

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02114

www.mass.gov/agr



Maura T. Healey
GOVERNOR

Kimberley Driscoll
LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR

Rebecca L. Tepper
SECRETARY

Ashley E. Randle
COMMISSIONER

2025 Animal Health Rules for Fairs and Shows

Due to the continuing US outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in domesticated and wild birds and in dairy cattle, Animal Health Officials from all six New England States are united in advising the following for agricultural fairs, competitions, exhibitions, shows, swaps, or other in-person events that encourage the gathering or co-mingling of birds and/or cattle:

Avian species

The New England State Veterinarians strongly discourage the exhibition of domestic and wild waterfowl species and may recommend delaying or canceling domestic fowl or poultry shows. If events are held, best practices for biosecurity should be implemented. **Waterfowl may not be exhibited, shown, or otherwise gathered or co-mingled at in-person events in Massachusetts until further notice of the Director of Animal Health, per MDAR Order 1-17-AHO-25 issued on April 2, 2025.**

Bovine species

The New England State Veterinarians strongly discourage the exhibition of any bovines, including both dairy and beef cattle, that have been present in any state at the time that state had a current outbreak of HPAI in cattle. Bovines that have been shipped from currently affected states in 2025 should not be allowed on the premises of New England fairs or shows. Moving to or from an affected state for any reason will void any New England Fair and Show Season Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (OCVIs) that have been issued for such cattle for the remainder of the 2025 season.

The states currently affected by HPAI in cattle can be found on the USDA website:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/hpai-confirmed-cases-livestock>

All species

Animals of all species susceptible to HPAI are potentially subject to quarantine as ordered by the State Veterinarian if HPAI is detected on a premises where the animal is or was exhibited.

If HPAI is detected in cattle in any New England State, the Agreement between the New England State Veterinarians to allow the use of a single, fair and show season OCVI for New England animals being exhibited in New England will be voided. All exhibited animals would need to be accompanied by an OCVI issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days of being checked in at the show premises and/or other state import requirements.

NO animal will be admitted to the fairgrounds unless it meets the requirements below. NO animal is to be unloaded or enter a barn or tie-out stall until the animal and its paperwork have been inspected and approved for entry.

In addition to complying with all laws and regulations governing animal health issues all fairs must adopt and enforce the following rules for governance for the fair:

A. General Rules for All Animals: See M.G.L. c. 128 §2C, 129 §2

1. All animals must be in proper physical condition, be properly identified and free of visual evidence of infectious, contagious or parasitic disease at time of arrival. Specific diseases and conditions which will disqualify an animal for entry are identified for each species in the following sections of the rules. Animals of any species with open or draining wounds will not be approved for entry.
2. Evidence of infectious, contagious or parasitic disease or failure to produce the necessary documents for health certification, vaccination or testing will result in the animal's rejection for entry.

THE INSPECTOR'S DECISION IS FINAL.

3. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, conformation or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only, and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly-licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
4. Official ID:
All livestock must have proper official, individual ID as required and approved by the USDA and accepted by the fair or show for the species, e.g., official metal ear tag, tattoo, scrapie tag, or microchip. Registration forms must accompany health certificates when used as part of official identification, e.g. with breed registry tattoos and microchips.

5. Health Certificates: --

One Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) may be allowed for animals of the same species to be exhibited at fairs or shows in any of the New England states (*CT, *ME, MA, **NH, RI, and *VT) when submitted with an itinerary of the dates and locations of the events at which the listed animals are expected to be shown. Only animals that are healthy at the time of shipment may be moved.** Note that *CT, *ME, **NH, and ***VT have additional requirements. Certificates of veterinary inspection in these states are valid for a shorter period of time and may have additional language, movement and permit requirements.

For the 2025 Show and Fair Season, livestock animals that reside within New England and are being exhibited in New England states must have official certificates of veterinary inspection (OCVIs) that meet the following requirements (The extended CVI is not available for animals that do not reside in New England):

- a. **MA and RI:** OCVIs issued on or after **January 1, 2025**, may be used for those animals being shown at multiple fairs and shows in **MA**, and RI through the 2025 show/fair season ending October 31, 2025.

