NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS & FOOD
Division of Animal Industry
1 Granite Place, S. Suite 211
Concord, NH 03302-2042

TO: County Agents, 4-H Club Leaders, Fair Superintendents, Show Secretaries, Veterinarians, and Exhibitors.

FROM: Dr. Mark Prescott, State Veterinarian

SUBJECT: Health Regulations for **2026** New Hampshire Fairs and Shows.

2026 Season NOTE: See the attached addendum from all 6 New England state veterinarians regarding the ongoing H5N1 outbreak among poultry and dairy cattle that lays out potential implications for New England shows this season. The H5N1 outbreak is an ongoing and constantly evolving situation that may prompt just-in-time changes to existing guidance and regulations. Suspension of the latitudes for shows is permitted by rule, "In the event of documented animal health risks, Agr 2103.07 and 2103.08 shall be suspended by written order of the commissioner"; Agr 2103.09.

SEC. I. **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection**: All cattle, sheep, goats, swine, equine, camelids (llamas & alpacas), poultry and ratites entering the State of New Hampshire from other states must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection signed by an Accredited Veterinarian. This Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) shall indicate the health status of the animals, poultry and other species involved, including results of any required tests and a statement that the animals are not known to be infected with or exposed to any infectious or contagious disease. Per regulation Agr 2103.07, "Any livestock entering the state from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island or Vermont for the purpose of participating in one of the member fairs of the New Hampshire Association of Fairs and Expositions between July 1 and October 31 shall be accompanied by a CVI issued by an accredited veterinarian in the state of origin. The CVI shall be valid for a period not to exceed 180 days, when the CVI: (1) Was issued on or after April 1 of that year; (2) Lists individual official identification for all animals thereon; (3) Includes all required test results for the animals thereon; (4) States "New England Fair season" as the consignee; and (5) Has an attachment listing the name and dates of each fair at which the animals have been in attendance." **Be sure to check with any other state that you are entering as their requirements may differ slightly.**

If an animal has been excluded from exhibition for any reason since the CVI was issued, the excluded animal will need a new CVI prior to its next fair. **Exhibitors must check with each state they plan to enter to ensure that they have met that state's import requirements**.

SEC. II. **Permanent, official identification**: All livestock, as defined in New Hampshire RSA 427:2 XVIII (below), must be individually identified by permanent, official metal or plastic tag, legible tattoo or microchip (providing a reader is available).

> *XVIII. " Livestock " shall include but not be limited to all beef and dairy cattle, steer, oxen, goats, sheep, swine, horses, mules, or other equidae, as well as domesticated strains of buffalo, bison, llamas, alpacas, emus, ostriches, rabbits, yaks, elk (Cervus canadensis), fallow deer (Dama dama), red deer (Cervus elephus), reindeer (Rangifer tarandus), and poultry*

SEC. III. **Permit for Entry**: Ratites, Camelids, Swine and/or Poultry: Prior permit must be obtained and the number must appear on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. Permits may be obtained by calling: (603) 271-2404 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am - 4:00 p.m.

A. GENERAL GUIDELINES

a. All animals must be in appropriate physical condition, be properly identified and be 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 should not be approved for entry.

b. REMINDER: ALL sheep and goats of any age or sex brought to show or exhibition from either out of state or within state must possess a USDA approved individual identification tag, tattoo, or electronic implant consistent with the requirements of the Federal Scrapie Eradication Program. Information on approved tags, tattoos and electronic implants is available from the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food at 603-271-2404 or from the USDA APHIS office in Uxbridge, MA at 508-865-1421.

c. All livestock must have proper, official identification. For animals identified by microchip, readers should be available at the fairgrounds.

d. SEE INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH SPECIES LISTED BELOW.

e. IMPORTANT NOTE: *It shall be the responsibility of show superintendents to eject each animal showing indications of contagious disease.*

