



**Everyone is invited to Come See Us on Opening Day- FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH. All exhibits will need to be in place on Thursday, September 29th, EXCEPT POULTRY. Please refer all questions regarding this change to the Department Chairperson or the Fair's Administration Office.**

## GENERAL RULES & INFORMATION

**\*\* *Topsfield Fair and Essex Agricultural Society are not responsible for changes to or omissions from any contest rules, regulations, and/or guidelines.***

Exhibitors must adhere to all rules as they apply to individual departments as well as the following regulations:

1. The Essex Agricultural Society is a member of the Massachusetts Agricultural Fairs Association. The rules and regulations of this organization will apply where applicable.
2. Drinking of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on fairgrounds.
3. No smoking allowed in buildings.
4. No exhibit shall be removed before the close of the fair, without the express consent of the department head and fair management. Please refer to individual department for specific pickup times.
5. Departments designated 4-H and youth are restricted to boys and girls 9 through 19 years of age as of January 1, 2011, unless otherwise stated in department rules.
6. All reasonable precautions will be taken by the Society for the safe keeping of animals and articles entrusted to its care, but all exhibits are received upon express condition that **THE SOCIETY SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE** that may occur to animals or articles on exhibit for any reason. Exhibitors, contestants, and/or participants agree to be solely responsible for any loss, injury to, damage done, occasioned by or arising from any exhibit, equipment, animal or person and to defend and indemnify the Society and the management thereof against all claims and liability in regard thereto. In view of this understanding, exhibitors, contestants, and/or participants may deem it advisable to obtain appropriate liability insurance.
7. No person will be awarded premium checks with providing the Fair office with his/her social security number.

## GENERAL LIVESTOCK RULES & INFORMATION

1. All animals must be checked by the State Veterinarian and/or the department head or his designee, upon arrival at the fairgrounds.
2. Please review and comply with all health regulations as they pertain to individual departments. Massachusetts Department of Agriculture rules regarding animal health must be adhered to.
3. All out-of-state livestock must be accompanied by a current Certificate of Health.
4. **EXHIBITOR PARKING WILL BE EXTREMELY LIMITED. PLEASE CHECK WITH DEPARTMENT HEAD IF PARKING PROBLEMS ARISE.**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
BUREAU OF FAIRS, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

In addition to complying with all laws and regulations governing animal health issues (M.G.L. C. 129§§14D, 14E, 44 and 330 CMR 4.03, 4.07, 16.03), all fairs must adopt and enforce the following rules for governance of the fair:

**2011 FAIRS ANIMAL HEALTH RULES**

**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. **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 Federal Scrapie Eradication Program and the Massachusetts Emergency order 1-AHO-06. Information on approved tags, tattoos, and electronic implants is available from the USDA APHIS office in Sutton, MA at 508-363-2290.**
4. All livestock must have proper ID. For animals identified by microchip, readers must be available to the Inspectors.
5. SEE INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH SPECIES LISTED BELOW.

**B. OUT OF STATE ANIMALS**

1. All animals entering a Massachusetts fairground from out of state must be accompanied by a valid health certificate signed by an accredited veterinarian certifying that the animals are clinically free of infectious or contagious disease and exposure from such disease. Documents of health certification must be written on relevant state or federal health forms only. These certificates must be available upon request to fair inspectors.
2. Health certificates must be dated January 1, 2011 or later. These documents will be acceptable for the entire fair season in Massachusetts. TB and Brucellosis testing is not required for animals from TB accredited and Brucellosis Free States. All other states must call for requirements.  
(617-626-1795)

**C. POULTRY**

1. No poultry will be admitted to a fairground until it has been individually inspected.
2. All poultry must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases: 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, 2011 shall be individually leg banded with a state leg band. This includes out of state exhibitors.
6. No bird vaccinated for laryngotracheitis within thirty days of the fair will be admitted.

