

Date: September 4, 2020 (updated from 7/24)

Memo to: NC State Extension Personnel Engaged in the Planning, Coordination and Management of Youth Livestock Shows and Sales.

Intent: Provide guidance that will enhance the safety and security of all youth, agents, volunteers, and supporters of youth livestock shows and sales. For the purpose of this document, the term livestock includes horses and shows/events includes horse shows/events.

North Carolina Cooperative Extension is dedicated to the safety of all who participate and support youth livestock shows and sales. Participants and organizers of Cooperative Extension livestock events must strictly adhere to the physical distancing guidelines, enhanced cleaning and disinfection practices and enhanced workplace safety practices provided in the Center's for Disease Control (CDC) [Considerations for Events and Gatherings](#); [COVID-19 Considerations for Animal Activities at Fairs, Shows and Other Events](#); and the [Extension Return to Work Guide for County Centers](#).

Mass Gatherings

- ⇒ Current North Carolina guidance limits Mass Gatherings to 50 people outdoors and 20 people indoors. Governor Roy Coopers Executive Order 141, Section 9, allows venues holding sporting or entertainment events, for the recording of and broadcast to the public to conduct shows and events. Indoor venues must have at least two separate entrances and exits, so that the flow of people through lobbies and other common spaces are sufficient to provide safe exit for everyone in case of an emergency and to allow social distancing and avoid the spread of COVID-19. The number of exhibitors, facility employees, show staff, and exhibitor's immediate family members are exempt and shall not count towards the Governor's Mass Gathering limit. Spectators are not exempt from the Governor's Mass Gathering limits of 10 inside/25 outside and must be counted.
- ⇒ If you do not video-tape for broadcast to the public, strict adherence to the Governor's Mass Gathering limits (25 inside/50 outside) is mandated.
- ⇒ Beginning July 31, 2020, Extension livestock shows conducted according to Executive Order 141, will be allowed, unless further guidance from Governor Cooper prohibits such events.

Participants and Organizers of Cooperative Extension livestock shows must adhere to the following additional requirements for such activities:

- ⇒ Require all current entry agreements and addendums that cover COVID-19 to be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to the show office prior to competing. This includes a [liability waiver](#).
- ⇒ Post signage at the entrance that states that no one with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19, or known exposure to a COVID-19 case in the prior 14-days, is permitted in the establishment.
- ⇒ Post signage to provide public health reminders regarding physical distancing, gathering limitations, options for high risk individuals, and staying home if sick.
- ⇒ Create and display a human traffic-flow plan of modified queue lines to and within the facility. Determine areas likely to become bottlenecks or pinch points and adjust traffic flow accordingly. Install visible markers for queue lines that separate people by 6 feet of physical distance. Ensure facility exits are configured to reduce the occurrence of bottlenecks and large gatherings.

- ⇒ Create and display physical distancing communication tools, including static signs, kiosks, audio announcements, or video announcements. Signage should include the requirement to wear face coverings at all times and to maintain 6 feet of physical distance between people who do not reside in the same household.
- ⇒ Reconfigure seating areas to allow 6 feet of physical distance between individuals by eliminating and closing select tables or seating areas, or by spreading them out to allow for adequate spacing.
- ⇒ Ensure anyone who has symptoms of, has tested positive for, or has been exposed to COVID-19 follows appropriate guidelines for quarantine or isolation. Persons with symptoms should stay home until CDC criteria for ending isolation have been met. Persons with severe symptoms may need to be evaluated by a healthcare provider. Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick to their home or to a healthcare facility. If you are calling an ambulance or bringing someone to the hospital, try to call first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19.
- ⇒ Conduct daily screening of trainers, officials, staff, participants, and other attendees for COVID-19 symptoms prior to admission to the venue/facility. Children should be screened per the CDC guidance for screening children. Adults should be asked if they are currently experiencing recently-developed health issues not attributed to another condition including but not limited to: a fever (100.4°F or higher) or a sense of having a fever, a new cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition, new shortness of breath that cannot be attributed to another health condition, new chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition, a new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition, or new muscle aches that cannot be attributed to another health condition or specific activity (such as physical exercise). Anyone experiencing symptoms should not be permitted on show grounds. Screenings should be conducted in accordance with applicable privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations. *Anyone experiencing symptoms should not be permitted on show grounds. Screenings should be conducted in accordance with applicable privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations.*
- ⇒ Employees and volunteers should wear face coverings in customer-facing areas that cover their nose and mouth using [CDC Use of Cloth Face Coverings](#) guidance.
- ⇒ In accordance with Governor Cooper's directives, require all people inside the show grounds, unless mounted on a horse, to wear a face covering.
- ⇒ Provide hand washing or sanitizing stations at the reception area and throughout the entire facility for employee and attendee use.

