



2017 Spartan County Fair Animal Plan

This document will help the fair staff, MSU Extension staff members and animal exhibitors prepare for and respond, if necessary, to any animal health issues that may arise during the Spartan County Fair. In the event of an animal health situation, this document will serve as a guide to respond and recover efficiently and effectively.

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FAIR ANIMAL HEALTH PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. Committee duties:
 - a. Develop the animal health plan for preparing for and responding to any animal health situation that may arise during the Spartan County Fair.
 - b. Develop and implement educational programs for exhibitors (youth and adult) with appropriate partners that address proper biosecurity procedures, animal health and well-being, and exhibition safety.
 - c. Annually review and update this plan.
2. Committee members:
 - a. Dr. Holly Hampshire—Veterinarian
 - b. Dr. Peter Porcine—Veterinarian
 - c. Freddie Fair—Spartan County Fair manager
 - d. Dr. Susie State—MDARD regional veterinarian
 - e. Sally Superintendent—Spartan County Fair livestock superintendent
 - f. Rhonda Rabbit—Spartan County 4-H leader
 - g. Bob Board—Spartan County Fair board member
 - h. Doreen Dorper—Spartan County 4-H program coordinator
 - i. Chris Clover—Spartan County 4-H member
 - ii. Heather Health—Spartan County 4-H member
3. Decision-making team
 - a. Freddie Fair—Spartan County Fair manager
 - b. Bob Board—Spartan County Fair board member
 - c. Dr. Holly Hampshire—Veterinarian
 - d. Dr. Peter Porcine—Veterinarian
 - e. Sally Superintendent—Spartan County Fair livestock superintendent
 - f. Doreen Dorper—Spartan County 4-H program coordinator





POLICIES AND RESOURCES

The Spartan County Fair will follow the most recent state of Michigan animal health policies, including:

- [MDARD Health Requirements for Livestock Exhibition.](#)
- [Bodies of Dead Animals, Act 239 of 1982.](#)
- [Michigan Animal Health Reportable Diseases.](#)

The following resources can be shared with exhibitors and fair attendees:

- [Biosecurity for Livestock Exhibitors.](#)
- [Be Healthy at the Fair Sign.](#)
- [Animal Exhibit Hand Washing Sign.](#)
- [Biosecurity Tips for Poultry Owners.](#)
- [Swine Health Recommendations: Exhibitors of All Pigs Going to Exhibits or Sales.](#)
- [Health Safety Tips: Swine Influenza.](#)
- [Exhibitor Meetings to Prevent Swine Influenza: A Checklist for Before, During and After the Meeting.](#)
- [Exhibitor and Parent Fact Sheet: Swine Influenza.](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfecting Pig Barns at County Fairs.](#)
- [How to Wash Your Hands and When Sign.](#)
- [No Food or Drinks in the Barn Sign.](#)
- [Biosecurity is Easy as 1, 2, 3 Sign.](#)
- [Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2017.](#)
- [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Reportable Diseases by Pathogen.](#)

SPARTAN COUNTY FAIR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The incidental costs of maintaining and operating the fair fall to the fair board, but the risk of exhibiting animals falls to the exhibitors/owners. In the case of a disease outbreak and/or quarantine, the premiums and/or sale proceeds may be held. The exhibitors continue to be responsible for any and all costs incurred by their animals, such as veterinary care, medications, feed, bedding, etc., and the fair will have the right to withhold appropriate expenses from the premiums or sale proceeds.
2. Authority is given to the species superintendent to contact MDARD to determine what must be done with any dead animals and contaminated feed, bedding and/or manure. Depending on the emergency or disease, these materials may need to be composted, burned, buried or even hauled to a landfill. The cost to handle these items properly will be paid by the Spartan County Fair board.
3. All labor is considered volunteer and not a reimbursable expense unless stipulated in writing.
4. If an animal has been sold through auction and a quarantine is put in place, the exhibitor assumes the responsibility for costs incurred and/or care provided during the quarantine.
5. If an animal becomes ill and dies after it has been auctioned and before it has been harvested, the exhibitor will properly dispose of the carcass and inform the buyer. The buyer and seller will agree on a solution that is acceptable for both parties.
6. If animals have been found to be symptomatic before the auction, the Spartan County Junior Livestock Association will disclose potential risks to potential buyers in writing before the sale of the species.

