

**2026 HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EXHIBITION OF LIVESTOCK, POULTRY
AND BIRDS AT STATE FAIR, DISTRICT SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS****SECTION 1 – GENERAL**

- A. All animals, poultry and birds intended for exhibition within the State of Iowa will be considered under quarantine and not eligible for showing until the owner or agent presents a CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION, stating the animals, poultry or birds are apparently free from symptoms of infectious or communicable diseases as determined on clinical inspection by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days (14 days for sheep and 7 days for swine) prior to date of entry to exhibition grounds.
- B. **Please Note** (Veterinarian and Exhibitor): The Certificate of Veterinary Inspection must include the name of the owner or exhibitor and 911 address of the site the animal(s) reside, the name and 911 address of the exhibition, and shall only be used for one exhibition.
- C. INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATES OF VETERINARY INSPECTION WILL NOT BE REQUIRED in certain classes if the division superintendent has made prior arrangements with the official fair veterinarian to have all animals and/or birds inspected on arrival and prior to exhibition.

ANY EVIDENCE OF WARTS, RINGWORM, FOOT ROT, PINK EYE, DRAINING ABSCESES, OR ANY OTHER CONTAGIOUS DISEASE WILL ELIMINATE THE ANIMAL FROM THE SHOW.

**CONSULT YOUR STATE AND/OR COUNTY FAIR BOOK FOR ADDITIONAL OR
SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS.**

SECTION 2 – ALL CATTLE

All cattle intended for exhibition shall have individual official identification and be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection that lists official identification. Examples of acceptable official identification include but may not be limited to; a USDA approved alphanumeric tag, Brucellosis (calfhood) vaccination tag, purebred registry tattoo (if Certificate of Veterinary Inspection is accompanied with registration papers that shows purebred registry tattoo), or USDA approved RFID or 840 series tag. This is not the same as the definition below under market beef.



TUBERCULOSIS (Iowa is Class Free):

Cattle originating from an accredited-free state or zone may be exhibited without other testing requirements when accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection that lists official individual identification (see above). Cattle from a herd or area under quarantine for tuberculosis may not be exhibited. Cattle from a state or zone which is not an accredited-free state or zone must meet the following requirements:

1. An individual animal test conducted within 60 days of the exhibition, or
2. Originate from a tuberculosis accredited-free herd, with the accredited herd number and date of last test listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

BRUCELLOSIS (Iowa is Class Free):


- A. Native Iowa cattle originating from a herd not under quarantine can be exhibited without other testing requirements when accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, showing official individual identification.
- B. Cattle originating outside the state must meet one of the following requirements:
 1. Originate from Brucellosis Class "Free" states when accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and showing individual official identification, or
 2. Official vaccinates under 24 months (beef), 20 months (dairy) when accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, showing official calfhood vaccination and individual official identification, or
 3. Animals of any age originating from a herd not under quarantine when accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, showing a report of a negative brucellosis test conducted within 30 days prior to opening date of exhibition and individual official identification, or
 4. Originate from a certified brucellosis free herd, accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, showing individual official identity, herd number, and date of last test, or
 5. Calves under 6 months of age when accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, showing individual official identification.




NOTES:

1. All brucellosis tests must have been confirmed by a State-Federal Laboratory.
2. All nurse cows that accompany calves to be exhibited must meet above health requirements.
3. All cattle and bison originating from states not officially classified as brucellosis or tuberculosis free must obtain a pre-entry permit from the Iowa State Veterinarian's Office. (515-281-5547)
4. Official individual identification listed on a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection required for all cattle and bison of any age **coming in from out of state** used for rodeos, recreational events, shows and exhibitions.
5. Trichomoniasis testing is not required for rodeo or exhibition bulls temporarily in the state that leave after the event. Effective February 12, 2014, bulls intended for sale must have a negative trichomoniasis test within 30 days prior to importation and no subsequent sexual exposure. The test results must be noted on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. The testing requirement does not apply to virgin bulls under 24 months of age and needs to be noted on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection the bull(s) is a "virgin" or not sexually exposed to any female cattle.

