

New Brunswick 4-H Standard Operating Procedures

Provincial Show Vet Check



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Contagious Diseases Information: Guidelines for 4-H Leaders with Livestock Projects

This handout has been created to inform leaders, parents, and exhibitors for the **purpose of the inspections** and to **prevent animals** from *arriving and not passing an inspection*.

It has been determined by the New Brunswick 4-H Show Committee that all animals will be inspected upon arrival to a Provincial 4-H show ground.

The animal projects to be inspected by a veterinarian(s) prior to a 4-H Provincial Show include but not limited to the following:

- a) Bovine (beef and dairy cattle)
- b) Poultry and other birds
- c) Ovine (sheep)
- d) Caprine (goats)
- e) Equine (horse)
- f) Rabbits
- g) Canine (dog)

The Executive Director of 4-H will arrange for veterinary inspections months prior to the show by contacting the office of the Chief Veterinary Officer. Show dates should be given when contacting the Chief Veterinary Officer.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are in place for the inspections. There are separate SOPs for those animals who do not pass an inspection, become sick while at a 4-H Provincial Show etc..

Inspections are done to enhance animal health at a co-mingling site. Animals are inspected for evidence of contagious and infectious diseases such as but not limited to warts, ringworm, lice, pinkeye, pneumonia, orf, and strangles.

Should an exhibitor's animal have a condition that is NOT contagious but presents with signs like a contagious disease (e.g., a horse with heaves that is coughing and has a clear runny nose), a veterinary note is recommended to ensure the animal is permitted on the show grounds.

All exhibitors should be prepared in the event their animal does not pass inspection (e.g., give the animal a rest period and trailer the animal back home same day). The New Brunswick Show Committee has arranged for veterinary care should animals get sick at the provincial show. If an exhibitor elects to use veterinary services, costs will be incurred to the owner/person responsible for the animal for the treatment of the animal(s).

4-H Exhibitors:

The goal is to present a positive image of animals to the public by supporting good animal husbandry and welfare practices.

As leaders and exhibitors, animals ideally need to be checked *prior to leaving* the farm before being loaded. Exhibitors that share trailers with other farms need to be aware of the health of the animals already on the trailer (e.g., if there signs of pneumonia in an animal already loaded, it is recommended to not load your animal as there is a potential risk of your animal not passing inspection but worse getting sick and bringing it back to your farm). Work with your veterinarian to establish vaccination programs for your animal(s). Do not bring visibly sick or unthrifty animals to a show.

During the show, provide adequate bedding and plenty of air movement (fans) to keep animals comfortable. Make sure there is always water available and that the animals get the same feed as home. Avoid nose-to-nose contact with animals from other farms and keep wheelbarrows, pitch forks and other equipment clean.

After the show, unload show animals away from home herd and house separately from the rest of the herd for 3-4 weeks and use separate equipment for returning animals. Your work routine should be modified so that returning animals are attended to last and monitor animals for signs of disease such as fever, cough, nasal discharge etc.

Cattle projects:

All cattle entering the show must have a **Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) ear tag**. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) may be present on site to check for proper tagging as this is a federal requirement for animals moving off farm. For dairy projects, the Livestock Premises Identification (LPID) number of where the animal came from and where the animal is going (e.g., show ground should have an LPID number) will need to be recorded in proAction records back at the home farm.

Sheep projects:

All sheep (including lambs) must have an approved **Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) ear tag** before they leave their farm of origin.

Poultry projects:

In New Brunswick, all show birds must have a wing tag and must be vaccinated against Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT). This is legislation and can be found in the *New Brunswick Poultry Health Protection Act*. Arrangements to have birds vaccinated and tagged can be made by calling the Poultry Health Commissioner/Veterinarian at 1-888-547-0014. Check with your local veterinarian as they may also vaccinate and tag your birds. It is important to maintain your show birds' vaccination records which should indicate species of bird, band number, and date of vaccination.

All Animal Projects:

Exhibitors are responsible for examining their animals often at home as they prepare for the show. If an exhibitor has concerns prior to the show, consultation with their veterinarian, and leader is recommended. Sending pictures of your concern to the 4-H Executive Director may also be done.

In the interest of maintaining a high standard of animal health, all animal projects are subject to an inspection *upon arrival*. If there is evidence of an *infectious* or *contagious disease* the owner of the animal shall be required to remove the animal from the premises.

Leaders and 4-H exhibitors should be aware of the *Codes of Practice* for poultry, swine, dairy cattle, beef cattle, horses, sheep, goats, and rabbits. These codes are used to guide farmers and veterinarians on best practices associated with each species. There is a Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (see your local veterinarian) which has information on food, water, animal well-being including common diseases of dogs.

