



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Animal Health Section

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401

410.841.5810, mda.maryland.gov



2025 MARYLAND ANIMAL HEALTH FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS

Ref: COMAR 15.11.14.06

MDA Website: <http://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/default.aspx>

Effective: February 25, 2025

The Maryland Department of Agriculture's (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.

ANIMAL HEALTH ALERT HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

FEBRUARY 2025: DUE TO THE RECENT OUTBREAK OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) IN BOTH COMMERCIAL AND BACKYARD FLOCKS IN MARYLAND, THE 2025 ANIMAL HEALTH FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NO POULTRY EXHIBITIONS WILL BE ALLOWED PRIOR TO JUNE 1, 2025.

A DECISION WILL BE MADE ON JUNE 1, 2025 REGARDING POULTRY EXHIBITIONS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SHOW SEASON.

NOTABLE 2025 ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS TO MENTION:

1. CERTIFICATES OF VETERINARY INSPECTION (CVI):
 - a. Online CVIs have always been accepted but are encouraged and strongly recommended. Please urge the owner to print out a copy to keep with the animal(s).
2. CATTLE
 - a. Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex vaccination is RECOMMENDED for Maryland cattle, but is no longer a requirement.
3. RODEO LIVESTOCK
 - a. All rodeo livestock should follow the same requirements as those attending a fair or show.

4. POULTRY/AVIAN INFLUENZA TESTING:

- a. For avian influenza testing, **ALL BIRDS IN THE FLOCK** must test negative unless there are greater than 15 birds in the flock, then only 15 birds need to be tested. (For out-of-state flocks, if there are greater than 30 birds **IN THE FLOCK** then only 30 birds need to test negative.) “Flock” is defined as “all of the poultry on one premises, except any group of poultry that has been segregated for 21 days may be considered a separate flock” (COMAR 15.11.11.02)

Maryland Law provides penalties for violations of Animal Health Law and Regulations. LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY FAILING TO MEET COMPLETE DOCUMENTATION OF ALL REQUIREMENTS WILL BE DENIED ENTRY OR REMOVED FROM THE EXHIBITION - “REJECTED.” SEE ANIMAL REJECTION POLICY UNDER GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITORS.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SPONSORS OF A LIVESTOCK/POULTRY EXHIBITION

(COMAR 15.11.14.05)

1. **Notification:** Exhibit sponsors must notify the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), Animal Health Program Headquarters, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401, of intent to sponsor an event that includes the exhibition of livestock or poultry no less than 30 days before the proposed event. Please fill out all contact information correctly, to include a phone number and email address. Animal arrival times MUST be provided to ensure coverage for entry. Please call 410.841.5810 to request an **EXHIBITION NOTIFICATION form** or go to MDA's website:
<https://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/Fairs-Shows.aspx>
2. **Reporting:** Sponsors must report to MDA, within 24 hours, any animal from the exhibition suspected of having or showing obvious, apparent, or known signs of a contagious or infectious disease and/or deaths; and exclude from the exhibition premises any animals having obvious, apparent, or known signs of a contagious or infectious disease. A summary of all disease events shall be provided to MDA, in the form of an ANIMAL INCIDENT REPORT. Call 410.841.5810 to request an **ANIMAL INCIDENT REPORT FORM** or go to MDA's website:
<https://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/Fairs-Shows.aspx>
3. **Records:** Exhibit sponsors must maintain a report of the owner, premises location, and species of all animals attending the exhibition and provide this report upon request to MDA.
4. **Exemptions:** Exemptions of this regulation may be granted. (Refer to COMAR 15.11.14.05)

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITORS OF ALL ANIMAL SPECIES

(COMAR 15.11.14.04-06)

- **Exhibitors** at state, county, and district fairs, along with other livestock exhibitions, expositions, rodeos, shows, and swap meets are required to comply with regulatory provisions of the State of Maryland relating to animal health as noted in COMAR 15.11.14.04-06.
 - **Requirements apply to all livestock and poultry:** Livestock is defined as those species of animals used for human food or fiber or those species of animals used for 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.
1. **DOCUMENTATION:** Documentation is required for entry of all livestock and poultry and is described below. Examples of forms can be obtained by visiting the Animal Health website at: <https://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/Fairs-Shows.aspx>
 - a. For out-of-state animals, see 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): Required for most entries.**
 - a. **MARYLAND ENTRIES:** All Maryland entries must be accompanied by a Maryland Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) for show, except poultry, equine and rabbits.
 - i. The Maryland CVI is **valid for 120 days for Maryland fairs and shows**, providing that the status of the herd or animal(s) does not change.
 - ii. The Maryland CVI is a **legible record**, made on an official Maryland State form, issued by a Maryland and USDA Category II accredited veterinarian, issued for animals being shown within the state and not crossing a state line, which shows that the animals listed thereon meet the health requirements of the state of Maryland.
 - iii. The Maryland CVI **must be completed and signed by an accredited veterinarian (as described above)** using the properly selected report on the CVI form. 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 (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. Alternatively, the CVI can be completed through an online

system, but it is STRONGLY recommended for the owner to print out a copy to keep with the animal.