SECTION 3 – MARKET BEEF CATTLE (All cattle other than BREEDING CATTLE)

Steers and beef-type heifers exhibited in market classes must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, showing individual official identification for each animal and originate from a herd not under quarantine. **NOTE:** Official identification tags must have US shield  to be official ID tag.

Examples of acceptable official identification are; a USDA approved alphanumeric tag, Brucellosis (calfhood) vaccination tag, or purebred registry tattoo, or USDA approved RFID or 840 series tag. 4H and FFA tags bearing the US shield  are also official ID.

SECTION 4 – SWINE

GENERAL:

1. All swine shall originate from a herd or area not under quarantine. All swine shall have official identification and be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. The Certificate of Veterinary Inspection shall indicate that a licensed and accredited veterinarian has inspected the swine and that the swine appear free from symptoms of any infectious or communicable disease. An initial inspection shall have occurred within seven days prior to the date of entry into the exhibition site. All swine shall be inspected again upon arrival at the exhibition site and before the swine are unloaded or leave a designated and isolated inspection area. Biosecurity and sanitary practices shall be implemented for all inspections. All identification is to be recorded on the pseudorabies test chart and the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. Electronic identification will not be considered official identification for exhibition purposes. Registration ear notches for registered swine are not considered official ID.
2. **Swine exhibition requirements.** “Swine exhibition” means an exhibit, demonstration, show, or competition involving an event on the state fairgrounds, a county fair, or other exhibition event. The sponsor of the exhibition must retain an Iowa licensed veterinarian to supervise the health of the swine at the exhibition location. The sponsor must electronically file the approved registration form and obtain approval from the state veterinarian at least 30 days before the event. The registration form includes the name of the exhibition and the address and telephone number of its location; the name, address and telephone number of the veterinarian; and the date of the planned exhibition. Sales of swine will not be allowed unless the event has been registered and received approval from the state veterinarian 30 days prior to the event.
3. **Swine exhibition report required.** The sponsor of the swine exhibition shall electronically submit to the department the approved report form within five business days after the conclusion of the exhibition. The form includes the name of the exhibition and the address and telephone number of its location; the name, address and telephone number of the veterinarian; the date that the exhibition occurred; the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the swine; and the address and telephone number of the premises from which the swine was moved after the exhibition if such premises is a different premises.

BRUCELLOSIS (Iowa is Class Free):

1. Native Iowa Swine – No brucellosis test required for exhibition purposes.
2. Swine from Out of State – All breeding swine six months of age and older must either:
 - A. Originate from a Brucellosis Class "Free" state; or
 - B. Originate from a brucellosis validated herd with herd certification number and date of last test listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection; or
 - C. Have a negative brucellosis test conducted within 60 days prior to show and confirmed by a state-federal laboratory.

AUJESZKY'S DISEASE (PSEUDORABIES) - ALL SWINE (Iowa is Stage V)

1. Native Iowa swine – No pseudorabies testing requirements prior to the exhibition will be necessary for native Iowa swine.
2. Swine originating outside Iowa – All exhibitors must present a test record and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection that indicate that each swine has had a negative test for pseudorabies within 30 days prior to the show (individual show regulations may have more restrictive time restrictions), regardless of the status of the herd, and that lists the individual official identification.

SECTION 5 – SHEEP

1. All animals must be individually identified on a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and originate from herds or areas not under quarantine. The Certificate of Veterinary Inspection for sheep will require clinical inspection by an accredited veterinarian within 14 days prior to date of entry to exhibition grounds.
2. All sexually intact sheep must be identified with an individual Scrapie Flock of Origin identification tag or another official Scrapie tag, and this tag number must be listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. For Scrapie Flock of Origin tags, the tag number listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection must include the flock identification number and the individual animal number – Ex. IA1234-5678. (IA1234 is the Scrapie Flock identification number and 5678 is the individual number.) For other official Scrapie tags, the complete tag numbers (for serial tags for example: IAAC5818) must be listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

3. Wethers less than 18 months of age are required to have an individual identification and a Scrapie tag may be used, but a Scrapie tag is not required.
4. **Any evidence of club lamb fungus, ringworm, draining abscesses, foot rot, sore mouth, or any other contagious disease will eliminate the animal from the show.**

