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John Hickenlooper
Governor

To: CSU Extension and Colorado FFA
From: State Veterinarian's Office of the Colorado Department of Agriculture
Date: March 13, 2014
RE: Disease Prevention Practices for Fairs, Shows, and Exhibitors

Biosecurity measures are those precautionary steps taken to reduce the potential for exposure of susceptible livestock to contagious microbial agents. Basic biosecurity is vital to keeping animals and livestock herds healthy. The risk of disease spread by animals, manure, feed, people and equipment will vary depending on the disease agent, the degree of exposure by susceptible animals, environmental conditions, and the level of disease prevention measures that are in place.

Disease prevention is at the core of animal health and is important for mitigating disease risk for endemic, emerging, and foreign animal diseases. If foreign animal diseases like foot-and-mouth disease, classical swine fever, or African swine fever were introduced into our livestock, it would be devastating to our animals, producers, and the U.S. economy. A current emerging disease, porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV) is also of major concern to Colorado pork producers and the agricultural community. PEDV along with many other diseases can be transmitted by infected animals but also by the clothing, boots, and equipment of exhibitors and visitors to the fairs and shows.

The State Veterinarian's Office of Colorado recommends the following for swine fairs, shows, and exhibitors for optimal disease prevention:

1. Implement a "terminal-show" policy for all county fairs – after the show or fair, pigs do not go back home or to other exhibitions
2. Discontinue swine breeding shows; if that is not possible, conduct breeding shows prior to market swine shows with appropriate cleaning and disinfecting afterwards
3. Discontinue co-mingling of swine for weigh-in or tag-in events or if you continue to tag-in at a central location, do not unload pigs and only allow owners to tag pigs in the trailer with appropriate biosecurity measures in place
4. If jackpots or swine exhibitions are allowed at the county fairgrounds prior to the county fair; implement a strict cleaning and disinfection protocol at the conclusion of the event and communicate your expectations for appropriate biosecurity
5. Update animal health requirements in the fair's premium book to communicate importance of biosecurity
6. Reinforce biosecurity principles to 4-H and FFA members through clubs and classroom; demonstrate disease prevention through the county fair venue
7. Ramp up biosecurity for your fairs and shows to promote animal health and help prevent disease

Please refer to National Pork Board's webpage at www.pork.org for excellent information and resources on PEDV.

Division of Animal Health

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