

Massachusetts Fair Animal Health Rules

In addition to complying with all laws and regulations governing animal health issues all fairs must adopt and enforce the following rules for governance of the fair:

NO animal will be admitted to the fairgrounds unless it meets the requirements below. NO animal is to be unloaded or enter a barn or tie-out stall until the animal and its paperwork have been inspected and approved for entry.

A. General Rules for All Animals:

1. All animals must be in proper physical condition, be properly identified and 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 will not be approved for entry.
2. Evidence of infectious, contagious or parasitic disease or failure to produce the necessary documents for health certification, vaccination or testing will result in the animal's rejection for entry. THE INSPECTOR'S DECISION IS FINAL.
3. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, conformation or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only, and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly-licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
4. All livestock must have proper official, individual ID as required for the species, e.g. official metal ear tag, tattoo, scrapie tag, or microchip. Breed registration forms must accompany health certificates when used as part of official ID.
5. One Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) may be allowed for animals of the same species to be exhibited at fairs or shows in any of the New England states when submitted with an itinerary of the dates and locations of the events at which the listed animals are expected to be shown. Only animals that are healthy at the time of shipment may be moved. For the 2024 Show and Fair Season, livestock animals being exhibited in New England states must have official certificates of veterinary inspection (OCVIs) that meet the following requirements:
 - a. CT, MA, and RI: OCVIs issued on or after January 1, 2024 may be used for those animals being shown at multiple fairs and shows in CT, MA, and RI through the 2024 show/fair season ending October 31, 2024
 - b. A single OCVI from the animals' home state may be completed for travel to and from the New England states in which the animals will be exhibited. MA animals being shown ONLY in MA may substitute a signed, dated letter on the letterhead of an accredited veterinarian for an OCVI if all required information is included and all additional requirements are met.
 - c. Multiple animals of the same species may be listed on one health certificate with appropriate individual IDs and descriptions. Animals of different species may not be listed on the same official health certificate.
 - d. An itinerary of the names and locations for each New England fair or show at which owner expects to show the listed animals and the dates when each animal are expected to be on each site, must be prepared by the owner and presented to the veterinarian at the time the OCVI is written.
 - i. A copy of this planned itinerary must be attached to the official health certificate for it to be used for more than one fair or show.
 - ii. That proposed list should be signed by the veterinarian and the owner/exhibitor and reference the relevant OCVI number(s).
 - e. The name and address of the first show or fair where the listed animals will be exhibited is to be used as the "destination" on the OCVI form. In addition, "See attached list" or a similar statement directing Animal Health Officials or Fair Inspectors to the attached proposed itinerary must be included.
 - f. Exhibitors must keep an accurate list of the show locations and dates when their animals were actually on the show/fairgrounds. This record must be available to fair inspectors at each inspection and check-in.
 - g. Any animal listed on an OCVI that becomes sick must remain home. If the animal is refused entry to any exhibition during 2023 for health reasons it must have a new health certificate issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days of the next interstate movement.
 - h. Any New England state may end their participation in this agreement and revert to the standard published requirements for livestock imports in the state at any time, in the event of foreign animal disease outbreak or changes to state legislation.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH SPECIES ARE LISTED BELOW.

B. Cattle: See M.G.L. c. 129 §52, 39 and 330 CMR 4.04(2).

1. TB and Brucellosis testing is not required for animals from TB-Accredited and Brucellosis-Free States and instate animals. Current brucellosis and TB status in the exhibitor's state can be obtained from the state veterinarian's office in each state. If the exhibitor's state is not TB-Accredited or Brucellosis-Free, then the exhibitor must call the Massachusetts Division of Animal Health for entry requirements (617-626-1795). All animals must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: foot rot, mange, pink-eye, ringworm, warts, cow-pox and open or draining wounds.
2. While not required, it is strongly recommended that all cattle be currently vaccinated for rabies.

C. Poultry: See M.G.L. c. §52, 129, and 330 CMR 5.02.

1. No poultry will be admitted on grounds until it has been individually inspected.
2. All poultry must be free of visual evidence of: infectious bronchitis, coryza, pullorum-typhoid, fowl-pox, external parasites and laryngotracheitis.
3. Each bird must be accompanied by written proof (ID card or test report) that the breeding flock was blood-tested negative for pullorum-typhoid within one year prior to entry date.