SECTION 6 – GOATS

1. All animals must be individually identified on a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and originate from herds or areas not under quarantine. The Certificate of Veterinary Inspection for goats will require clinical inspection by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days prior to date of entry to exhibition grounds.
2. All sexually intact goats must be identified with:
 - a. An individual Scrapie Flock of Origin identification tag, or
 - b. another official Scrapie tag, or
 - c. An official Scrapie tattoo registered with USDA (to register, call 1-866-USDA-TAG).
 - d. For each sexually intact goat, the complete Scrapie identification number must be written on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection as follows:
 - i. For Scrapie Flock of Origin tags, the tag number listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection must include the flock identification number and the individual animal number – Ex. IA1234-5678. (IA1234 is the Scrapie Flock identification number and 5678 is the individual number.)
 - ii. For other official Scrapie tags, the complete tag numbers (for serial tags for example: IAAC5818) must be listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection
 - iii. For tattoos, the complete tattoo number (both the Scrapie herd tattoo prefix and individual number) must be listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.
 - iv. The Certificate of Veterinary Inspection must also include a statement certifying the herd's participation in the Scrapie program.

If you use tattoos instead of Scrapie tags:

- ***Complete numbers from both ears (or complete tail or flank numbers) must be listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.***
- ***Herd tattoo prefix must be registered with USDA by calling 1-866-USDA-TAG (1-866-873-2824).***
- ***A statement must be included on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection indicating that the herd participates in the Scrapie program, and listing the official tattoo registered to the herd.***

3. Wethers less than 18 months of age are required to have an individual identification and a Scrapie tag may be used, but a Scrapie tag is not required.
4. **Any evidence of club lamb fungus, ringworm, draining abscesses, foot rot, sore mouth, or any other contagious disease will eliminate the animal from the show.**
5. Goats originating from outside of the state exhibiting at a state or district show and considered for sale at the exhibition - must originate from a state certified brucellosis free herd, or the animal(s) exhibited must have a negative brucellosis test performed within 90 days of the exhibition. In addition, they must originate from a herd having a whole-herd negative Tuberculosis test within the last twelve months, or the animal(s) exhibited must have a record of a negative tuberculosis test performed within 90 days of exhibition. Brucellosis and tuberculosis class "free" state status for bovines is not recognized for goats moving into Iowa.

Goats originating from outside of the state exhibiting at a state or district show and returning to the premises of origin are exempt from testing requirements if the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection meets all general requirements, identification requirements and has the following statement written by the licensed accredited veterinarian on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection: **"The goat(s) listed are for exhibition only and not for resale."**

SECTION 7 – HORSES AND MULES

All horses shall be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection with individual identification, or a description of the individual animal. These requirements apply to all horses entering the fairgrounds.

Native Iowa horses and mules can be exhibited when accompanied by an individual Certificate of Veterinary Inspection listing a description of the individual animals.

All equine originating from outside the state shall be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection listing a description of the individual animals; and indicating that each animal six months of age and older in the shipment has had a negative official equine infectious anemia test within twelve months of importation. The testing laboratory, accession number, and date of test must appear on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, or a copy of the Coggins (EIA) test paper must be presented.

SECTION 8 – POULTRY AND BIRDS

All poultry exhibited must come from U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid clean or equivalent flocks, or have had a negative Pullorum-Typhoid test within 90 days of public exhibition and the test must have been performed by an authorized tester. (SEE GENERAL SECTION 1.B) **Please note: Poultry purchased from a hatchery and raised for exhibition are not exempt from Pullorum-Typhoid testing requirements.**

SECTION 9 – DOGS AND CATS

All dogs and cats exhibited must have a current rabies vaccination certificate (SEE GENERAL SECTION 1.B)

SECTION 10 – FARM DEER

Accredited veterinarians must be approved to administer tuberculosis tests on Cervidae.

“Cervidae” means all animals belonging to the cervidae family, and “CWD susceptible cervidae” means whitetail deer, blacktail deer, mule deer, red deer, elk and moose.