B. EXHIBITOR SELF-CERTIFICATION

a. There have been documented associations between human and non-human animal illnesses at several fairs in New England over the past few years, as well as the ongoing presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the region. The risk of future occurrences of high consequence disease transmission at fairs is real and carries potentially profound implications. As such, the department believes it very important to ensure that every animal entering a fairground is checked by a fair authority to ensure it is in good condition upon arrival. In order to improve exhibitor ownership and recognition of their responsibility to the protection of human and animal health at the fair, the department encourages all fairs to use the *Fair Exhibitor's Self-Certification of Animal Health*. This **does not supersede** any of the guidelines or requirements contained herein. As noted above, this also **should not replace** fair personnel or a veterinarian in the process of checking animals into the fair. Rather, it is intended to both improve the efficiency of the check-in process and make exhibitors more aware of and accountable for the health status of their animals throughout the entire fair season. If necessary, this system should also allow for a more rapid trace back to the source of a disease incident. This assessment and certification should be completed no more than 24 hours prior to the animal(s) entering the fairgrounds. At the time of entry, it should be reviewed, along with each animal, by the party responsible for checking animals into the fair. The department encourages and strongly supports any efforts by each fair to adopt the completion of said certificate by all exhibitors as a necessary entrance requirement. The certificate should be kept with the animals and should be available for review at any time by fair personnel.

C. RABIES RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. The State Veterinarian recommends that all domestic animals should be immunized for rabies at least 30 days before attending the fairs. Domestic animals that do not have a licensed

rabies immunization available (i.e., rabbits, pigs, and goats) may be immunized "extra-label". They can still receive the rabies vaccine but would not be recognized as an immunized animal. It is highly recommended that all animals displayed at the fairs be restrained in a manner that would not allow the public to be bitten or exposed to saliva. Rabies vaccines for show participants should be administered by a licensed veterinarian so as to assure the efficacious handling and administration of the vaccine.

D. **RINGWORM**:

a. Ringworm infection or any condition consistent with ringworm infection should exclude an animal from exhibition. An exception could be made for an animal which has been under the treatment of a veterinarian for the ringworm infection for at least *21 days* when the veterinarian certifies in writing that duration of treatment and that the lesion is no longer infectious to other livestock or humans. This is a reasonable manner in which to mitigate risks to animal and public health from a relatively common disease condition without excluding excessive numbers of animals. Exhibitors should be made aware of the need to consult a veterinarian well in advance to arrange treatment sufficient to meet this standard

E. **CATTLE**:

a. New Hampshire Animals - See Sec. II, Permanent Identification required. All cattle must originate from non-quarantined Tuberculosis negative herds and Brucellosis negative herds under state supervision. Each exhibition may establish additional requirements at their discretion.

b. Out-of-State Animals - See Sec. I and II. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and Permanent Identification required. All cattle originating from Tuberculosis accredited-free and Brucellosis classified-free states and Canadian provinces may enter the state of New Hampshire without testing. Cattle not originating from Tuberculosis accredited-free and Brucellosis classified-free states and Canadian provinces must meet the following requirements:

    i. All cattle must originate from Tuberculosis negative and Brucellosis negative, non-quarantined herds and must have been tested within 30 days for Brucellosis and within 60 days to Tuberculosis prior to entry for the first show of the current season.

    ii. Cattle under 18 months of age which are official vaccinates may enter New Hampshire without a Brucellosis test, but the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection must show a record of such vaccination.

    iii. Calves under 179 days of age from Tuberculin negative herds under supervision tested within one year may enter the state without a test, if properly identified as progeny of a tuberculin tested dam.

F. **STEERS, SPAYED HEIFERS & OXEN** must meet the same requirements as stated above for Tuberculosis. No Brucellosis requirement.

G. **GOATS**:

a. New Hampshire Animals - See Sec. II, Permanent Identification required. All goats must originate from non-quarantined herds and be clinically free from infectious and

communicable diseases including lymphadenitis, staphylococcal infection, foot rot, contagious ecthyma (sore mouth), scabies or scrapie; nor shall they be progeny of goats known to be infected with scrapie.

b. Out-of-State Animals - See Sec. I and II. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and Permanent Identification required. All goats originating from Tuberculosis accredited-free and Brucellosis classified-free states and Canadian provinces may enter the state of New Hampshire without testing. Goats not originating from Tuberculosis accredited-free and Brucellosis classified-free states and Canadian provinces must meet the following requirements:

   i. All goats 6 months of age or older must originate from non-quarantined, Tuberculosis negative and Brucellosis negative herds and must have been tested within 30 days for Brucellosis and within 60 days to Tuberculosis prior to entry for the first show of the current season.

   ii. All goats under 6 months of age must be identified as progeny of a negative Brucellosis and Tuberculosis tested dam.

   iii. All goats must be clinically free from all other infectious and communicable diseases including lymphadenitis, staphylococcal infection, foot rot, contagious ecthyma (sore mouth), scabies or scrapie, and shall not be progeny of goats known to be infected with scrapie.

