

# ANIMAL CHECK-IN

At any fair or exhibition, check-ins are a critical control point to stop sick animals from entering the event. Additionally, it gives fair staff an opportunity to ensure that all animals coming in have the correct paperwork and official identification.

## WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR AT ANIMAL CHECK-INS?

### Official Identification:

- ✓ Goats, sheep, cattle, swine, camelids (llamas, alpacas, camels) must have official identification to be exhibited in Michigan. Visit [www.michigan.gov/mdard-exhibitinfo](http://www.michigan.gov/mdard-exhibitinfo) for all animal identification and testing requirements.

### Test Results:

- ✓ Poultry (except waterfowl, pigeons, and doves) must have a negative pullorum test before entering the barn.
- ✓ Horses must have proof of a negative coggins test.
- ✓ Cattle coming from or being shown in Alpena, Alcona, Cheboygan, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle Counties have additional bovine tuberculosis requirements. Contact MDARD's Atlanta Office at 888-565-8626 with questions.

**Don't forget to "check-in" all exhibits, including pony rides, rodeos, petting zoos, open classes or any animal vendor, and make sure they meet the above requirements.**

### Signs of a Healthy Animal:

#### Front end:

- ✓ Clear Eyes
- ✓ Alert
- ✓ No excessive salivation
- ✓ No nasal discharge
- ✓ Head held up and no head tilt
- ✓ No rapid or exaggerated breathing (thumping, jerking, or difficultly breathing)

#### Back end:

- ✓ No signs of diarrhea
- ✓ No rectal or vaginal prolapses

#### Everything in between:

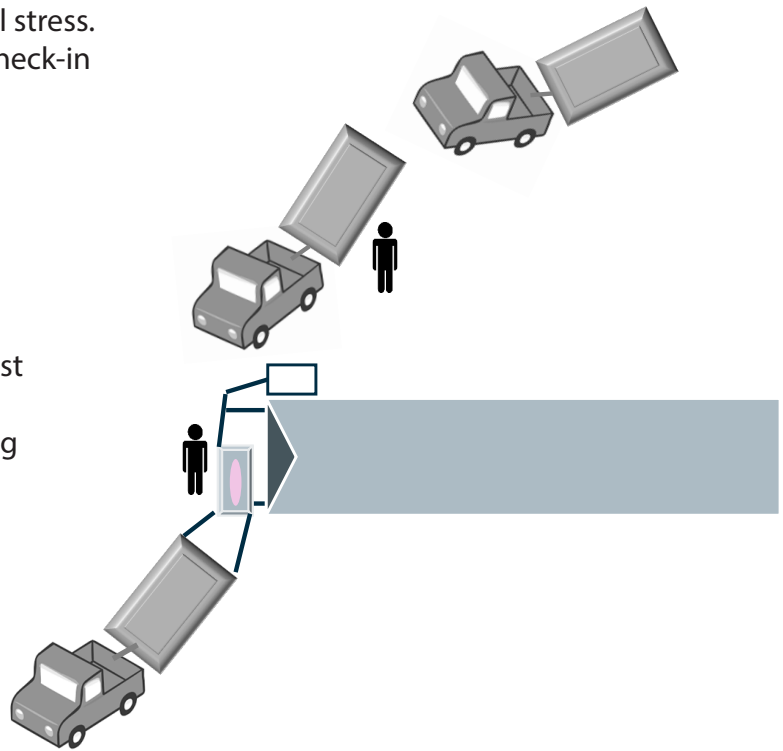
- ✓ Animal is not humped up
- ✓ No signs of lameness
- ✓ Hair/wool/feathers are normal
- ✓ No skin concerns like warts or ringworm
- ✓ No visible parasites
- ✓ No signs of injuries from transportation

If an animal does not appear healthy, contact your fair veterinarian.



## HOW DO YOU SET UP A CHECK-IN?

- ✓ Be mindful of human safety and minimize animal stress.
- ✓ Have a single point of entry to your designated check-in outside of the barn.
- ✓ For large animals, have two people, so animals can be assessed before they are off-loaded and before they enter the barn.
- ✓ For small animals, assess the animals after they are removed from their transportation cage and before they enter the barn.
- ✓ Have a place to isolate ill animals. Animals may just be experiencing stress (especially on a hot day). Isolation allows the animal to relax, while ensuring that a sick animal is not being introduced to the other animals already in the barn.
- ✓ Don't offload animals that appear ill.
- ✓ If an animal appears ill, hold the animal to see if signs persist and contact the fair veterinarian.
- ✓ If one animal appears ill in a group, do not let any of the other animals in that group into the barn.



## WHO SHOULD PERFORM THE CHECK-IN?

- ✓ Anyone with working knowledge of the species being inspected can perform the check-in. Some examples are 4-H leaders, barn superintendents, fair personnel, a veterinary technician or a veterinarian.

## WHAT ARE SOME GOOD BIOSECURITY PRACTICES?

Removing animals from trailers and cages:

- ✓ Use disposable gloves or hand sanitizer between trailers or cages.
- ✓ Use disposable foot covers or sanitize your boots between trailers.

Animal Handling Areas:

- ✓ Sanitize chutes, scales, tables and equipment (sorting boards etc.) between groups of animals.

General area:

- ✓ Keep manure cleaned up in and around the check-in area.
- ✓ Limit the amount of people handling the animals.
- ✓ Minimize the sharing of equipment. When it is shared, disinfect between uses.

