

Notice to Participants in Vermont Fairs and Livestock Exhibitions

The Vermont Department of Agriculture, Food and Markets encourages all of those expecting to participate in any Vermont livestock exhibitions this season not to change their plans because of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in Europe. Participation in these events will present a negligible risk of exposure to Foot and Mouth Disease since the disease does not exist in North America. In the event of an outbreak in this country, a revised policy would be forthcoming.

To ensure the health of all animals, it is recommended that all exhibitors follow the Uniform Animal Health Standards Recommended for Vermont Fairs and Field Days. Participants importing animals into Vermont from out of state must follow the Vermont Rules Governing the importation of Domestic Animals, Including Livestock and Poultry. The following additional recommendations should be practiced routinely by exhibitors whenever taking animals to exhibitions in order to limit their exposure to disease.

- 1) Abide by all animal health requirements established by the event organizers.
- 2) While at the event, use appropriate means of limiting contact of your animals with people and other animals, e.g. use of signs, ropes and plywood as barriers.
- 3) Do not share feeding, watering, cleaning or grooming equipment used for other animals.
- 4) Supply your own feed and bedding and keep it separate from other animals.
- 5) Clean and disinfect milking units between milking cows.
- 6) Have disinfectant available for cleaning and disinfecting equipment when necessary.
- 7) Avoid using or sharing stalls recently occupied by other animals.
- 8) Isolate animals returning to the farm from the event for 2 weeks before reintroducing the animals to your herd.
- 9) Make sure your animals are currently vaccinated according to your veterinarian's recommendation at least 14 days prior to the event.

Contact the office of the State Veterinarian for further information: **802-282-2421**.