Best Practices: In addition to the requirements provided above, management must utilize the following best practices to the extent they are feasible:

- ⇒ Utilize online entries and payment by credit card.
- ⇒ Designate one representative to handle the entire barn or stable interface with the show and event offices.
- ⇒ Install sneeze guards in front of commonly used point-of-sale or guest service stations.
- ⇒ Clean and disinfect all tack, equipment, and surfaces that others may come in contact with or handle frequently. This includes golf carts, tack trunks, microphones, reins, halters, lead ropes, and other common show items.
- ⇒ Maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance in the show ring.

- ⇒ Encourage competitors, trainers, riders, grooms, owners, competition staff, and parents to leave as expeditiously as possible after their competition.
- ⇒ Encourage competitors to show from the trailer to avoid unnecessary contact with others in the barn area.
- ⇒ Include current COVID-19 guidelines in the show's protocols and entry procedures.
- ⇒ Require attendees to leave dogs at home when possible or keep dogs under control and confined or leashed at all times.
- ⇒ Food concessions shall comply with all local and state COVID-19 regulations regarding food distribution and sales. These include but are not limited to 6-foot spacing marks for those in line, no self-serve areas, condiments placed on food by server or in self-contained packets, and if there is a seating area, the tables/benches must be 6 feet apart to assure distance between parties.
- ⇒ Because judges need to examine the animal and thus will be close to the participants, it is recommended that judges wear masks at least during that part of the judging.
- ⇒ Family members of the participants shall have priority in the viewing area.
- ⇒ Each family should group together in the viewing area, and there should be 6 feet between families.

The above guidance shall also be applied to livestock auctions. Sale management should consider the use of a virtual auction, although this is not required. Priority seating at auctions shall be family members of participants and buyers.

Responsibility of Extension Personnel Working Livestock Shows

Cooperative Extension personnel with responsibility for livestock and equine events are encouraged to provide high quality events that provide educational opportunities for youth participants and support the livestock and equine industries. When these responsibilities involve the planning, coordination and management of livestock shows, Extension personnel should consider the following:

- ⇒ Extension personnel participating in the planning, coordination, and management of a livestock show/event, are responsible for assuring that all of the guidelines and best management practices listed above are being enforced. If the show/event is being conducted by a third-party and these guidelines are not being enforced, then Extension personnel should leave the premises immediately.
- ⇒ If you are judging a show for compensation, you are expected to take the appropriate amount of annual or another form of leave from your Extension responsibilities. Judging a show for which you will not receive compensation, does not require the use of leave. Remember, whether you are receiving compensation or not, you are representing Cooperative Extension and adherence to the guidance provided in this document is expected.
- ⇒ CES shows/events that are conducted under the CES and/or 4-H name and logo and have care, custody and control of participating youth, must be registered with NC State University in accordance with the university's Programming with Minors policy. All show staff, whether volunteers or employees must have completed the appropriate background check and Programming with Minors trainings required under [Reg. 01.25.18](#) Programs that Involve the Participation of Minors.