August 5, 2021

Dear Fairgoers,

Welcome back to the Iowa State Fair!

You may have noticed some new signage around the swine barn and livestock exhibitions. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is asking everyone who has traveled internationally within the last five days to avoid contact with livestock and stay out of the swine barn, Animal Learning Center, Avenue of Breeds, and other exhibition areas where pigs are present. The Department is implementing these additional biosecurity protocols at the Iowa State Fair to keep animals healthy and prevent the potential spread of animal diseases.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is making this request out of an abundance of caution. While there are no known cases of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the United States, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed cases in the Dominican Republic. This is the first time ASF has been detected in the Western Hemisphere since the 1980s. ASF is not a concern to human health or food safety. The disease spreads quickly among swine populations and it survives in the environment for extended periods. People who may have come into contact with infected animals can transmit the disease on their clothing or shoes and risk exposing healthy animals.

We have watched the devastation ASF has caused to pig populations, pork producers, commodity markets and international trade as it has spread through other parts of the world. While ASF is top of mind, other foreign animal and endemic diseases are also threats to the health of our livestock and Iowa’s agriculture-based economy. Enhanced biosecurity protocols are our best line of defense.

While we hope we never need to use them, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship’s animal health experts have spent the last several years working with partners to develop, test and strengthen our foreign animal disease response plans. If you’re interested, you can learn more about biosecurity and the Department’s foreign animal disease planning and response efforts at iowaagriculture.gov/fad.

We recognize that the Iowa State Fair presents a unique opportunity for visitors to engage in meaningful conversations and learn more about Iowa’s agriculture community. It’s in that same spirit of collaboration and cooperation that we ask for your assistance in helping to prevent the spread of foreign animal diseases.

Enjoy the Fair!

Mike Naig, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture  Dr. Jeff Kaisand, State Veterinarian
IF YOU HAVE TRAVELED INTERNATIONALLY IN THE LAST 5 DAYS

PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THIS BUILDING

Avoid contact with livestock to keep the animals healthy and prevent the spread of foreign animal diseases.

iowaagriculture.gov/fad