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2009 Vesicular Stomatitis Guidelines for Shows and Fairs

The Colorado State Veterinarian's Office is recommending that livestock events exercise extra precaution measures to minimize the transmission of vesicular stomatitis (VS). The following strategies should be implemented:

- Participants regardless of origin should, **when possible**, arrive at the event with a health certificate that was issued within 48 hours of departure for the event. The health certificate is not a state requirement but has been a prudent precaution to ensure that livestock arrive at the event free of VS. Event organizers may choose to allow entry of livestock that arrive with a health certificate issued within 48 hours without a check in exam at the entry gate of the facility.
- The health certificate should contain the following statement: "I have examined the animal(s) represented on this certificate of veterinary inspection and have found no signs of vesicular stomatitis and they have not originated from a premises under quarantine for vesicular stomatitis.
- Out-of-state participants should check with their state animal health officials to determine the requirements for the return of livestock to their state. A list of contact information for all state animal health officials can be obtained on our website at: www.colorado.gov/ag/animals
- All participating susceptible livestock (arriving without a 48 hr. health certificate); cattle, horses, and swine and occasionally sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas, should receive an oral examination for VS lesions upon arrival at the event. A qualified, licensed and accredited veterinarian shall perform the examination. If any livestock are suspected of VS the animals should be immediately removed from the event and reported to a Colorado animal health official.

Premises control measures during fairs, shows and other events:

- During the event common water and feed sources should be minimized.
- Insect control and abatement are very important in controlling the spread of Vesicular Stomatitis. Fly wipes, sprays, foggers and other repellents for use on animals and premises should be applied as directed by label instructions.
- Event organizers should regularly observe all susceptible livestock for clinical signs of VS during the event. Often, excessive salivation is the first sign of the disease. Close examination of the mouth initially reveals blanched and raised vesicles or blister-like lesions in affected livestock. These blister-like lesions can form in the mouth and on the dental pad, tongue, lips, nostrils, hooves, and teats.

If you have further questions or comments please contact our office.

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