



Gratiot County Fair for Youth
Biosecurity Plan
Exhibitor Action Plan

Purpose:

To help reduce the risk of disease transmission between animals and people at the fair.

What is Biosecurity?

Biosecurity is a combination of management practices to prevent the introduction and transmission of disease. Infectious diseases can be transmitted by animals, people, equipment and vehicles. Some diseases can be spread between people and animals and then back to people. These are *called Zoonotic Diseases*.

What biosecurity practices can I do before the fair?

- You can keep up to date on any recommended animal vaccinations to help reduce any possible potential illnesses.
- Evaluate your project animals' health before the fair. If your animal is showing signs of illness before the fair, you are strongly encouraged to leave the animal home.
- Wear different foot wear when taking care of your project animals.
- Bring only clean and disinfected equipment before the show.

What biosecurity practices can I do during the fair?

- Clean and disinfect equipment before and after using them at the fair.
- Don't share animal care equipment at the fair especially water buckets and brushes. Be extra cautious if your animal is showing any signs it might be ill.
- Wash your hands frequently. Make sure you are using soap and are thoroughly washing under running water before you eat or drink.
- Evaluate the health of you animal(s) frequently. If you have any concerns or notice change in your animal's health let your superintendent know as soon as possible.
- Do NOT eat or drink in the barns.
- Keep barn aisles and anywhere animals travel outside of their pens free of manure and dirt. This includes the wash racks, roads, lawns and outside the arena.
- Use the manure bunkers between the two horse barns for horses, poultry, rabbits, and sheep. Use the manure bunker just east of the storage shed for beef, dairy, feeder beef, goats and swine.
- If possible avoid personal contact with animals other than your own.

What biosecurity practices can I do after the fair?

- Isolate any fair animals you bring home after the fair and take care of them after taking care of any other animals you may have.
- Clean and disinfect your trailer and equipment.

What is GCFY doing to help educate our exhibitors and the public about staying healthy at the fair?

- The fair superintendents will close the barns to the public one hour before show times. Only exhibitors, exhibitor families/leaders and show volunteers will be permitted in the barns.
- The fair will post signs encouraging families to wash hands frequently.
- Discourage eating and drinking in the barns
- Encourage visitors to park their strollers before entering the barns.
- The fair will post signs asking for visitors to stay out of animal washing and staging areas. These areas will be reserved for exhibitors, exhibitor families, club leaders and fair staff/volunteers.
- GCFY has hired two animal health specialists to be on hand during animal check-in and weigh-in to help check the health of project animals.

Conclusion:

One of GCFY's main goals is to showcase agriculture to our community in a safe and healthy way. This biosecurity plan is a step towards helping to ensure we are providing the best and safest agriculture experience to our community visitors. While it is impossible to completely avoid the spread of disease, we want to do our best to help limit the exposure to both animals and people. We realize that the biggest steps we can take are to encourage our fair exhibitor family to keep their surroundings clean of debris and manure and to educate the public on what steps they can take to limit their exposure to potential disease.

GCFY understands that to create the safest event possible it will take the cooperation between fair administration, animal superintendents, exhibitor/exhibitor families and our community. It is GCFY's goal to ensure we do what we can to reduce (understanding it is impossible to eliminate) the risk to transmitting disease between animals and people at the fair.