c. Goats Enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Program - In order to lower the risk of scrapie transmission, goat herds that are enrolled in the scrapie eradication program should follow the following guidelines:

   i. Be kept separate from non-enrolled goats by a vacant pen, a barn alley, or a solid physical barrier (such as metal, wood, canvas) sufficient to prevent any physical contact between enrolled and non-enrolled goats.

   ii. Limit contacts in the show or sales ring to minimize risk of scrapie transmission. These contacts take place between animals off the herd's premises and not during or immediately after kidding. Limited contacts do not include commingling, which means the grouping of animals together with free physical contact.

d. Prevent contact with kidding animals at exhibits or sales. Kidding increases the exposure potential.

H. SWINE:

a. New Hampshire Animals - See Sec. II, Permanent Identification required. All swine must originate from non-quarantined, Brucellosis and Pseudorabies Free herds and be clinically free from all other infectious and communicable diseases.

b. Out-of-State Animals - See Sec. I, II and III, Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, Permanent Identification and Permit required. All swine shall be Brucellosis Validated or progeny of non-quarantined Brucellosis Validated herd or originate from a validated Brucellosis-free state. All swine shall have a Pseudo-rabies (PRV) negative test within 30 days of entry or originate from a Qualified Pseudorabies Negative herd or Pseudorabies class IV or free state.

I. SHEEP:

a. New Hampshire Animals - See Sec. II, Permanent Identification required. All sheep must originate from a non-quarantined flock and animals must not have been exposed to scrapie, scabies or any other contagious or infectious disease, and shall not be the direct progeny (first generation) of any animal diagnosed as having scrapie.

b. Out-of-State Animals - See Sec. I and II. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and permanent identification required. All sheep must originate from an inspected, non-quarantined flock; the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection shall state that the animals have not been exposed to scrapie, scabies or any other contagious or infectious disease; and the animal shall not be the progeny of a sire or dam that was infected with scrapie.

c. Sheep Enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Program - In order to lower the risk of scrapie transmission, sheep flocks that are enrolled in the scrapie eradication program should follow the following guidelines:

   i. Be kept separate from non-enrolled sheep by a vacant pen, a barn alley, or a solid physical barrier (such as metal, wood, canvas) sufficient to prevent any physical contact between enrolled and non-enrolled sheep.

   ii. Limit contacts in the show or sales ring to minimize risk of scrapie transmission. These contacts take place between animals off the flock's premises and not during or immediately after lambing. Limited contacts do not include commingling, which means the grouping of animals together with free physical contact.

   iii. Prevent contact with lambing animals at exhibits or sales. Lambing increases the exposure potential.

J. HORSES:

a. New Hampshire Animals – A negative USDA-approved Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test (i.e. Coggins or ELISA) within the previous twelve months is recommended.

b. Out-of-State Animals - See Sec. I. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection required. All equines entering the State of New Hampshire must be accompanied by a valid negative A.G.I.D. or ELISA (Coggins) test for Equine Infectious Anemia conducted within twelve months prior to entry. Entry permit not required.

NOTE: *It is strongly recommended that Show Management examine health certificates and EIA test papers for all horses. It is also recommended that all horses have EEE, tetanus, and equine herpes virus vaccines no less than 14 days and no more than one year prior to the date of the fair in addition to the rabies vaccine.*

K. POULTRY:

a. New Hampshire Poultry - All poultry over 5 months of age must have been tested within one year for, and found negative to Salmonella Pullorum and avian influenza, must be identified by official leg band and must be progeny of Pullorum clean stock, and must be free of all clinical evidence of infectious and contagious diseases and exposure thereto.

b. Out-of-State Poultry - See Sec. I, II and III. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection or NPIP VS Form 9-3 and Permit required. All poultry over 5 months of age must have been tested within 10 days for, and found negative to Salmonella Pullorum and avian influenza and must be identified by official leg band. All poultry under 5 months must be progeny of avian

influenza and Pullorum clean stock and free of all infectious and contagious diseases and exposure thereto.