Exhibitors must only bring healthy animals to a show, exhibit etc. The guidelines in this document have been agreed upon by the New Brunswick 4-H Show Council.

What is involved in an inspection?

An inspection involves:

A visual examination of an animal by a veterinarian and running their hands over the animal to assess the animal's physical health status.

When a veterinarian is visually inspecting an animal, they are looking for the following indicators of an infection or contagious disease:

- Discharge from the eyes, nose, or mouth (e.g., nose has a yellow discharge in a nostril)
- Animal is depressed (e.g., ears down, looking dull)
- Coughing, heavy breathing (e.g., considering the temperature and weather of the day)
- Skin lesions (e.g., suggestive of warts or ringworm)

These indicators do not necessarily have to be in any combination (e.g., a cough and a runny nose may occur together in an animal, or an animal may only have a runny nose at the time of inspection).

When a veterinarian is touching an animal, they are looking for signs of disease such as but not limited to ringworm, warts and lice.

Below is a list of diseases to watch for. There are many more diseases and a discussion with your 4-H leader and veterinarian are recommended.

1. Warts

Warts are caused by a virus that is contagious to other cattle.

Action plan:

- a) If warts are detected at home, the exhibitor is responsible for seeking veterinary advice or assistance to remove warts at least 3 weeks prior to the show dates for healing to occur.
- b) Any animal exhibiting more than **3 warts that are bigger than the size of a pea will not pass inspection**. All warts need to be removed.
- c) Animals presented with bleeding (e.g., from a wart that is removed prior to inspection) must have the bleeding stopped within 30 minutes. If the bleeding does not stop, the animal will not pass inspection and not be permitted on the show ground.

2. Ringworm

Ringworm is a highly contagious disease to other animals and to people. Visibly active lesions (crust, *no hair growth in the center of the lesion*) regardless of size of lesion found on an animal will deem the animal unacceptable to enter the show.

Action plan:

- a) Any animal exhibiting visible lesions that have no hair growth, skin is scabby, crusty, or irritated looking will not be permitted to show.



Above are examples of lesions that are unacceptable.



Above is a picture of an animal that has active lesions and would not be permitted to show.

- b) animals that have lesions that are small to moderate in size (<2.5 cm in diameter, the size of a toonie), has hair regrowth occurring within the lesion and the skin is not crusty, scabby, or irritated looking will be permitted to show.



Above are examples of acceptable lesions – hair is growing back, and skin is not crusty looking.



This lesion would be acceptable as there is hair growth in the middle of the lesion.

NOTE: Animals that have had ringworm may be accepted if the ringworm is **NOT ACTIVE**. The treatment for ringworm is effective but lesions can take a long time to heal.

3. Lice

Lice is contagious to other animals. Lice does not affect humans.

Action plan:

- a) Animals will not be accepted at the show if there are visible lice present on the animal.
- b) Seek veterinary advice and or treat as soon as you see lice on your show animal.



Lice present in the hair of a calf.

4. Mange

Mange is also highly contagious to other animals and to people. Animals with mange are extremely itchy and often stamp their feet and swish their tails. The skin may have thick crusts present as mites burrow underneath the skin.

Action plan:

- a) Animals with mange must not be shown.



An image of a cow with mange in the head and neck.



An image of a dairy cow with tailhead mange.

5. Pneumonia

Pneumonia is caused by several different agents (e.g., virus, bacteria, or parasites) and is very contagious to other animals.

Action plan:

- a) Animals with pneumonia must not be at the show.
- b) Signs of pneumonia in an animal may be but not limited to a fever, runny nose, cough, lethargy, depression, wet around the breast area (with rabbits and birds) and not milking or laying eggs.



An image of a calf with pneumonia.

6. Pinkeye

Action plan:

- a) Animals with pinkeye must not be shown.



An image of a cow with a runny eye suggestive of pinkeye.

7. Lameness

Action plan:

- a) Animals that have an obvious lameness (non-weight bearing) must not be shown due to welfare issues (e.g., lameness of an animal indicates pain and an animal in pain should not be made to walk or be trailered to a show).
- b) If the lameness is obvious to the public, then the animal should not be in the show ring.
- c) If an exhibitor is concerned about lameness in their animal, they should contact their veterinarian.
- d) The 4-H Show Committee reserves the right to check the lame animal before it goes in the show ring as weight bearing lameness may be acceptable depending on the circumstances (e.g., a fall in the trailer may deem the animal sore but with rest the animal is fine to walk).

8. Orf

Orf or sore mouth infection, pustular dermatitis, scabby mouth is a viral infection found primarily in sheep and goats and can be transmitted to people.

Action plan:

- a) Since it is a highly contagious disease, animals who exhibit symptoms of “orf” will not be permitted to show.



An image of a goat with orf.

