

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Animal Health Program strives to safeguard Maryland's animal industries at our fairs and shows. With an increased potential of disease transmission occurring when large numbers of animals gather for exhibition, MDA has set forth requirements for exhibitors to follow at Maryland fairs and shows. As an exhibitor, you can help reduce the potential risk of introduction and spread of infectious and/or contagious diseases by following the species-specific health requirements below. Fairs may impose more stringent rules than the requirements in this document at their own discretion. All exhibitors are encouraged to check with the management of each fair in advance to ensure compliance with all fair requirements. These requirements and recommendations are a shared responsibility of show management and exhibitors to protect public and animal health in the state. Exhibitors and exhibition managers are expected to comply with all applicable Maryland laws. These requirements are subject to change. For the most up to date requirements please refer to our [website](#).

## NOTABLE 2026 ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:

1. CERTIFICATES OF VETERINARY INSPECTION (CVI):
  - a. Maryland CVI's are now valid for **ONLY 60 days** (NOT 120 days).
  - b. Online CVIs have always been accepted and are **strongly recommended**. **Veterinarians are encouraged to use electronic CVI's**. Owners are required to produce a copy (digital or printed).
  - c. Starting in 2026, there is a fee for paper CVI's (\$3/certificate). They will be distributed in packs of 25 (\$75/pack) with a shipping fee of \$25. We will **NOT** be printing more CVI's, therefore once our inventory is out, you will be required to use an electronic CVI.
  - d. Equids will be required to have either a CVI **or** verification of a veterinary-client-patient-relationship (VCPR).
  - e. It is strongly recommended that all rabbits be accompanied by a CVI.
2. EXHIBITOR RECOMMENDATIONS
  - a. All animals that originate from a location other than Maryland shall meet all Maryland State importation regulations appropriate to the species in addition to the fair animal health requirements.
  - b. It is strongly recommended that animals returning home from exhibitions be isolated from other members of the herd or flock for a minimum of 14 days to help prevent the spread of disease. We recommend that exhibitors of all animals discuss the health of their animals, including vaccine recommendations and other preventative measures, with a veterinarian on a regular basis. Owners and their veterinarians should carefully check and comply with additional requirements specific to each exhibition prior to the exhibition to ensure eligibility.
3. EXHIBITION BIOSECURITY AND SPACE REQUIREMENTS
  - a. Note the recommendations for poultry, rabbits, and commercial animal exhibits in their designated sections.
  - b. An exhibition facility and its associated buildings shall be cleaned and disinfected with a State Veterinarian-approved disinfectant and used in accordance with label

**FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS:**  
**CATTLE**

**ALL CATTLE**

**IDENTIFICATION:** INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATION OF EACH ANIMAL SHALL BE A 15 DIGIT 840 ISO-COMPLIANT RFID EAR TAG.

**RODEO CATTLE** must have official individual ID that is recognized by the USDA (9 CFR Parts 71, 77, 78, and 86). Rodeo Cattle are NOT allowed to commingle with any other cattle at the exhibition.

**SELF-CERTIFICATION:** All cattle exhibitors are **required** to complete and produce (digital or printed) a Livestock Exhibitor's Self Certification of Animal Health.

**MARYLAND CATTLE**

- **INFLUENZA A:** No testing requirements for Maryland cattle.
- **BRUCELLOSIS:** Maryland is a Bovine Brucellosis Class-Free State. Brucellosis testing is not required for Maryland cattle.
- **TUBERCULOSIS:** Maryland is an Accredited Tuberculosis-Free State. A tuberculin test is not required for Maryland cattle.
- **IMMUNIZATION:** Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex vaccination is recommended for all cattle to include Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus, Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus, Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis and Parainfluenza. Leptospirosis vaccination is also recommended.

**OUT-OF-STATE CATTLE**

- **INFLUENZA A:**
  - a. For LACTATING DAIRY cattle:
    - i. Defined as a cow that is producing milk, regardless of the volume of milk that she is producing. This does not include dairy calves, pregnant heifers, or dairy cows that are 'dry' or no longer producing milk.
    - ii. A milk sample from all four quarters must be tested for Influenza A within 7 days of travel, and results must be recorded on the CVI. Failure to comply will result in denied entry. **A bulk tank sample will not be accepted.**
- **BRUCELLOSIS:**
  - a. Bovine Brucellosis Class-Free State, Region or Zone
    - i. No brucellosis test required.
  - b. Non-Bovine Brucellosis Class-Free State, Region or Zone
    - i. Official vaccinates under 24 months old with vaccination dates recorded on the Interstate CVI permitted, or
    - ii. Test negative within 30 days before entry.
- **TUBERCULOSIS:**
  - a. Accredited Tuberculosis-Free State, Region or Zone
    - i. No tuberculin test required.
  - b. Modified Accredited Advanced or lower Tuberculosis Free Areas or States (Not TB Free)
    - i. All cattle over 6 months of age shall comply with the following:

service to humans. This includes but is not limited to cattle, bison, sheep, goats, swine, equine, New World camelids (llamas & alpacas), privately owned cervids, and rabbits. Livestock does not include dogs, cats, and exotic pets. Poultry is defined as any living domestic bird raised for food or other purposes including, but not limited to, chickens, turkeys, ostriches, emus, rheas, cassowaries, other ratites, waterfowl, and game birds. This includes hatching eggs.

1. **DOCUMENTATION:** Documentation is required for entry of all livestock and poultry and is described below. Examples of forms can be obtained by visiting our [website](#).
  - a. For out-of-state animals, see each species' specific out-of-state requirements. Upon request, a person who exhibits livestock or poultry shall present for inspection all reports, test results, and appropriate health certificates required to accompany their animal(s).
  
2. **CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION (CVI)**
  - a. **MARYLAND ENTRIES:** All Maryland livestock entries must be accompanied by a Maryland Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) for show. It is recommended for rabbits and poultry. Equines are required to have either a VCPR form or CVI (preferred).
    - i. A CVI is **valid for 60 days for Maryland fairs and shows**, providing that the status of the herd or animal(s) does not change.
    - ii. A CVI is a **legible record**, made on an official Maryland State form or via an approved electronic CVI platform. CVI's are issued by a licensed Maryland and USDA Category II accredited veterinarian for animals being shown within the state that meet the health requirements of the state of Maryland.
    - iii. The CVI **must be completed and signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian (as described above)**. Each animal must be properly identified on the CVI. The veterinarian must select if this document is for fair and exhibition season, sale or other (with explanation).
    - iv. The veterinarian is required to send the original paper CVI (white and canary copies) to MDA Headquarters **within 7 days of completion**. The middle (pink transport copy) is to be retained by the owner and should accompany livestock during travel. The last (goldenrod copy) is for the veterinarian's records.
    - v. **Electronic CVI's from an approved platform are recommended. The owner can produce either a digital or printed copy.**
    - vi. Starting in 2026, there is a fee for paper CVI's (\$3/certificate). They will be distributed in packs of 25 (\$75/pack) with a shipping fee of \$25. We will **NOT** be printing more CVI's, therefore, once our inventory is out, you will be required to use an electronic CVI.
    - vii. In 2027, paper CVI's will no longer be accepted.
  - b. **OUT-OF-STATE ENTRIES:** All out-of-state entries must be accompanied by an **Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection**, except poultry.
    - i. The Interstate CVI is **valid for no more than 30 days** from the date of inspection.
    - ii. An Interstate CVI must be **legible**, made on an official form of the state of origin, issued by a licensed, accredited veterinarian (both USDA and in



Livestock Exhibitor's Self Certification of Animal Health

I, the undersigned, hereby verify the following:
(Parent or guardian must sign for children under age 18)

- 1. I am the owner/authorized caretaker/transporter (circle as applicable) of the animal(s) identified on the current, valid, "Certificate of Veterinary Inspection" (CVI) document.
2. I understand that animals showing any signs of, or having recent exposure to, contagious or infectious disease are not permitted to enter the fair/show premises. These conditions include but are not limited to the following:
- SKIN: Visible evidence of skin infections such as ringworm, warts, mange, lice, and club lamb fungus.
- HEAD: Discharge from the eyes or nose or evidence of soremouth, pinkeye, atrophic rhinitis, caseous lymphadenitis.
- RESPIRATORY: Infectious respiratory disease (pneumonia)
- INTESTINAL: Diarrhea
- FEET: Contagious hoof infections such as footrot. Exhibition of lame animals is discouraged.
- OTHER: Recent exposure to, or clinical signs of, any contagious or infectious disease conditions that would exclude livestock from exhibition.
3. I have read and understand the above guidelines.
4. I have visually examined the animals I am presenting for exhibit.
5. I agree not to present for exhibition animals showing any signs of contagious or infectious disease.

Date of inspection: \_\_\_\_\_ Number inspected \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_
Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Event \_\_\_\_\_
(Parent or guardian must sign for children under age 18)

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Don't return to show office
Certificate must remain with owner, agent, hauler, etc. at all times