MA -Notes: The Big E Fairgrounds in West Springfield requires an Infectious Disease Waiver (provided by The Big E) for all **equines** entering the premises for any show, fair, or exhibition. All Bovines must have official RFID tags. Horses must be

- b. CT and ME: An importation permit for exhibition animals is also required. *Contact CT Dept. of Agriculture (860-713-2504) or ME State Veterinarian's Office (207-287-3701) for permits or questions.*
- c. NH: * * NH: To qualify for the extended CVI, animals exhibited in NH must originate in a New England state and move on OCVIs issued on or after April 1, 2025, to participating NH fairs and shows from **July 1 to October 31**. *Contact NH State Veterinarian's Office (603) 271-2404 for details and permits.*
***VT: *Contact the VT Animal Health Office (802-828-2421) for specific import requirements that deviate from the general information in this letter and must be met for legal import of livestock.*
- d. A single OCVI from the animals' home state may be completed for travel to and from the New England states in which the animals will be exhibited. *MA animals being shown ONLY in MA may substitute a signed, dated letter on the letterhead of an accredited veterinarian for an OCVI if all required information is included and all additional requirements are met.*

- e. Multiple animals of the same species may be listed on one health certificate with appropriate individual IDs and descriptions. Animals of different species may not be listed on the same official health certificate.
- f. An itinerary of the names and locations for each New England fair or show at which owner expects to show the listed animals and the dates when each animal is expected to be on each site, must be prepared by the owner and presented to the veterinarian at the time the OCVI is written.
 - i. A copy of this planned itinerary must be attached to the official health certificate (import and export) for it to be used for more than one fair or show.
 - ii. That proposed list should be signed by the veterinarian and the owner/ exhibitor and reference the relevant OCVI number(s).
- g. The name and address of the first show or fair where the listed animals will be exhibited is to be used as the “destination” on the OCVI form. In addition, “See attached list” or a similar statement directing Animal Health Officials or Fair Inspectors to the attached proposed itinerary must be included.
- h. Exhibitors must keep an accurate list of the show locations and dates when their animals were present on show/ fair grounds. This record must be available to fair inspectors at each inspection and check-in.
- i. Any animal listed on an OCVI that becomes sick must remain home. If the animal is refused entry to any exhibition during 2025 for health reasons it must have a new health certificate issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days of the next interstate movement.
- j. Any New England state may end their participation in this agreement and revert to the standard published requirements for livestock imports in the state at any time, in the event of foreign animal disease outbreak or changes to state legislation.

All petting zoos are required to have valid 2025 health certificates.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH SPECIES ARE LISTED BELOW

B. Cattle: See M.G.L. c. 129 §§2, 39 and 330 CMR 4.04(2).

Updated March 31, 2025:

Please be advised that the above guidance does not apply to Lactating Dairy Cattle moving interstate for purpose of showing or exhibition. Lactating Dairy Cattle are subject to the Federal Order requiring a negative test for Avian Influenza and an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) written by an accredited veterinarian in the state of origin within 7 days of movement.

The New England State Veterinarians strongly discourage the exhibition of any bovines, including both dairy and beef cattle, that have been present in any state at the time that state had a current outbreak of HPAI in cattle. Bovines that have been shipped from currently affected states in 2025 should not be allowed on the premises of New England fairs or shows. Moving to or from an affected state for any reason will void any New England Fair and Show Season Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (OCVIs) that have been issued for such cattle for the remainder of the 2025 season.

A plan for managing lactating dairy cattle (LDC), including the handling of milk collected at the exhibition facility, should be in place for all fairs and shows where LDC will be on the premises.

This is an evolving situation. Changes to these requirements will be published as they become available. Fairs and shows may elect to prohibit lactating dairy cattle from entering the show premises.

1. TB and Brucellosis testing is not required for animals from TB-Accredited and Brucellosis-Free States and in-state animals. Current brucellosis and TB status in the exhibitor's state can be obtained from the state veterinarian's office in each state. If the exhibitor's state is not TB-Accredited or Brucellosis-Free, then the exhibitor must call the Massachusetts Division of Animal Health for entry requirements (617-626-1795 or 857-348-3922). All animals must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: foot rot, mange, pinkeye, ringworm, warts, cowpox and open or draining wounds.
2. While not required, it is strongly recommended that all cattle be currently vaccinated against rabies.
3. Note: The Big E is requiring RFID official identification tags for all cattle entering the Big E Fairgrounds premises in 2025. Other fairs may add this requirement. Contact the fair office with questions.

C. Poultry: See M.G.L. c. §§2, 129, and 330 CMR 5.02.

Waterfowl may not be exhibited, shown, or otherwise gathered or co-mingled at in-person events in Massachusetts until further notice of the Director of Animal Health, per MDAR Order 1-17-AHO-25 issued on April 2, 2025.