- b. **OUT-OF-STATE ENTRIES:** All out-of-state entries must be accompanied by an **Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection**, except poultry and rabbits.
 - 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 an accredited veterinarian (both USDA and in the state or origin), and issued for animals being imported to this state within 30 days before the entry of the animals, which shows that the animals listed thereon meet the health requirements of the state of Maryland. If this CVI is performed online, the owner is encouraged to print a copy to display at the time of entry and keep with the animal(s).

3. **SELF-CERTIFICATION:** A completed **Self-Certification form** is required for all entries except for equine entering equine-only events.
 - a. Self-Certification forms **must be filled out within 24 hours prior to loading** and presented upon request to the designated representative.
 - i. A Self-Certification is an official Maryland document **signed by the owner/caretaker/transporter** stating that the animals presented for exhibition are not showing any signs of or having recent exposure to infectious or contagious diseases (within 21 days).
 - ii. **Self-Certification forms** are species-specific for livestock (ruminants/swine), equine, poultry and rabbits.
These forms are available on MDA's Animal Health website:
<https://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/Fairs-Shows.aspx>

4. **TEST REPORT FORMS:** Testing is required for some species, and if so, a test report form will be required unless otherwise documented on the CVI. See species-specific requirements for details of testing and test report requirements. Examples of test reports are shown below:
 - a. Avian Influenza Test Report
 - b. Pullorum-Typhoid Test Report
 - c. Coggins Test Report (Equine Infectious Anemia)
 - d. Tuberculosis Test Report
 - e. HPAI Milk Test Report for LACTATING DAIRY cattle

5. **MARYLAND POULTRY PREMISES IDENTIFICATION:** All Maryland premises with poultry are required to be registered with MDA. The Poultry Premises number must be noted on the Test Report or other documentation of NPIP U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid and U.S. H5/ H7 Avian Influenza Clean or State H5/H7 Monitored status. To obtain a poultry premises number, please fill out the application available on our website:
<https://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Documents/poultry-registration-form.pdf>

6. **ANIMAL REJECTION POLICY:** Animals may be rejected from an exhibition, either denied entry or removed from the exhibition, as described below:
- a. **FAILURE TO PROVIDE COMPLETED DOCUMENTATION IS GROUNDS FOR REJECTION.**
 - b. Suspicion of communicable disease is adequate grounds for rejection. **Confirmed diagnosis is not required** since timely removal of suspicious animals is required by law to protect the remaining animals.
 - c. Livestock with clinical signs of infectious or contagious diseases or external parasites are not permitted entry or allowed to remain at the exhibition. Clinical signs include but are not limited to active lesions of ringworm with resulting loss of hair, sore mouth, sore nose, caseous lymphadenitis, mange, or multiple warts easily visible without close examination.
 - d. Exposed animals may be rejected if it is believed that there is a potentially serious communicable disease present. All animals originating with the suspect animal may be rejected. Vesicular diseases are of particular concern.
 - e. All decisions are final.
 - f. All parties involved will be notified of all rejections, including exhibit sponsors and supervisors.
 - g. Animal rejections can be made by MDA Animal Health veterinarians or field inspectors, private veterinarians contracted by the show, Maryland Extension employees, or individuals designated by the fair or show as a 'responsible person.'

SPECIES-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the general requirements above, specific requirements by species are shown for the following species:

- [Cattle](#)
- [Swine](#)
- [Sheep](#)
- [Goats](#)
- [Horses, Ponies, Mules and other Equidae](#)
- [Rabbits](#)
- [Camelids](#)
- [Petting Zoos](#)

FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS:
CATTLE

ALL CATTLE

IDENTIFICATION: INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATION OF EACH ANIMAL SHALL BE AN RFID OFFICIAL 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.

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 (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.)
 - i. A milk sample from all four quarters must be tested for Influenza A within 7 days of travel, and results must be written 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:
 - 1. Cattle must originate from a herd where a complete herd test was conducted within the past 12 months; progeny from such herds born since that test may be imported without a tuberculin test, or

2. Any individual animal, over 6 months of age, entering Maryland must have a negative tuberculin test within 60 days before import.
 - ii. Status of herd and area must be shown on their certificate.
- **Immunization:** Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex vaccination is recommended for all out of state cattle to include Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus, Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus, Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis and Parainfluenza. Leptospirosis vaccination is also recommended.

FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS:
SWINE

ALL SWINE

IDENTIFICATION: INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATION OF EACH ANIMAL SHALL BE AN RFID OFFICIAL EAR TAG.

Maryland Swine

- Brucellosis: Maryland is a Brucellosis Class-Free State. Brucellosis testing is not required for Maryland swine.
- Pseudorabies: Maryland is a Pseudorabies Stage V state. Pseudorabies testing is not required for Maryland swine.
- Immunization: Leptospirosis vaccination is recommended.

Out-of-State Swine

- Brucellosis: All swine, except barrows, 6 months of age and older shall be negative on an official test for brucellosis within 30 days prior to exhibition entry, or originate directly from a validated brucellosis-free herd or brucellosis-free state.
- Pseudorabies: Swine over 6 months of age shall be negative on an official test for pseudorabies conducted within 30 days prior to exhibition entry, or originate immediately and directly from a Qualified Pseudorabies Negative herd or Stage 4 or Stage 5 Pseudorabies-Free State.
- Immunization: Leptospirosis vaccination is recommended.
- All U.S. states are currently swine brucellosis free and pseudorabies free (this is the current status as of February 2025 but please continue to regularly check each state's status for any changes).

FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS: **SHEEP AND GOATS**

ALL SHEEP

Identification for Sheep: All sheep must be officially Scrapie-identified. Official identification for sheep includes the following:

1. USDA-approved Scrapie ear tags;
2. Legible registration tattoos, for which the breed registration paper shall contain the registry premises or flock tattoo prefix that is linked to the APHIS-assigned PIN and flock ID number of the flock of birth, if breed registry is approved by APHIS; or
3. Legible tattoos consisting of an individual animal number unique within the flock in one ear and the official Scrapie premises identification number (flock ID) in the other ear, except where the tail web or flank may be used for earless animals or animals with damaged ears; must be accompanied by an owner statement.
4. A microchip ID with official Scrapie identification is acceptable if the owner provides the reader.
5. USDA approved RFID tag.

Further clarification on the Federal Scrapie Program can be found at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-and-goat-health/national-scrapie-eradication-program/>

Out-of-State Sheep

No additional requirements

Market Lambs

It is recommended that all lambs be slick shorn prior to entry for inspection for Club Lamb Fungus (sheep ringworm).

ALL GOATS

Identification for Goats: All goats must be officially Scrapie-identified. Official identification for goats includes the following:

1. USDA-approved Scrapie ear tags;
2. Legible registration tattoos, for which the breed registration paper shall contain the registry premises or flock tattoo prefix that is linked to the APHIS-assigned PIN and flock ID number of the flock of birth, if breed registry is approved by APHIS; or
3. Legible tattoos consisting of an individual animal number unique within the herd in one ear and the official Scrapie premises identification number (flock ID) in the other ear, except where the tail web or flank may be used for earless animals or animals with damaged ears; must be accompanied by an owner statement.
4. A microchip ID with official Scrapie identification is acceptable if the owner provides the reader.
5. USDA approved RFID tag.

Further clarification on the Federal Scrapie Program can be found at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-and-goat-health/national-scrapie-eradication-program/>

Maryland Goats

Brucellosis: Maryland is a Brucellosis Class-Free State. Brucellosis testing is not required for Maryland goats.

Tuberculosis: Maryland is an Accredited Tuberculosis-Free State. Tuberculin test is not required for Maryland goats.

Out-of-State Goats

Tuberculosis:

1. Accredited Tuberculosis-Free States, Region or Zone: A tuberculin test is not required.
2. Modified Accredited Advanced or lower Tuberculosis Free Areas or States (Not TB Free)
 - a. All goats over 6 months of age shall comply with the following:
 - i. Goats must originate from herds in which all animals are tested negative within the past 12 months; progeny from such herds born since that test, may be imported without a tuberculin test, or
 - ii. Any individual animal entering Maryland must have a negative tuberculin test within 60 days before import.
 - b. Status of herd and area must be shown on their certificate.