NOTE *There continue to be wildlife findings of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the region. HPAI is still here and circulating in our wild, resident bird populations. The department has no current plans to prohibit poultry or dairy shows based on current circumstances, but please review the attached addendum. The department is available to discuss the various considerations.*

L. CERVIDAE, CAMELIDS AND BISON:

a. New Hampshire Animals - All cervidae, camelids, and bison must originate from non-quarantined herds.

b. Out-of-State Animals - See Sec. I, II and III. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, Permanent Identification and Permit required. Camelids and bison must have a negative Brucellosis test within 30 days prior to the first show of the season and a negative Tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to the first show of the season.

NOTE: *No cervids may enter the state of New Hampshire for show purposes due to the threat of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD.)*

M. RATITE (emu, rhea, ostrich, moa, kiwi and cassowary):

a. New Hampshire Animals - All ratites must originate from a non-quarantined, Avian Influenza tested negative flock.

b. Out-of-State Animals - See Sec. I, II and III. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, Permanent Identification and Permit required. All ratites must have been tested negative to pathological strains of Avian Influenza within 10 days of the fair.

N. BIO-SECURITY:

a. When exhibiting animals at the fairs or shows, bring your own shovels, forks, brooms and wheelbarrows for your personal use and do not allow them to be used by others. Disinfect all of the hand tools, including the wheelbarrows, feed tubs and your boots and shoes before going back to the farm.

b. Consider isolating all animals returning to your farm from the animals left at home for a period of time to minimize transmission of diseases that may have been picked up at the show.

c. Do not allow the public to walk in the feed areas and do not allow manure contamination of the feed or feeding areas.

d. There are many diseases, such as Johnes, E. Coli, Salmonella, etc., that can be spread at fairs and brought back to the farm. Do your best to prevent the spread of these and other organisms.

DEERFIELD FAIR ASSOCIATION, INC.

603-463-7421

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Entries are open to all in each department unless otherwise stated.
2. Online entries are preferred, but paper entries are still accepted. Online entries can be made at http://deerfieldfairnh.fairentry.com. Paper entries may be mailed to the Fair Office Manager, P.O. Box 156 Deerfield, NH 03037-0156, or can be dropped off at the Administration Building at 34 Stage Rd. Deerfield, NH 03037. Entries must be **RECEIVED** by the Deerfield Fair Association no later than **September 10, 2026**.
3. Premiums will not be paid on articles or animals removed from exhibition prior to the official closing time of the Fair, which is 7:00pm, Sunday, October 4, 2026.
4. If entries are received in excess of accommodations available, the Association reserves the right to reject entries at its discretion.
5. The Association reserves the right to pro-rate or defer premiums if necessary.
6. Exhibitors have the right to sell their exhibits, but they may not be removed during the Fair without forfeiture of premiums.
7. **Special department regulations will apply as specified at the heading of each department.**
8. The Association will employ security personnel and exercise due care, but it assumes no responsibility for any loss or damage from any cause that may occur to any animal or article on exhibition, and upon this condition only are entries received.
9. No vehicle may enter or move on the grounds after 8:00am daily or prior to the official closing time of the Fair, or at any time that security deems it unsafe.
10. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the fairgrounds.
11. No pets are allowed on the fairgrounds.
12. All animals must be vaccinated for rabies.
13. The Association assumes no responsibility for injuries caused by any animal during the Fair.
14. Decisions of the judges and/or Fair officials are final in all matters.

INFORMATION

Hay, grain and bedding are available on the grounds at current prices. No person 13 years of age or older shall be allowed to enter the fairgrounds without being in possession of a pass or paying the admission price. Parking will be allowed only in designated areas. Vehicles improperly parked are subject to be towed at owner's expense.

All campers must be PRE-REGISTERED for a space inside the fairgrounds. NO EXCEPTIONS.

FREE PARKING

GENERAL ADMISSION TO GROUNDS: $12.00 DAILY

CHILDREN 12 YEARS AND UNDER: FREE

SENIOR CITIZEN DAYS: THURSDAY AND FRIDAY ONLY: $9.00 (Sold at Gate *only;* NOT Sold in Advance)

MILITARY PERSONNEL WITH CURRENT ID: FREE

SAVE TIME & AVOID THE LINE!

BUY YOUR ADVANCE TICKETS *ONLINE* OR AT THE OFFICE.

CALL THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE FOR DETAILS AT 603-463-7421.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE at www.deerfieldfair.com FOR ONLINE PRICING INCENTIVES.