1. *Native Iowa cervidae.* Native Iowa cervidae may be exhibited from a herd not under quarantine without additional testing for brucellosis or tuberculosis. Native Iowa cervidae may be exhibited without other testing requirements when accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection that lists individual official identification.
 - A. All CWD susceptible cervidae must have originated from a chronic wasting disease monitored or certified herd in which these animals have been kept for at least one year or were natural additions. Cervidae originating from a herd with a diagnosis, signs, or epidemiological evidence or an area under quarantine for chronic wasting disease shall not be exhibited. The following statement must appear on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection:

“All Cervidae on this certificate originate from a chronic wasting disease monitored or certified herd in which these animals have been kept for at least one year or were natural additions. There has been no diagnosis, signs, or epidemiological evidence of chronic wasting disease in this herd for the past year.”



- B. Other Cervidae – For all other cervidae, the following statement must appear on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection:

“All Cervidae on this certificate have been part of the herd of origin for at least one year or were natural additions to this herd. There has been no diagnosis, signs, or epidemiological evidence of chronic wasting disease in this herd for the past year.”

2. *Cervidae originating outside Iowa* – Cervidae originating outside Iowa must obtain an entry permit from the State Veterinarian’s Office prior to import into Iowa. Cervidae originating outside Iowa which are six months of age or over must originate from a herd not under quarantine and be tested negative for Tuberculosis (TB) within 90 days of exhibition by the Single Cervical Tuberculin (SCT) test (Cervidae), or Dual Path Platform (DPP) blood test, or originate from an Accredited Herd (Cervidae), or originate from a Qualified Herd (Cervidae), with test dates shown on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. Herd status and SCT test are according to USDA Tuberculosis Eradication in Cervidae Uniform Methods and Rules effective January 22, 1999.

Cervidae originating outside Iowa which are six months of age or over must also be tested negative for Brucellosis within 90 days of exhibition, or originate from a Certified Brucellosis Free Cervid Herd, or a Cervid Class Free Status State (Brucellosis). This negative status must be determined by Brucellosis tests approved for cattle and bison and tested in a cooperative state-federal laboratory.

- A. All CWD susceptible cervidae must have originated from a chronic wasting disease monitored or certified herd in which these animals have been kept for at least one year or were natural additions. The originating herd must have achieved a CWD status equal to completion of five years in an approved CWD monitoring program, and the CWD herd number and enrollment date must be listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. Cervidae originating from a herd with a diagnosis, signs, or epidemiological evidence or an area under quarantine for chronic wasting disease shall not be exhibited. The following statement must appear on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection:

“All Cervidae on this certificate originate from a chronic wasting disease monitored or certified herd in which these animals have been kept for at least one year or were natural additions. There has been no diagnosis, signs, or epidemiological evidence of chronic wasting disease in this herd for the past year.”



- B. Other Cervidae – For all other cervidae, the following statement must appear on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection:

“All Cervidae on this certificate have been part of the herd of origin for at least one year or were natural additions to this herd. There has been no diagnosis, signs, or epidemiological evidence of chronic wasting disease in this herd for the past year.”

SECTION 11 – RABBITS AND OTHER SPECIES

(SEE GENERAL SECTION 1.B)

THE VETERINARY INSPECTOR IN CHARGE SHALL ORDER ANY ANIMALS, POULTRY OR BIRDS, WHEN FOUND TO BE INFECTED WITH ANY CONTAGIOUS OR INFECTIOUS DISEASES, TO BE REMOVED FROM THE FAIR OR EXHIBITION.

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State Veterinarian
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2026 HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITION OF LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND BIRDS AT A COUNTY 4H/FFA FAIR EXHIBITION


ANY EVIDENCE OF WARTS, RINGWORM, FOOT ROT, PINK EYE, DRAINING ABSCESES OR ANY OTHER CONTAGIOUS OR INFECTIOUS CONDITION WILL ELIMINATE THE ANIMAL FROM THE SHOW.

No individual Certificate of Veterinary Inspection will be required on Iowa origin animals or poultry exhibited at County 4-H/FFA Fair, but the animals must be inspected when unloaded or shortly thereafter by an accredited veterinarian. Swine are required to be inspected either before being unloaded or before leaving a designated isolation and inspection area (prior to mixing with any other pigs). All animals moving from out of state into an Iowa county 4H/FFA Fair must meet Iowa Animal and Livestock Importation requirements. Each show must have an official veterinarian.

