

Memorandum

TO: Accredited Veterinarians
Exhibitors and Show Inspectors

FROM: CT Dr. Jane Lewis NH Dr. Stephen K. Crawford
MA Dr. Lorraine O'Connor RI Dr. Scott Marshall
ME Dr. Stephanie Bolas VT Dr. Kristin M. Haas

SUBJECT: Livestock Health Certificates for the 2024 Show Season
DATE: January 24, 2024

Special Notices:

Due to the continuing US outbreak of **High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI)**, Animal Health Officials from all six New England States may recommend postponing competitions, exhibitions, shows, swaps or other in-person events encouraging the gathering or commingling of domestic fowl or poultry. If events are held, best practices for biosecurity should be implemented.

Contact the state where animals will be exhibited for the latest updated information.

Currently an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) is required for each state for every animal movement across state lines. Animals crossing state lines must be properly (officially) identified per federal and state Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) requirements. Each state to which an animal travels needs to be contacted to verify that all traceability and movement permit requirements are met before shipping.

Recognizing that during the agricultural and fair and show season exhibition animals may be moving to multiple states and locations within a state, the New England state veterinarians, working through the New England States Animal Agricultural Security Alliance (NESAASA), have developed a new protocol to facilitate animal movement. The New England State Veterinarians have agreed to allow a show/fair certificate to be valid for the show season provided that they are in compliance with all federal and state ADT rules.

One Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) may be allowed for animals of the same species to be exhibited at fairs or shows in any of the New England states (CT, *ME, MA, **NH, RI and *VT) when submitted with an itinerary of the dates and location of the events at which the listed animals are expected to be shown. Only animals that are healthy at the time of shipment may be moved.** Note that *ME, **NH and ***VT have additional requirements. Certificates of veterinary inspection in these states are valid for a shorter period of time and may have additional language, movement and permit requirements. See details below.

- For the 2024 Show and Fair Season, livestock animals being exhibited in New England states must have official certificates of veterinary inspection (OCVIs) that meet the following requirements:
- **CT, MA, ME and RI:** OCVIs issued on or after **January 1, 2024** may be used for animals being shown at fairs and shows in CT, MA, ME and RI through the 2024 show/fair season ending October 31, 2024.
 - **Special Note on The Big E, West Springfield, MA:** All bovines must have official USDA RFID tags.
- ***CT and ME:** An importation permit for exhibition animals is also required. Contact CT Dept. Agriculture (860-713-2504) or contact ME State Veterinarian's Office (207-287-3701) for permits/questions.
- ****NH:** Animals exhibited in NH must originate in a New England state and move on OCVIs issued on or after **April 1, 2024** to participating NH fairs and shows from July 1 to October 31, 2024. Contact NH State Veterinarian's Office (603-271-2404) for details and permits.
- *****VT:** The fair season is defined as May 1 to October 31, 2024. Contact the VT Animal Health Office (802-828-2421) for specific import requirements and permits.
- A single OCVI from the animals' home state may be completed for travel to and from the New England states in which the animals will be exhibited.
- Multiple animals of the same species may be listed on one health certificate with appropriate individual IDs and descriptions. Animals of different species may not be listed on the same official health certificate.
- **An itinerary of the names and locations for each New England fair or show at which the owner expects to show the listed animals and the dates when each animal is expected to be on each site, must be prepared by the owner and presented to the veterinarian at the time the OCVI is written.**
 - **A copy of this planned itinerary must be attached to the official health certificate (import and export) for it to be used for more than one fair or show.**
 - That proposed list should be signed by the veterinarian and the owner/exhibitor and reference the relevant OCVI number(s).
- The name and address of the first show or fair where the listed animals will be exhibited is to be used as the "destination" on the OCVI form. In addition, "See attached list" or a similar statement directing Animal Health Officials or Fair Inspectors to the attached proposed itinerary must be included.
- Exhibitors must keep an accurate list of the show locations and dates when their animals were actually on the show/fairgrounds. This record must be available to fair inspectors at each inspection and check-in.
- Any animal listed on an OCVI that becomes sick must remain home. If the animal is refused entry to any exhibition during 2024 for health reasons it must have a new health certificate issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days of the next interstate movement.
- Any New England state may end their participation in this agreement and revert to the standard published requirements for livestock imports in the state at any time, in the event of foreign animal disease outbreak or changes to state legislation.

Remember: One certificate for shows in CT, MA, ME, NH, RI and VT. Contact each state for specific requirements. Import permits are issued by each individual state and must be listed on the OCVI. **The list of events, with dates and locations, where the animals are expected to be shown must accompany the OCVI.** Use one certificate per species. All animals must be listed individually, with appropriate official numbers and descriptions.

Sick animals may not be shipped anywhere.

Please contact the destination state for import/exhibition permits or with any questions about movement requirements:

CT	860-713-2504	NH	603-271-2404
MA	857-348-3922	RI	401-222-2781 ext. 2774515
ME	207-287-3701	VT	802-828-2421