9. Strangles

Strangles is a highly contagious bacterial infection of equine.

Action plan:

- a) Horses with signs suggestive of strangles (discharge from nose, enlarged lymph nodes around face and under chin, depressed) must not be shown.
- b) A clear to white discharge *may* be acceptable, but a discharge that is yellow to green in colour will not pass inspection.
- c) An animal with a nasal discharge without swelling around the face will be examined closely.



An image of a horse with swollen lymph nodes around face (inside the red circle).



An image of a horse with a runny nose.

10. Diarrhea

Diarrhea can be caused by many agents (e.g., virus, bacterial or parasite) and even with changes to feed (nutritional diarrhea). It is important to watch for changes in your animal's attitude (e.g., becomes depressed, not eating), blood in the diarrhea etc.

Action plan:

- a) Contact your veterinarian for advice if needed.
- b) Animals showing signs of diarrhea *with other symptoms* such as dehydration, pale gums, weakness etc., must not be shown.



An image of a calf with diarrhea.

A checklist for exhibitors with animal projects:

It is important to understand that infections and contagious diseases will impact animals co-mingling at shows and sick animals need to be identified and treated prior to show day.

Animals should be checked daily starting at least 3 weeks before the show. It may be beneficial to an exhibitor to use a calendar while performing checks to better identify when issues start.

Routine checks by exhibitors include:

- 1) Check the skin/hair/fur/feathers of your animal daily for evidence of warts, ringworm, lice etc.
- 2) Check to ensure the animal is eating and drinking normally and if decreased then investigate the cause (e.g., take a temperature of your animal).
- 3) Check the eyes and nose of your animal daily for any discharge.
- 4) Check for a cough, heavy breathing.
- 5) Check for manure consistency, is the manure normal looking for your animal?

Talk to your veterinarian regarding vaccinations, biosecurity and other preventative tools which could be used to prevent or reduce signs and symptoms of diseases, thus allowing your animal to be shown on show day.

Standard Operating Procedure: 4-H Inspections by Veterinarians at Provincial Show

Title	Standard Operating Procedure for 4-H inspections by veterinarians at provincial shows
Owner of SOP	NB 4-H Show Committee
Purpose	Clearly define the process involved with inspections to ensure inspections are done consistently each year.
Roles and Responsibilities	<p>4-H</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4-H Executive Director will arrange with the office of the Chief Veterinary Officer in early winter for veterinary support to conduct inspections in the summer. 2. Will meet with the Provincial Veterinary Service to review all 4-H show documents. 3. Will provide two (2) 4-H show committee representatives to work with the veterinarians during the inspections 4. Will confirm timing for the inspections (e.g., 10-4pm for Friday). <p>Provincial Veterinary Service</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Office of the Chief Veterinary Office will meet with 4-H Executive Director to determine dates/time and availability of staff for provincial show 2. Will provide staff for the show once dates/time and location have been determined 3. Agrees to meet annually with the 4-H director to review all show documents
Supporting documents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for 4-H Inspections by Veterinarians at Provincial Shows (this document) 2. Veterinary Checklist to be used for each animal inspected. 3. Livestock Veterinary Checklist provided by 4-H with exhibitor's name, animal name, animal date of birth etc. 4. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Animals who FAIL an inspection at a 4-H provincial show. 5. Guidelines for Provincial Veterinarians performing 4-H inspections document 6. Guidelines for 4-H leaders with livestock projects document. 5. A DOT.VET invoice will be submitted to the Executive 4-H Director at the end of the inspections with a summary of activities and concerns.
Inspections details	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All animal projects will be inspected. 2. All animals will be inspected prior to entry into designated barn or holding facility. 3. Inspections will be conducted <i>outside of livestock trailers</i> in the area behind the trailer. 4. NB 4-H will have 2 volunteers to direct traffic and trailers and 2 4-H Show Committee members assisting the veterinarian(s).

5. The driver will stay with the truck and trailer.
6. The 4-H member (exhibitor) showing their animal will be present for the inspection.
4. Inspections will be visual/visual with touch depending on the animal species (e.g., small, caged animals such as birds may only get a visual inspection to avoid the animal getting loose).
5. 2 documents are required at each inspection:
 - a) **Veterinary Checklist** used by veterinarians to record findings of an inspection
 - b) **Livestock 4-H Veterinary Check list** with exhibitor name, animal name etc.
6. Clip boards/pencils and other related supplies will need to be present for the inspections.
7. Inspections will be conducted on *Day 1* of the provincial show between *10 am and 6 pm*.
8. Inspections will be done on a first come first serve basis.
9. Inspections will be done by 1-2 veterinarians and 1-2 4-H show committee representatives who will transcribe findings of each inspection. Only 1 veterinarian will check each animal at a time but if there are 2 veterinarians then both veterinarians can work in tandem to ensure the process is efficient. Veterinarians reserve the right to consult one another depending on the circumstances and make decisions in consultation.
10. Results of the inspection will be communicated to the exhibitor by the 4-H show committee representative. If an animal fails the inspection, the 4-H show committee member will relay the results and have a veterinarian present to explain the reasons and findings.
11. Animals that do not pass inspection may undergo further workup and will follow the SOP for animals who fail an inspection at a 4-H provincial show.

**Standard Operating Procedure: Animals Exposed to a Condition of Concern
Upon Arrival but NOT Showing Signs of a Disease**

Title	Standard Operating Procedure to deal with animal(s) on a trailer exposed to a condition of concern upon arrival and NOT showing signs of a disease.
Owner of SOP	NB 4-H Show Committee
Purpose	Clearly define the process involved with an animal(s) exposed to a condition of concern upon arrival
Roles and Responsibilities	<p>4-H</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define the conditions of concern such as ringworm, pneumonia, pinkeye, lice etc. 2. Any animal exposed to a condition of concern may be unloaded if <i>they</i> are not showing symptoms of a contagious or infectious disease. 3. The animal exposed will be monitored daily by a member of the 4-H Show Committee who may consult a veterinarian if there are concerns. 4. The exposed animal may not be shown if symptoms of a contagious disease or infection appear or the animal shows signs of sickness. 5. A member of the committee may provide information or products to use on the animal that is being monitored. <p>Provincial Veterinary Service</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the 4-H SOP 2. Provide veterinary service if requested which may include an invoice to 4-H or to an owner/person responsible for the animal seeking veterinary attention.

Standard Operating Procedure: Animals who FAIL and Inspection at a 4-H Provincial Show

Title	Standard Operating Procedure for Animals who fail an inspection at a 4-H provincial show
Owner of SOP	NB 4-H Show Committee
Purpose	Clearly define the process involved when an animal fails an inspection and can not show
Roles and Responsibilities	<p>4-H</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will create an SOP for these animals 2. Will inform members of the SOP, have each member be prepared 3. Will confirm with the Provincial Veterinary Services the criteria for an inspection (type and what is acceptable and not acceptable) 4. Will provide documents to veterinarians for recording inspection findings (Veterinary Checklist) 5. Will provide document to the veterinarians of exhibitor name, animal name etc. (Livestock Veterinary Checklist) 6. Will provide 1-2 members of the 4-H show Committee to assist the veterinarians for the inspection and transcribe findings and assist veterinarian with communicating the findings to the exhibitor. <p>Provincial Veterinary Service</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will provide veterinarians for an inspection 2. Will conduct an inspection in the manner agreed upon by the 4-H show committee 3. Will provide results of the inspection to the exhibitor along with a 4-H show committee representative
Failed Inspection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An animal who fails an inspection must have reasons and these reasons must be presented to the exhibitor by the 4-H show committee representative and a veterinarian 2. a contingency plan for this animal must be in place prior to the show. <p><i>A contingency plan may include:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Member can park trailer in the shade and allow animal to have a 2-hour rest period before removing animal from the show ground. b) Before the animal leaves the show ground, the owner may elect treatment. If treatment is provided by the attending veterinarian(s), an invoice will be presented to the owner/person

	<p>responsible for the animal to cover veterinary costs associated with treatment.</p> <p>c) if the owner is not a client of the Provincial Veterinary Service, a temporary VCPR may be established for this issue only and must be communicated to the person at the time of treatment and be recorded on the SR left with the owner.</p>
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Standard Operating Procedure: Animals who get sick while on the grounds of the 4-H Provincial Show

Title	Standard Operating Procedure for animals who get sick while on the grounds of the 4-H provincial show
Owner of SOP	NB 4-H Show Committee
Purpose	Clearly define the process involved when an animal gets sick while at the show
Roles and Responsibilities	<p>4-H</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine if the Provincial Veterinary Service is available to offer services during the period of the provincial show 2. if services can be provided, inform membership that veterinary services will be offered should an exhibitor require this 3. If services can not be provided, inform membership and create a contingency plan. A Contingency plan may include, but not limited to having the animal trailer back home after a rest period. 4. Let staff of the show grounds know that there was a sick animal on the grounds so that proper biosecurity steps (cleaning and disinfecting) may be done for the area where the sick animal(s) was kept. <p>Provincial Veterinary Services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide veterinary service if veterinarians are available. 2. Create a temporary VCPR with a non-client of the veterinary service if needed and communicate the temporary VCPR in the SR and orally. 3. A separate SR will be created for the owner of the sick animal. The owner will expect to receive an invoice and make payment to the Provincial Veterinary Service upon completion of the service.