**D. CATTLE, GOATS AND CAMELIDS (LLAMAS, ALPACAS, ETC.)**

1. All animals entering a Massachusetts fairground from out of State or within the state must be accompanied by a valid health certificate signed by an accredited veterinarian certifying that the animals are clinically free of infectious or contagious disease and exposure from such disease. Cattle and Camelids must be identified by either ear tag, tattoo registration or microchip. **Note that all goats and kids presented, regardless of age, must be individually listed and identified on the health certificate.** These certificates must be available upon request to fair inspectors. Documents of health certification for out of state animals must be written on relevant state or federal health forms only. In-state animals may be accompanied by a certificate of examination on a veterinarian's letterhead stationery which clearly identifies the contact information for the veterinarian signing the certification. Certificates written on plain paper are not acceptable. Health Certificates must be dated January 1, 2011 or later. These documents will be accepted for the entire fair season in Massachusetts.
2. All of the above must be free of visual evidence of the following disease: foot rot, mange, pink-eye, ringworm, warts, cow-pox and open or draining wounds.
3. In addition all Goats must also be free of sore mouth and scrapie exposure. Based on the Federal Scrapie Eradication Program (FSEP), 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 FSEP and the Massachusetts Emergency order 1-AHO-06. Information on approved tags, tattoos, and electronic implants is available from the USDA APHIS office in Sutton, MA at 508-363-2290.

4. Blue Tongue testing is required for Camelids originating from outside the Commonwealth. Exception: Animals from a USDA declared "Low Incident State" are exempt. Note: New England and New York are low incident states.
5. While not required, it is strongly recommended that all cattle be currently vaccinated for rabies.

#### **E. SWINE**

1. All swine entering a Massachusetts fairground must be accompanied by a valid health certificate signed by an accredited veterinarian certifying that the animals are clinically free of infectious or contagious disease and exposure to such disease. Documents of health certification for out of state animals must be written on relevant state or federal health forms only. In-state animals may be accompanied by a certificate of examination on a veterinarian's letterhead stationery which clearly identifies the contact information for the veterinarian signing the certification. Certificates written on plain paper are not acceptable. These certificates must be available upon request to fair inspectors. Health certificates must be dated January 1, 2011 or later. These documents will be accepted for the entire fair season in Massachusetts. All swine must be identified by an official ear tag or registration.
2. Swine must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases: 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 I or Stage II 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 veterinarian's office in each state.

#### **F. SHEEP**

1. Sheep entering a Massachusetts fairground must have a valid health certificate signed by an accredited veterinarian certifying that the animals are clinically free of infectious or contagious disease and exposure from such disease. Documents of health certification for out of state animals must be written on relevant state or federal health forms only. In-state animals may be accompanied by a certificate of examination on a veterinarian's letterhead stationery which clearly identifies the contact information for the veterinarian signing the certification. Certificates written on plain paper are not acceptable. These certificates must be available upon request to fair inspectors. Health certificates must be dated January 1, 2011 or later. These documents will be acceptable for the entire fair season.
2. 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 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 Federal Scrapie Eradication Program (FSEP).

Information on approved tags, tattoos, and electronic implants is available from the USDA APHIS office in Sutton, MA at 508-363-2290.

3. 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.
4. Sheep must be free from visual evidence of foot rot, sore mouth, pink-eye, ringworm, and open and draining wounds.
5. While not required, it is strongly recommended that sheep be currently vaccinated against rabies.

#### **G. EQUINE**

1. All equines entering a Massachusetts fairground must have a valid health certificate signed by an accredited veterinarian certifying that the animals are clinically free of infectious or contagious disease and exposure from such disease. Documents of health certification for out of state animals must be written on relevant state or federal health forms only. In-state animals may be accompanied by a certificate of examination on a veterinarian's letterhead stationery which clearly identifies the contact information for the veterinarian signing the certification. Certificates written on plain paper are not acceptable. These certificates must be available upon request to fair inspectors. Health certificates must be dated January 1, 2011 or later. These documents will be acceptable for the entire fair season.
2. All equines must be free of visual evidence of the following diseases: mange, ringworm, soring, 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, and EEE within one year of the fair.

#### **H. RABBITS**

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

#### **I. DOGS AND CATS**

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 Massachusetts dogs and cats and those originating from out of this State must have a valid and current vaccination certificate for rabies.**