

RECORD KEEPING BASICS

Records are extremely important in the case of an animal health emergency and are used by both fairs and by government agencies to notify exhibitors and track animals. While many records are not required to be kept, below are some helpful tips for keeping good records.

Who should keep records?

- Fair species superintendent could be responsible for their area
- Exhibitors should have a record on each individual animal that they show

Why is it important?

- Allows those in attendance to be personally contacted in case of a disease outbreak
- Without records, only broad announcements can be made, which may miss certain populations who may be at risk
- Allows identification and trace back for animal populations

What do you keep records on?

- Animal's official ID number
- Owner's name, address and telephone number
- Collect a copy of all equine Coggins test result charts
- Any livestock buyer's name, address, and telephone number

Where should records be kept?

- Records should be kept in a secure place that can be accessed quickly by the superintendent

What are some common diseases where these records would be used?

EHV/EHM: Equine Herpesvirus (EHV) Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) has occurred after horse events. This is a serious, and quite often fatal, disease that cannot be prevented by vaccination. Horse owners need to be alerted to such a disease so that they can isolate the horses that were at the event and to monitor them thoroughly for several days. If a horse shows early signs of the disease, a veterinarian can be contacted to provide medical care to ensure the best outcome.

Swine Influenza: In Michigan, some fairs have had to address swine influenza cases at their events. Swine influenza can affect animals and people. In the event of a confirmed case of swine influenza, the fair and their partners will work to notify anyone who may have had contact with the affected pig. This could include everyone from exhibitors to purchasers to slaughter plant workers. Knowing where each pig went and who is connected to each exhibited animal can make these notifications more efficient.