Brucellosis:

1. There are no out of state requirements for brucellosis testing in goats.

FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS:
HORSES, PONIES, MULES, AND OTHER EQUIDAE

ALL EQUINE

- **Identification:** Individual official identification shall include the following as applicable: Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test report with photo or drawing of the animal, tattoo, brand, or microchip. Animals using tattoos or brands for official identification must be accompanied by the breed registration papers.
- **Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins) Testing:** All equine for exhibition shall be accompanied by a valid Coggins Test done within 12 months prior to exhibition entry.
- **Self-Certification Requirement and Exemption:** Exhibitor's Self Certification of Animal Health is required for each equine entering a fair/show-type event where multiple livestock species are present. The form must be available for inspection if requested. Those participating in equine-only shows and events are exempt from this requirement; however, it is good practice to thoroughly double check the health and skin condition of the animal before departing for the event. The form provides an easy checklist to do this. Exhibitors may not bring an animal having apparent or known signs of a contagious or infectious disease to a show.

Maryland Equine

1. All horses and other equidae, 9 months of age and older, shall be accompanied by a negative test for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) within the 12 months before the date of the event. A copy of this test shall accompany every animal.
2. A Maryland CVI is not required for Maryland equine.

Out-of-State Equine

1. All horses and other equidae, 9 months of age and older, shall be accompanied by a negative test for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) within the 12 months before the date of the event. A copy of this test shall accompany every animal.
2. All horses and other equidae shall be accompanied by a CVI issued within 30 days prior to entry. An Interstate CVI must be legible, made on an official form from the state of origin, issued by an accredited veterinarian, and issued for animals being imported to this state within 30 days before the entry of the animals, which shows that the animals listed thereon meet the health requirements of the state of Maryland.
 - a. The following contiguous states and New Jersey are exempted from the CVI requirement: Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS:
RABBITS

ALL RABBITS

1. Rabbits are not required to have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.
2. **Identification:** Individual identification of each animal shall be a tag, tattoo, or microchip, if the exhibitor provides the reader.
3. All rabbit exhibitors shall complete a Rabbit Exhibitor's Self Certification of Animal Health.

No additional requirements for out of state rabbits.

FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS:
CAMELIDS

ALL CAMELIDS

Identification: Individual identification of each animal shall be an official metal ear tag or microchip, if the exhibitor provides the reader.

Maryland Camelids

Brucellosis: Brucellosis testing is not required for Maryland camelids.

Tuberculosis: Tuberculin test is not required for Maryland camelids.

Out-Of-State Camelids

- **Brucellosis:** Brucellosis testing is not required for out-of-state camelids.
- **Tuberculosis:**
 1. Accredited Tuberculosis-Free State, Region or Zone
 - a. No tuberculin test required.
 2. Modified Accredited Advanced or lower Tuberculosis Free Areas or States (Not TB Free)
 - a. All camelids over 6 months of age shall comply with the following:
 - i. Camelids must originate from a herd not under restriction or quarantine for tuberculosis and from which a complete herd test was conducted within the past 12 months; progeny from such herds born since that test may be imported without a tuberculin test, or
 - ii. Any individual animal, over 6 months of age, entering Maryland must have a negative tuberculin test within 60 days before import.
 - b. Status of herd and area must be shown on their certificate.

FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS:
PETTING ZOOS

Definition of a Petting Zoo

- An exhibition where the public is encouraged to touch any livestock or other animals.
- This can include but is not limited to pony rides, fair and show petting zoos, educational displays with livestock, etc.
- Breed displays, birthing centers and other displays/exhibits where the public is not permitted to touch the animals may be excluded.

Petting zoos and pony rides must have a CVI, indicating rabies vaccination status, and self-certification documents.

- **The requirements for each species is the same for fairs and shows (see previous sections)**

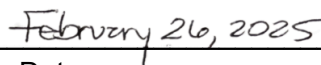
General Exhibition Requirements (COMAR 15.11.14.01):

Applies to **ALL** animals in a petting zoo.

- Rabies Vaccination:
 - A person may not show livestock at any petting zoo unless all exhibited animals in the petting zoo, 12 weeks or older, are vaccinated against rabies as provided in COMAR 10.06.02 (Communicable Diseases-Rabies), unless there is no rabies vaccine licensed and approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for that animal species.
 - Approved Species – cattle, sheep, horses, dogs, cats and ferrets.
 - MDA does not require off-label use of the rabies vaccine.
 - Fairs and shows have authority to set their own requirements above and beyond state requirements.
- Documentation:
 - **CVI**
 - **Rabies** - Proof of adequate rabies vaccination on all required species shall be documented by the veterinarian administering the vaccine. This can be noted on the CVI or written on an approved rabies certificate that is issued by the veterinarian. Proof of vaccination should be presented at the time of entry with CVI and Self-Certification.
 - **Self-Certification Form** appropriate for the species



Jennifer Trout, DVM
State Veterinarian



Date