

LIVESTOCK BIOSECURITY AT EVENTS

Basic Advice for Event Holders and Exhibitors

Event holders should have a written biosecurity plan to manage biosecurity risks at the event. The main aim of an event biosecurity plan is to limit the possibility of transmission of endemic diseases and to describe how, in the unlikely event that an outbreak occurs, the event holder will manage an emergency animal disease incursion. This also includes the management of competitors' livestock information. The states and territories have legal requirements for event holders to keep records of all livestock in attendance.

For information specific to managing Johne's disease and the industry assurance scores visit the [Animal Health Australia website](#).

For Event Holders:

- Have a detailed biosecurity plan for each event and where possible, make this available to all attendees and exhibitors. The plan should cover all biosecurity risks associated with the event for all species that attend.
- Ensure exhibitors submit the required information to event holders. This should include an [Animal Health Declaration](#).
- Do not allow competitors to bring diseased or unwell livestock to an event. They should be left at home.
- Share your biosecurity plan with attendees before and during the event through the use of signage for specific requirements or actions.
- Provide specific information to exhibitors on how you manage biosecurity and the expectations you have of exhibitors. This may be achieved through the use of a website or social media platform or through a competitor's handbook.



- Offer separate housing by species to minimise cross species transmission of disease.
- Encourage reporting of sick livestock to a designated person during the event.
- Have a designated sick bay to house livestock that become unwell at an event and keep them isolated from healthy livestock.
- Display emergency procedures in the event of a livestock disease incursion at the event.

For Exhibitors:

Biosecurity is everybody's business. While event holders undertake precautions to minimise the risk of endemic disease transmission through biosecurity planning, biosecurity is a shared responsibility and exhibitors also have a role to play. It is important that exhibitors understand endemic diseases of their region and how different diseases are transmitted so that they can best protect their livestock and minimise the risk the livestock pose to other exhibitors.

Livestock events are considered to be a high risk activity in terms of potential opportunity for disease transmission as these events usually have multiple livestock species located in a small area that are then exposed to large amounts of the general public. As an exhibitor you have a responsibility to manage the risks of your activities accordingly and minimise the risk of returning livestock spreading disease to the rest of your herd or flock after participation at an event.



Exhibitors should consider the following steps to minimise the risk of disease transmission:

- Do not bring sick livestock to an event. Bringing sick livestock to an event is a dangerous practice as you could encourage the spread of disease or spread disease to someone else's livestock. If your livestock are sick, leave them at home in the care of an appropriate person.
- Vaccinate your livestock for endemic diseases common to your area where practical.
- Prior to moving to the event ensure you have checked with the event holder and understand the event entry conditions, including any required documentation that needs to accompany your livestock.
- Complete movement records and requested documentation prior to moving your livestock to the event.
- On arrival, familiarise yourself with the event venue, including where emergency contact details can be found and where the event office is.
- Ensure your livestock go into a clean yard upon arrival. Old bedding should be discarded prior to your livestock entering the pens and placed in the designated waste area.
- Do not allow your livestock to graze in shared areas, including grazing in rings and other thoroughfare areas.
- Where practical, do not allow your livestock to share common water sources – bucket water to your livestock if in doubt.
- Keep the yard in which your livestock is being housed clean and free of manure.
- Practice good hygiene at all times by washing hands regularly when handling different livestock.
- Report any signs of disease to the event holder.
- Do not share equipment between exhibitors.
- Follow directions from the event holder in the event your livestock becomes unwell.
- Where possible, keep livestock isolated for 28 days after returning from the show or event and monitor for any signs of disease or new germinations of weeds.