

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

PO Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23218

Phone: 804/786-3501 • Fax: 804/371-2945 • Hearing Impaired: 800/828-1120

www.vdacs.virginia.gov

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Dear Virginia Junior Livestock Exhibitor,

The 2018 State Fair of Virginia is almost here and we are looking forward to participating with you in making it a great experience for all.

The State Veterinarian's Office is involved with the State Fair of Virginia in order to minimize the possibility of disease transmission among the exhibited animals. When so many animals from different backgrounds come together, there is the very real potential of disease spread. The first part of the effort to minimize disease spread is accomplished by your obtaining a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (also known as "Health Papers") from your local veterinarian, which must be obtained within 30 days prior to the State Fair. However, sometimes a disease can spread quickly, and your animals may be showing signs of illness when they reach the State Fair, even if they appeared healthy when examined at home. For this reason, the State Fair has requested that our staff examine your certificate of veterinary inspection and animals before they are allowed to compete. If any of your animals are displaying any signs of infectious disease when they reach the State Fair, those animals will not be allowed to be kept on the fairgrounds. This is always a difficult situation for all of us, but it is critical for the protection of the rest of the animals. Your understanding concerning this is greatly appreciated.

Ringworm and warts on sheep and cattle are consistently the most common reason that exhibitors have been turned away at the state fair. If your animals are infected with these diseases, do not attempt to bring them to the State Fair, as they will be turned away if evidence of disease is observed. **Any animal that has had a contagious disease including ringworm and warts and has been successfully treated but still has physical evidence of the disease must have a notation from an accredited veterinarian on the health certificate documenting the successful treatment of the disease.**

In order for us to protect all of the animals at the State Fair, it is essential that we accomplish these inspections in the hours specified. You can find these hours listed on the official schedule provided to you. **New this year; inspections will be performed upon arrival.** Please be prepared to show your CVI and have your animals examined as they are unloaded.

I also wanted to mention a program that you may be involved with this year. At the request of 4-H, our staff will again be collecting urine samples from the Grand Champion and Reserve winners for the market cattle, sheep, goats, and hogs. The urine will be tested for illegal (including performance enhancing) drug residues. Fortunately, we do not believe this to be a problem in Virginia, but many state-level competitions are now conducting this type of testing. If you are fortunate enough to be one of the winners, please be patient with our staff as we collect the urine and ensure that the collection is appropriately documented. Be aware that we may even need to jump into the photo shoot if the winning animal starts to urinate at that moment!

By abiding by the rules provided to you by the State Fair of Virginia, we are all looking forward to continuing the wonderful experience you are accustomed in showing livestock in Virginia.

Sincerely,

Charles C. Broaddus, DVM, PhD, Dip. ACT
State Veterinarian

cc: Glenn Martin, State Fair of Virginia
Carolynn Bissett, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, VDACS Office of Veterinary Services
Scott P. Greiner, PhD, Professor, Extension Animal Scientist