sales slips which contain the following information:
 - Official identification (as described above)
 - Sale date • Sale location
 - Name, address and phone number of the exhibitor
 - Hauler contact information
 - Destination name and contact information
 - Total number of animals in the shipment
 - Type of sheep (i.e. meat, wool, specific breed)
 - Signature of consignee, agent, or haulerThose slips or a document capturing all of the above must follow the sheep to their destination (including slaughter facilities).
 - b. Sheep which are purchased with the intent of breeding and are traveling via interstate movement must have a valid interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) prior to movement to the destination state.
 - c. A copy of the sale records slips as delineated above and a copy of any ICVIs (in b. above) must be kept by the sale organizer/extension for 5 years.

ID requirements specific to the Farm Show complex: Market sheep entering the complex must be identified with a 15 digit 840 ISO-compliant RFID ear tag. This can be in addition to the forms of ID listed above so long as only one 840 ID is used. No

exceptions will be granted. If you wish to exhibit at the complex please distinguish between 840 tags with RFID capabilities versus 840 tags that do not have those capabilities prior to placing identification in your animal. Please see rabies requirements for exhibition of sheep at the Farm show complex in the general section.

Recommendations:

1. A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued within 30 days of the exhibition.
2. All animals must be free of evidence of infectious and contagious diseases and a statement of this should be written on the CVI.
3. A current rabies vaccination administered by a licensed veterinarian for animals 3 months of age and older (observe appropriate slaughter withdrawal time).

SECTION 18: OUT OF STATE SHEEP

Requirements: See Fair Office for requirements.

SECTION 19: PENNSYLVANIA SWINE

Requirements:

1. No swine species shall be exhibited in Pennsylvania unless each animal:
 - Is accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued within 30 days of the exhibition;
 - **Is permanently identified by an official 840 series radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tag and the ear tag number is recorded on the CVI;**
 - Has been visually inspected and found to be free of signs of contagious disease immediately prior to unloading at the exhibition by an accredited veterinarian or swine health monitor appointed by the fair board or livestock show committee.
 - Swine health monitors appointed by fairs or show/event organizers must undergo annual online training which can be found at the following link: psu.edu or the following site Extension.psu.edu/Pennsylvania-show-and-fair-swine-health-monitor-training. -Swine health monitors must provide a current completion certificate to the fair or show staff they will be performing monitoring services for, prior to the start of the event.
2. All breeding swine exhibitions are to occur prior to the arrival of any market swine:
 - a. Breeding swine must be removed from the animal exhibition premises prior to any market swine arriving.
 - b. Breeding swine animals for exhibitions shall arrive,

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exhibit, and depart in a period no greater than 72 hours. Time begins when the first swine arrives physically on the fairgrounds whether unloaded from a trailer or not and ends when the last hog physically leaves the premises on a trailer.

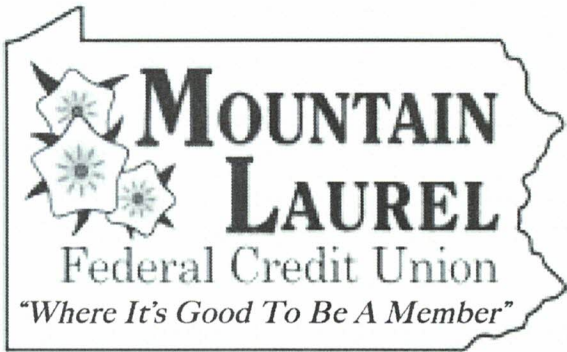
- c. Swine birthing exhibitions and educational displays in which swine are not competing may occur concurrently with market swine animal exhibition, as long as, reasonable precaution is made to ensure the biosecurity of the swine birthing exhibition or educational display.
- 3. All market swine exhibited in Department-sponsored market shows shall move as all-in and all-out directly to a PDA or USDA licensed slaughter facility following the animal exhibition and may not be diverted to premises other than a recognized slaughter establishment or a slaughter market in which the sales are designated slaughter-only sales.
- 4. Non-PDA sponsored shows including jackpot shows and 4-H round-ups, not occurring during a PDA sponsored fair or show are exempt from the terminal slaughter requirement only if the following conditions are adhered to:
 - a. As is stated above, the swine shall be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection issued within 14 days of the exhibition and shall be permanently identified by an 840 series radio frequency (RFID) identification ear tag.
 - b. Arrival, exhibition and departure of the swine occur within a 72-hour window. Time begins when the first

swine arrives physically on the exhibition grounds, whether unloaded from a trailer or not, and ends when the last hog physically leaves the premises on a trailer.

- c. There is no public access to the animals other than observation during competitions.
- d. An Accredited Veterinarian or trained swine health monitor visually inspects the animals prior to unloading, and they are found to be free of signs of contagious disease.
- e. An accredited Veterinarian or trained swine health monitor shall monitor and record the health of the pigs daily for signs of contagious disease and the accredited Veterinarian shall immediately report all suspicious disease to the State Animal Health Official.
- f. A Veterinary-client-patient-relationship is established between the show committee/management staff and an accredited Veterinarian, and that Veterinarian is readily available for health monitoring, emergency coverage, treatment, follow up evaluation, and prompt reporting of suspicious disease to the State Animal Health Official.

SECTION 20: OUT OF STATE SWINE

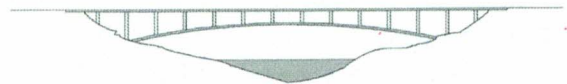
Requirements: See Fair Office for requirements.



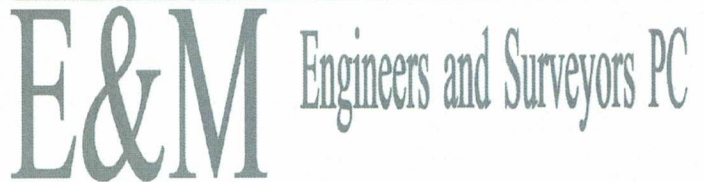
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