



Paul R. LePage  
Governor

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
Division of Animal and Plant Health  
28 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0028



Walt Whitcomb  
Commissioner

**Maine Agricultural Fairs / Exhibitions -2015**

To: FAIR SUPERINTENDENTS, LIVESTOCK and POULTRY EXHIBITORS

**EXAMINE all livestock and poultry as they arrive on the fairgrounds.  
Please pay close attention to the following areas and make certain the animals are  
free of any signs of disease or disorder.**

**SKIN:** Visible evidence of skin infections and parasites such as *ringworm, warts, mange, lice, and club lamb fungus*.

**HEAD:** Discharge from the eyes or nose or evidence of *soremouth, pinkeye, atrophic rhinitis, caseous lymphadenitis*.

**RESPIRATORY:** Infectious respiratory disease (*pneumonia*)

**INTESTINAL:** Diarrhea with fever

**FEET/HOOVES:** Contagious hoof infections such as *footrot*.

Exhibition of lame animals is discouraged.

**HISTORY:** Recent exposure to, or clinical signs of, any contagious or infectious disease conditions that would exclude livestock from exhibition.

**Livestock Diseases**

**RINGWORM** is a transmissible infectious skin disease caused by a fungus. Direct contact with infected animals is the most common method of spreading the infection. It shows on the skin as a grayish-white scale, noticeably higher than the surrounding skin. Infection spreads from the center outward, resulting in a roughly circular lesion. Healing is not complete until the lesion is no longer scaly, raised in height and hair has begun to grow. Animals with active lesions should not be shown / exhibited.

**PINKEYE** is a common infectious bacterial disease affecting the eye. The two most common signs are excessive weeping of the affected eye and closure due to pain. An ulcer frequently develops near the center of the cornea. Prompt treatment is required. Animals showing signs should not be shown / exhibited.

**WARTS** are caused by the contagious papillomavirus. Cattle under the age of two are most susceptible. Not all animals carrying the virus will have warts. Warts appear 1-6 months after infection of the virus. Contact your veterinarian for prevention / possible cures. Affected animals should not be shown.

**SOREMOUTH** (also called orf or contagious ecthyma) is a common and highly contagious disease of sheep and goats caused by a virus in the pox family. The disease is transmitted by direct contact with an infected animal, equipment, manure, feed and bedding. Lesions are often seen on the lips and nostrils of affected animals, but may also develop in other non-woolly areas of the body, such as ears, eyes, feet, udder and genital areas. The course of the disease usually runs 1-4 weeks. The virus is also contagious to humans so caution should be taken when handling infected animals. Animals should not be shown or exhibited.

Michele Walsh, DVM  
State Veterinarian



**STATE OF MAINE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,**  
**CONSERVATION & FORESTRY**  
Division of Animal and Plant Health  
28 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0028



NASAL DISCHARGES are common. If the mucus is not clear, it indicates your animal is not well, perhaps from a contagious respiratory ailment. Animals with nasal discharge other than clear mucus, or

Animals with UNHEALED CASTRATIONS should not be shown. Please plan with your veterinarian the type of castration and healing time involved to assure that castrations are healed in time for shows and exhibitions.

**POULTRY:** Given the ongoing outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the central U.S, all poultry will be observed carefully for signs of illness.

- Exhibition birds *must* be from NPIP certified flocks, and paperwork must be available for review upon request. Birds whose home flocks have shown any signs of respiratory disease within the past 7 days should not be exhibited, and flocks with any unexplained deaths in the 3 weeks prior to the show should also avoid co-mingling with other birds at any venue.
- Animal Health personnel will conduct random sampling (oral swab) for HPAI surveillance at poultry exhibits at the fairs. Any birds showing signs of illness suspicious of HPAI may be tested and quarantined pending results.
- The most common signs of Avian Influenza include: sudden death, lack of energy and appetite, swelling of the head and eyelids and blue or purple discoloration of the wattles, comb and legs.

**MEDICATIONS and DRUGS.** The use of any drug is not permitted in show animals at Maine Fairs and exhibitions. This includes sedatives such as acepromazine, anti-inflammatory drugs such as phenylbutazone or flunixin, anabolic steroids or any other substance which artificially alters the appearance of an animal. Department personnel may be conducting unannounced spot testing throughout the fair season to assure compliance with these requirements. If an animal becomes ill, consultation with a Veterinarian must be made prior to any treatment.

Michele Walsh, DVM  
State Veterinarian