4. Birds from quarantined states will not be permitted entry.
5. All birds over 16 weeks of age as of January 1, 2024 shall be individually leg banded with a state leg band. This includes out of state exhibitors.
6. No bird vaccinated for laryngotracheitis within 30 days of fair will be admitted.

D. Goats: See M.G.L. c. 129 §2, 9 CFR 79.6 and MA Emergency Order 1-AHO-06.

1. TB and Brucellosis testing is not required for animals from TB-Accredited and Brucellosis-Free States and instate animals.
2. All goats and kids presented, regardless of age, must be individually listed and identified on the health certificate. All goats must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: foot rot, mange, pink-eye, ringworm, warts, pox and open or draining wounds. All goats must also be free of sore mouth and scrapie exposure.
3. Based on the Federal Scrapie Eradication Program (FSEP), goats and sheep 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 FSEP and the MA Emergency Order 1-AHO-06. Information on approved tags and tattoos is available from the USDA-APHIS office in Sutton, MA at 508-363-2290.

E. Camels: See M.G.L. c. 129 §2, M.G. I. c. 131, §23, 321 CMR 9.02.

1. TB and Brucellosis testing is not required for animals from TB-Accredited and Brucellosis-Free States and instate animals. Current brucellosis and TB status in the exhibitor's state can be obtained from the state veterinarian's office in each state. If the exhibitor's state is not TB-Accredited or Brucellosis-Free, then the exhibitor must call the Massachusetts Division of Animal Health for entry requirements (617-626-1795).
2. All Camelids originating from outside the Commonwealth are required to be tested for Blue Tongue. Exception: Animals from a USDA declared "Low Incident State" are exempt. All New England states and New York are low incident states.
3. All animals must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: foot rot, mange, pink-eye, ringworm, warts, pox and open or draining wounds.

F. Swine: See M.G.L. c. 129 §14E, 330 CMR 11.04(2), 9 CFR 71.19

1. All swine must be identified by an official ear tag or registration.
2. Swine must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: erysipelas, atrophic rhinitis, mange and open or draining wounds.
3. No person shall import into Massachusetts from outside the state any swine which have been pseudorabies vaccinated. M.G.L. c. 129 §14E.
4. No person shall import into Massachusetts swine from Stage 1 or Stage 2 Pseudorabies States.
5. All swine shall originate from qualified pseudorabies-free herds, or monitored herds in qualified pseudorabies free States only. The pseudorabies status of the exhibitor's state can be obtained from the state vet's office in each state.

G. Sheep: See 9 CFR 79 and Massachusetts Emergency Order 1-AHO-06.

1. No sheep will be allowed entry from flocks in which Scrapie has been diagnosed or in which animals are under surveillance for Scrapie during the previous eighteen months. Based on the Federal Scrapie Eradication Program (FSEP) and the Massachusetts Emergency Order 1-AHO-06, sheep of any age or sex brought to show or exhibition from either out of state or within the state must possess a USDA approved individual identification tag, tattoo, or electronic implant consistent with requirements of the FSEP. Information on approved tags, tattoos, and electronic implants is available from the USDA APHIS office in Sutton, MA at 508-363-2290.
2. No sheep will be permitted entry from flocks in which Soremouth has existed or in which Soremouth Vaccine has been administered in the previous sixty days.
3. Sheep must be free from visual evidence of foot rot, sore mouth, pink eye, ringworm, and open and draining wounds. 4. While not required, it is strongly recommended that sheep be currently vaccinated against rabies.

H. Equine: M.G.L. c. 128 §52C, 44, 330 CMR 16.05.

1. All equines entering a MA fairground must have a valid health certificate.
2. All equines must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: mange, ringworm, sores, strangles, and open or draining wounds.
3. All equines originating from within and outside of the Commonwealth must have a negative USDA-approved EIA test (i.e., Coggins test or ELISA test) dated within twelve months of entry.
4. While not required, it is strongly recommended that all equines be vaccinated for rabies, tetanus, EEE and WNV within one year of the fair.

I. Rabbits: See M.G.L. c. 129 §2

1. Rabbits must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases: snuffles, wettail, skin and ear infections.

J. Dogs and Cats: See M.G.L. c. 129 §39G

1. All dogs and cats must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases: kennel cough, distemper, hepatitis, parvo, ringworm and mange.
2. All dogs and cats must be accompanied by a valid and current vaccination certificate for rabies

All petting zoos are required to have a USDA APHIS Exhibitor's License and valid health certificates