Quarantined animals or animals from quarantined herds cannot be exhibited.

Official identification listed on a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection required for all cattle and bison of any age **coming in from out of state** used for rodeos, recreational events, shows and exhibitions.

SWINE

All swine must originate from a herd or area not under quarantine and must be individually identified. All swine are required to have individual official identification. All 4-H and FFA tags bearing the US shield  are official identification tags.

Swine originating outside of Iowa. All exhibitors must present a test record and Certificate of Veterinary Inspection that indicate that each swine has had a negative test for pseudorabies within 30 days prior to the show (individual show regulations may have more restrictive time restrictions), regardless of the status of the herd, and show individual official identification on test report. Electronic identification will not be considered official identification for exhibition purposes.

Swine exhibition requirements. “Swine exhibition” means an exhibit, demonstration, show, or competition involving an event on the state fairgrounds, a county fair, or other exhibition event. The sponsor of the exhibition must retain an Iowa licensed veterinarian to supervise the health of the swine at the exhibition location. The sponsor must electronically file the approved registration form and obtain approval from the state veterinarian at least 30 days before the event. The registration form includes the name of the exhibition and the address and telephone number of its location; the name, address and telephone number of the veterinarian; and the date of the planned exhibition. Sales of swine will not be allowed unless the event has been registered and received approval from the state veterinarian 30 days prior to the event.

Swine exhibition report required. The sponsor of the swine exhibition shall electronically submit to the department the approved report form within five business days after the conclusion of the exhibition. The form includes the name of the exhibition and the address and telephone number of its location; the name, address and telephone number of the veterinarian; the date that the exhibition occurred; the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the swine; and the address and telephone number of the premises from which the swine was moved after the exhibition if such premises is a different premises.

SHEEP AND GOATS

All sexually intact sheep must have an individual Scrapie Flock of Origin identification tag (Ex. IA1234-5678) or another official Scrapie tag. All sexually intact goats must be identified with an individual Scrapie Flock of Origin identification tag (Ex. IA1234-5678), another official Scrapie tag, or by an official tattoo registered with USDA (to register, call 1-866-USDA-TAG; 1-866-873-2824). Wethers less than 18 months of age are required to have an individual identification and a Scrapie tag may be used, but a Scrapie tag is not required.

POULTRY AND BIRDS

All poultry exhibited must come from U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid clean or equivalent flocks, or have had a negative Pullorum-Typhoid test within 90 days of public exhibition and the test must have been performed by an authorized tester. (SEE GENERAL SECTION 1.B) **Please note: Poultry purchased from a hatchery and raised for exhibition are not exempt from Pullorum-Typhoid testing requirements.**

However, "Market Classes" of poultry consigned to a slaughter establishment are exempt from the Salmonella testing requirements. "Market Classes" of poultry must be separated from all other poultry by a distance of ten or more feet and/or an eight-foot-high solid partition.

DOGS AND CATS

All dogs and cats exhibited must have a current rabies vaccination certificate.

FARM DEER


Accredited veterinarians must be approved to administer tuberculosis tests on Cervidae.

“Cervidae” means all animals belonging to the cervidae family, and “CWD susceptible cervidae” means whitetail deer, blacktail deer, mule deer, red deer, elk and moose. Native Iowa Cervidae may be exhibited without other testing requirements when accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection that lists individual official identification.

All Cervidae must have been part of the herd of origin for at least one year or were natural additions, or must have originated from a chronic wasting disease monitored or certified herd in which these animals have been kept for at least one year or were natural additions. Cervidae originating from a herd with a diagnosis, signs, epidemiological evidence, or area under quarantine for chronic wasting disease may not be exhibited. The following statement must appear on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection:

“All Cervidae on this certificate have been part of the herd of origin for at least one year or were natural additions to this herd. There has been no diagnosis, signs, or epidemiological evidence of chronic wasting disease in this herd for the past year.”

THE DECISION OF THE OFFICIAL SHOW VETERINARIAN WILL BE FINAL.



Jeff Kaisand, D.V.M., State Veterinarian
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship