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8/15/2019

To All State Fair Exhibitors,

Due to the ongoing Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) outbreak in New Mexico and surrounding states, there will be some changes as you enter the fair this year. These changes are being put in place to protect all of your livestock, and keep the fair an enjoyable, safe experience for all.

All susceptible livestock species (horses, cattle, sheep, goats, camelids, and swine) will receive a visual exam before being allowed entry to the fairgrounds. Horses will receive a mouth check for VS lesions. If you have any ongoing issues with an animal you are bringing to the fair, I suggest you get a health certificate from your veterinarian, with an explanation of the issue or lesions. Bit wounds at the corners of the mouth, and any skin lesions will need to be justified. The final decision on entry will be made by a veterinarian from the Office of The State Veterinarian. Please look your animals over closely before loading and leaving for the fair, and leave anything questionable at home. Again, this is for everyone's protection. Please see our website for guidelines regarding the spread of VS.

For out of state exhibitors, please present a current CVI (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection) with the appropriate VS statement on it. Your veterinarian can find current rules for interstate travel on our website (nmlbonline.com). New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) Inspectors will be checking paper work on entry. For in state exhibitors, please be sure to have appropriate inspection papers. The fair is not requiring a CVI for intrastate travel, but if an animal has a non-infectious issue or lesion, I would play it safe and have your veterinarian write a CVI with an explanation of anything abnormal. The information for contacting your livestock inspector is on our website, or you can call the NMLB office 505-841-6161, and they can give you contact information for your local inspector.

The instructions at the gate are to turn away anything that looks abnormal or suspicious of VS lesions. We have seen VS lesions on the muzzle and lips, mouth and tongue, ears, coronary bands, sheaths, teats and ventral midline. Please look carefully at your animals before you load them. We don't expect the people at the gates to make a diagnosis, but to point out abnormalities to the veterinarians who will make the final decision on entry. This applies to all exhibitors. Youth, open show and rodeo contestants will all receive an exam of their animals at the gate. Please remember that this is for the protection of all livestock and exhibitors, and be kind to the folks working the gates. So far in New Mexico, all our positive animals have been horses, but all the other species listed above are susceptible.

YOUR BRAND IS YOUR COAT OF
ARMS. BUT IT IS OF LITTLE USE
UNLESS IT IS RECORDED.

Equal Opportunity in Employment and Service

BY THE RECORDED BRANDS UPON
THEM, WE SHALL KNOW THEIR
OWNERS.

We hope to keep traffic flowing smoothly, and will appreciate your help in doing so. We wish you all good luck with the competition and an enjoyable fair experience.

Thanks for your help and understanding,

Ralph Zimmerman, DVM
New Mexico State Veterinarian
505-841-6161