1. No poultry will be admitted to a fairground until it has been individually inspected.
2. All poultry must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases: infectious bronchitis, coryza, pullorum-typhoid, fowl-pox, external parasites and laryngotracheitis.
3. Each bird must be accompanied by written proof (ID card or test report) that the breeding flock was blood- tested negative for pullorum-typhoid within one year prior to entry date.
4. Birds from quarantined states will not be permitted entry.
5. All birds over 16 weeks of age as of January 1, 2025 shall be individually leg banded with a state leg band. This includes out-of-state exhibitors.
6. No bird vaccinated for laryngotracheitis within thirty days of the fair will be admitted.

D. Goats: See M.G.L. c. 129 §2, 9 CFR 79.6 and Massachusetts Emergency Order 1-AHO-06.

1. TB and Brucellosis testing is not required for animals from TB-Accredited and Brucellosis-Free States and in-state animals being exhibited in MA.
2. All goats and kids presented, regardless of age, must be individually listed and identified on the health certificate. All goats must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: foot rot, mange, pinkeye, ringworm, warts, pox and open or draining wounds. All goats must also be free of soremouth and scrapie exposure.
3. Based on the Federal Scrapie Eradication Program (FSEP), goats and sheep of any age or sex brought to show or exhibition from either out of state or within state must possess a USDA official individual identification tag or registry tattoo accompanied by current registration papers consistent with the requirements of the FSEP and the Massachusetts Emergency Order 1-AHO-06. Information is available from USDA-APHIS at 508-363-2290.

E. Camelids (Llamas, Alpacas, etc.): See M.G.L. c. 129 §2, M.G. l. c. 131, §23, 321 CMR 9.02

1. TB and Brucellosis testing is not required for animals from TB-Accredited and Brucellosis-Free States or for in-state animals. Current brucellosis and TB status in the exhibitor's state can be obtained from the state veterinarian's office in each state. If the exhibitor's state is not TB-Accredited or Brucellosis-Free, then the exhibitor must contact MDAR for an entry permit.

F. Swine: See M.G.L. c. 129 §14E, 330 CMR 11.04(2), 9 CFR 71.19

1. All swine must be identified by an official ear tag or registration.
2. Swine must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: erysipelas, atrophic rhinitis, mange, and open or draining wounds. Exhibited swine may not have been fed raw garbage.

3. No person shall import into Massachusetts from outside the state any swine which have been pseudorabies vaccinated. M.G.L. c. 129 §14E.
4. All swine shall originate from qualified pseudorabies-free herds or monitored herds in qualified pseudorabies free States only. The pseudorabies status of the exhibitor's state can be obtained from the state veterinarian's office in each state.

G. Sheep: See 9 CFR 79 and Massachusetts Emergency Order 1-AHO-06.

1. No sheep will be allowed entry from flocks in which Scrapie has been diagnosed or in which animals are under surveillance for Scrapie during the previous eighteen months. Based on the Federal Scrapie Eradication Program (FSEP), goats and sheep of any age or sex brought to show or exhibition from either out of state or within state must possess a USDA official individual identification tag or registry tattoo accompanied by current registration papers consistent with the requirements of the FSEP and the Massachusetts Emergency Order 1-AHO-06. Information is available from USDA-APHIS at 508-363-2290.
2. No sheep will be permitted entry from flocks in which soremouth has existed or in which soremouth Vaccine has been administered in the previous sixty (60) days.
3. Sheep must be free from visual evidence of foot rot, sore mouth, pink eye, ringworm, and open and draining wounds. While not required, it is strongly recommended that sheep be currently vaccinated against rabies.

H. Equine: M.G.L. c. 128 §§2C, 44, 330 CMR 16.05.

1. All equines entering a MA fairground must be accompanied by a valid health certificate and have a record of a negative EIA (Coggins) test within the last 12 months.
2. All equines must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: mange, ringworm, soring, strangles, and open or draining wounds.
3. All equines originating from both within and outside of the Commonwealth must have a negative USDA-approved EIA test (i.e., Coggins test or ELISA test) dated within twelve months of entry.
4. While not required, it is *strongly recommended* that all equines be vaccinated for rabies, tetanus, EEE and NV within one year of the fair.

I. Rabbits: See M.G.L. c. 129 §2

Rabbits must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases: rabbit hemorrhagic Disease Virus 2(RHDV2), snuffles, wet tail, and skin and ear infections. Microchips may be used for ID in rabbits originating in MA.

J. Dogs and Cats: See M.G.L. c. 129 §39G

1. All dogs and cats must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases: kennel cough, distemper, hepatitis, parvo, ringworm and mange.
2. All dogs and cats must be accompanied by a valid and current vaccination certificate for rabies.

Contact the Massachusetts Division of Animal Health at 857-348-3922 or 617-626-1795 for further information.