



THE 2019 WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR'S BIOSECURITY PRACTICES

Giving the public the opportunity to see livestock up close, and to have that human-to-animal experience, is one of the traditional hallmarks of a Fair. However, any time that happens there is going to be a concern, because the germ that causes e-coli occurs naturally in the systems of these animals. The exposure to those germs can never be predicted nor prevented, outside of banning all animals from a Fair or not allowing the public to be anywhere near them. It's impossible to guarantee no exposure to the germ. *Our goal is to have livestock on display at the Washington County Fair in a manner that enables Fairgoers, exhibitors, and the animals to be together in one location in a way that is safe for all involved, and yet doesn't take away from the human and animal experience that is so much a part of any Fair.*

The Washington County Fair takes biosecurity very seriously and has put into place multiple elements to help protect the public and to help the public protect themselves.

- Signage is prominently posted at the entrance gates to the Fair, at the entrance gates into the Livestock area, and in the barns, explaining that animals can pass along germs that will make humans sick, and reminding Fairgoers thorough hand-washing is important after visiting the Livestock area and before eating.
- Hand-washing stations are positioned for easy access throughout the Livestock area and near all dining tents.
- With the realization that hand-washing alone is not enough, that Fair-goers could be potentially washing their hands, but still possibly bringing manure home via their shoes, or on the wheels of strollers or wagons, the Washington County Fair conducted a thorough assessment of its' site, and in 2017 and 2018 implemented major changes in the layout of the Livestock area so that livestock and Fairgoers have their own separate walking paths, and animals never walk in public spaces within the barns.
- We have our "Biosecurity Team" consisting of 4 members plus 1 Supervisor. 1 team member's entire responsibility is to ensure that all hand-washing trailers and stations are operating effectively and are fully-stocked with supplies. When animals cross to the Show Rings during the Fair, members of the Biosecurity Team shut down the walkway so Fairgoers cannot enter that area, and then the team fully disinfects the walkway prior to re-opening it. The Biosecurity Team monitors the barns and walkways to ensure that animal bedding is not spilling out onto the path of Fairgoers. The Biosecurity Team members help to politely educate the public about the importance of washing their hands, offering friendly reminders to Fairgoers to be sure to visit the hand-washing stations when exiting the Livestock area. The Biosecurity reminds Livestock exhibitors to clean their footwear too.
- The Washington County Fair also believes it's important that biosecurity includes working to minimize the risk of spreading disease from one animal to another, which can also happen at a Fair when so many animals of multiple species are so near each other for multiple days. That is why we require all Livestock to go through a Veterinary Check-up before they can be moved into a pen or stall on the grounds.
- The Washington County Fair does recordkeeping that documents when the barns and show rings are disinfected during the Fair, when the animal-crossing paths to the Show Rings are disinfected during the Fair, plus recordkeeping also includes documenting when hand-washing stations are serviced. Additionally, we document the disinfection process throughout the year any time livestock animals are on the property.