SPARTAN COUNTY FAIR ANIMAL HEALTH PLAN

The following processes and protocols will be followed to ensure that both animal and human health are protected during the duration of the Spartan County Fair.





1. General operations
 - a. Facility layout
 - i. At least one week before the beginning of the Spartan County Fair, a map will be developed to identify the following areas:
 1. All barns, tents and temporary shelter for all animals.
 2. Potential isolation facilities/areas.
 3. Check-in/check-out areas (trailer check-in and vet check-in).
 4. Restrooms and hand washing stations.
2. Animal population verification
 - a. Each species superintendent will verify the total population of his/her species and inform the fair board immediately after all animals have been properly checked into their designated animal housing area.
 - b. Each superintendent will have on file a detailed list of general care and management supplies needed for his/her species. This list would include species-specific basic care items such as water nipples, buckets, manure forks, hay bags, feed pans, etc. This list should consider what supplies would be needed if there were to be a barn quarantine.
3. Contact information
 - a. A contact list for the Spartan County Animal Health Team will be updated and distributed among the team members.
 - b. Exhibitors will be provided with contact information for the superintendent of their species.
4. Chain of command
 - a. The fair veterinarian, in cooperation with the fair manager, fair board and superintendents, will make the final decision(s).
 - b. If the superintendent of that department is not available and no other superintendents are available, the fair manager should be contacted for assistance and guidance. If a veterinarian is contacted before the superintendent, it becomes the veterinarian's responsibility to contact the superintendent.
5. Animal housing cleaning and disinfecting
 - a. All animal housing areas will be cleaned and disinfected before animals enter and again after animals are released.
 - b. Show and barn equipment (chutes, wash stalls, scales, gates, brooms, shovels, show/sale area, etc.) will also be disinfected, and a procedure to disinfect during usage will be outlined for each species.
 - c. All exhibitors are encouraged to clean and disinfect their equipment before bringing any of these items onto the fairgrounds and again when they return home.
6. Public health
 - a. Hand washing stations will be located by barn entrances and the petting zoo areas. Signs will be posted reminding all to wash their hands after touching animals and before eating.
7. Fair animal check-in plans
 - a. All animals shall be properly assessed for their overall health and condition before entering



animal housing areas. Animals should be free from any visible signs of illness, parasites or fungus; in good condition for public display; and displaying behavior normal for that species.

- b. Health and wellness checks may be performed by a veterinarian, species superintendent or knowledgeable volunteer. The attending fair veterinarian and superintendent will communicate before the fair to discuss current health concerns within each species and any signs and symptoms to be on alert for during the health and well-being check.
 - c. If the superintendent is concerned about an animal's health, the animal shall not be allowed into the barn until cleared by the veterinarian.
8. Animal health treatment while on the fair grounds
- a. No animal shall be treated without the knowledge of the superintendent of that department. When necessary, the superintendent can rely on the expertise of the fair veterinarian. Approval from the superintendent must occur first even if the animal owner/exhibitor plans to use his/her veterinarian. In the case of conflicting advice, the fair veterinarian will have the final say.
 - b. Treatment of an animal shall be by the veterinarian or under the direction of a veterinarian or the owner of said animal and verified with written documentation.
 - c. All market animals are to be treated only after the approval of the fair veterinarian. If an animal requires treatment, the treatment shall be documented on a form or record of activity, presented to the superintendent and kept on file.

SPARTAN COUNTY FAIR ANIMAL HEALTH PREPARATION PLAN

1. Education
 - a. In conjunction with MSU Extension, all youth exhibitors will have the opportunity to receive education on proper on-farm and event biosecurity and management to protect both animal and human populations.
 - b. Superintendents, fair board members, exhibitors, parents and volunteers will be provided education on how animal health situations are handled, so that in the event of a suspected illness, the proper response can occur.
 - c. Fair attendees will be educated about proper hygiene while visiting the fair and interacting with animals by appropriate signage and educational posters, and resources such as hand washing stations will be located outside of barn entrances/exits.

SPARTAN COUNTY FAIR ANIMAL HEALTH RESPONSE PLAN

If an animal health situation arises, the Spartan County Fair will take the following steps to respond:

1. Identification of an animal health issue
 - a. Parents/livestock owners shall be consulted by fair superintendents and fair staff members regarding the health of any animal(s). The owner of the affected animal may consult the attending veterinarian working with the animals for advice.
 - b. If an animal health problem arises, the superintendent will review the animal health concern with the family. If a member of the family is not available, a representative from the fair board will be contacted.
 - c. The on-call veterinarian and superintendent will decide if the animal requires medical attention and/or needs to go home.





- d. The superintendent and on-call veterinarian contact the fair board officials and the chairperson of the livestock committee.
 - e. If the on-call veterinarian determines that the situation is a serious problem, the on-call veterinarian will contact the state veterinarian and the proper authorities. The MDARD-AID state veterinarian office number is 800-292-3939. After hours, the phone number is 517-373-0440.
2. Communication with exhibitors and internal audiences
- a. It is extremely important that everyone receive the same information from the same source to prevent misinformation. Consistent information will be prepared ahead of time, edited and approved by the Spartan County Fair manager. The appointed spokespeople for both internal and external communications will be the Spartan County Fair manager and the species superintendent.
 - b. The plan and its procedures will be activated in the event of an emergency that results in a significant need for animal and public health protection. The Spartan County Fair manager will determine when these procedures will be implemented and notify the appropriate agencies. Spartan County management will maintain a call-down notification system.
 - c. Communications among the fair management, MSU Extension staff members, youth exhibitors, parents and support agencies will occur primarily by the species superintendent in cooperation with the fair veterinarian and MSU Extension staff members. Official communications will be via:
 - i. Signage in barns
 - ii. Social media updates
 - iii. Text list
 - iv. Email list
 - v. Exhibitor meetings
 - d. Every attempt will be made to provide regular updates to exhibitors, parents and leaders about daily events. In the event that market animals are quarantined, additional communication will be established with buyers, packers, processors and truckers by the superintendent.
 - e. Talking points that outline specific, accurate and up-to-date information will be provided to exhibitors, fair staff members and volunteers.
3. Communication with external audiences
- a. In the event that the public should be notified, the Spartan County Fair management will maintain a list of newspapers and radio and TV stations. Public information statements will be issued to all media outlets. All media communications will be kept on file by the Spartan County Fair for at least three years.
 - b. During the response phase, the fair management will provide continued updates to external audiences on the animal health situation efforts as appropriate. These will include general information as well as any special instructions for the public and for animal owners.
 - c. The Spartan County Fair spokesperson, in conjunction with MSU Extension staff members, will be responsible for coordinating all media activities and media releases associated with the protection of people and animals.
 - d. All media releases will be sent by email to ensure they reach the media in a timely fashion. When citing the source for any information, the spokesperson will verify the facts with the source ahead of the communication and discuss options for interviews/questions, etc.
4. Barn closure/quarantine



- a. When the veterinarian determines that an infectious disease is occurring, the sick animals shall be separated from those animals not displaying any symptoms by the superintendent and his or her designees.
 - b. To reduce any additional transmission, biosecurity measures such as minimizing human traffic in and out of the affected areas will be implemented by the superintendent and his or her designees.
 - c. In the event that a barn is closed, an assessment will be made by the superintendent to determine who will be allowed in the barn to care for animals.
 - d. If animals are allowed to go home, the superintendent will caution exhibitors about the risk of exposing animals at home to the returning animal(s) and informed about proper home quarantine protocols, regardless of whether the animal appears sick or healthy.
 - e. Areas where sick animals were housed will be immediately disinfected.
 - f. Animals that were in areas adjacent to the symptomatic animal will be moved to other areas in the barn to prohibit nose-to-nose contact with other animals that were not near the symptomatic animal.
5. Market animals
- a. Market animals will continue to be auctioned as planned.
 - b. Unless otherwise directed by the attending veterinarian, animals will not enter the market ring.
 - c. Potential buyers will be notified of the animal health situation.
 - d. If an animal becomes ill and dies after it has been auctioned and before it has been harvested, the exhibitor will properly dispose of the carcass and inform the buyer. The buyer and seller will agree on a solution that is acceptable for both parties.
6. Observation of remaining animals on the fairgrounds
- a. Other species and surrounding animals on the grounds will be closely monitored by species superintendents.
 - b. Action steps will be implemented by the animal health team to prevent cross-contamination, including disinfecting and cleaning the barns and equipment.

SPARTAN COUNTY FAIR RECOVERY PLAN

The Spartan County Fair Animal Health Committee will meet within one month after the end of the fair to assess animal health protocols and policies and amend them as necessary.