Or Visit us on Facebook at *Deerfield Fair*

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AWARD FOR AGRICULTURAL EXCELLENCE

Criteria

1. Awards shall recognize exhibits which promote a better understanding of agricultural/rural life.
2. Awards may be given to individuals, farms, businesses or organizations.
3. Awards shall be given based upon assessment of the following:
    a. Organization and neatness;
    b. Ability to convey clear information or message;
    c. Conformity to generally accepted practices such as animal cleanliness, proper preparation of produce, adherence to state or Federal grade and quality standards, etc.;
    d. Clear identification of exhibitor - name and hometown;
    e. Integration with overall goals of the individual fair;
    f. Originality.
4. Awards shall not be given to an exhibitor more than once in three years.
5. Awards shall be determined by judges appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Markets and Food.

DEPARTMENT G

WORKING STEER & OXEN

JENNA ALLEN, Lee, NH, S*uperintendent*, 603-812-6430
KATE PHILBRICK, Candia, NH, *Assistant Superintendent*, 603-490-2656

RULES GOVERNING ALL WORKING STEER & OXEN SECTIONS
See Animal Health Rules and Regulations

1. Exhibitors should be familiar with GENERAL RULES located at the front of this section.
2. Registration be completed by September 10th. Registrations received after that date must be approved by the superintendent.
3. Open division for oxen, steers, and calves
4. All animals to be on the grounds by the start of the fair – Thursday, October 1st at 8:00 am.
5. Rabies vaccination required – refer to the Animal Health Rules and Regulations
6. Health Papers must be presented at the time of weigh-in
7. Divisions may be combined to improve the show at the discretion of the judge.

SECTION 1: CART OBSTACLE COURSE

Thursday October 1, 2026
10:00 AM
Working Steer Show Ring

A course will be laid out through which a teamster must manipulate his/her animals and cart.

Class	Description	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
1.	Up to 1000 lbs.	$50	$42	$35	$28	$23	$20
2.	1001 to 1500 lbs.	$60	$52	$45	$38	$33	$30
3.	1501 to 2500 lbs.	$70	$62	$55	$48	$43	$40
4.	2501 to 3500 lbs.	$80	$70	$62	$55	$48	$45
5.	Over 3500 lbs.	$85	$75	$68	$60	$55	$52

SECTION 2: LOG SCOOT OBSTACLE COURSE

Friday October 2, 2026
10:00 AM
Working Steer Show Ring

A course will be laid out through which a teamster must manipulate his/her animals and load. Log skidding will have log/logs for the class weight.

Class	Description	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
1.	Up to 1000 lbs.	$50	$42	$35	$28	$23	$20
2.	1001 to 1500 lbs.	$60	$52	$45	$38	$33	$30
3.	1501 to 2500 lbs.	$70	$62	$55	$48	$43	$40
4.	2501 to 3500 lbs.	$80	$70	$62	$55	$48	$45
5.	Over 3500 lbs.	$85	$75	$68	$60	$55	$52

SECTION 3: BEST MATCHED PAIR COMPETITION

Sunday, October 4, 2026
10:00 AM
Working Steer Show Ring

Judging based on the looks of the animal pair in the yoke. Competitors must supply their own yoke.

Class	Description	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
1.	Up to 1000 lbs.	$20	$18	$15	$12	$10	$8
2.	1001 to 1500 lbs.	$20	$18	$15	$12	$10	$8
3.	1501 to 2500 lbs.	$20	$18	$15	$12	$10	$8
4.	2501 to 3500 lbs.	$20	$18	$15	$12	$10	$8
5.	Over 3500 lbs.	$20	$18	$15	$12	$10	$8

SECTION 4: BEST TRAINED

Sunday, October 4, 2026
Immediately Following Best Matched
Working Steer Show Ring

Judging based on the ability to follow commands and perform in the yoke.

Class	Description	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
1.	Up to 1000 lbs.	$20	$18	$15	$12	$10	$8
2.	1001 to 1500 lbs.	$20	$18	$15	$12	$10	$8
3.	1501 to 2500 lbs.	$20	$18	$15	$12	$10	$8
4.	2501 to 3500 lbs.	$20	$18	$15	$12	$10	$8
5.	Over 3500 lbs.	$20	$18	$15	$12	$10	$8

HERDSMANSHIP AWARD

1st Place: $50, 2nd Place: $40, 3rd Place: $30

The following will be considered when determining the recipients of this award:

- The neatest, cleanest and most attractive exhibit
- Presentation of animals in the ring
- Cooperation of the exhibitor
- Quality and Educational value of the exhibits.