



Show Safety

Leaving the farm raises your disease exposure risk. Check off these habits to protect your animals at shows and exhibitions.

- ☐ **Assess Show Risks:** Only show animals that have been vaccinated and that are in peak health, and skip events with any disease risk.
- ☐ **Review Event Rules:** Check the show's biosecurity plan before you arrive.
- ☐ **Bring Your Own Feed and Gear:** Pack your own feed, gear, and supplies; avoid sharing with other exhibitors.
- ☐ **Plan to Protect:** Bring sanitizers to clean your stalls and use solid boards between pens prevent nose-to-nose contact with neighbors.
- ☐ **Wash Your Rig:** Clean and disinfect your vehicle and trailer tires (a car wash is ideal) before heading to the farm.
- ☐ **Quarantine Diligently:** Isolate returning show animals away from your home herd.

Foreign Animal Diseases & Outbreaks

Heritage breeds aren't immune to contagious disease. Use these final steps to prepare for worst-case scenarios.

- ☐ **Document Your Defense:** Write a custom biosecurity plan.
- ☐ **Track Health Histories:** Keep a permanent record of diseases, treatments, vaccination numbers, and vet visits.
- ☐ **Lock Down When Necessary:** Confine stock during high-risk periods and report suspected outbreaks to your state Department of Agriculture.
- ☐ **Post Your Protocols:** Hang biosecurity signs where they're clearly visible in your barn or near pens.
- ☐ **Halt Animal Purchases:** Don't buy new animals or birds during a known regional outbreak.
- ☐ **Connect:** Talk with your veterinarian and extension agent and let them know you have rare breeds and a biosecurity plan.



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Biosecurity Checklist

Identifying Health Risks to Heritage Livestock Breeds



**THE LIVESTOCK
CONSERVANCY™**

Protecting Your Heritage Breeds

Every farm plays a part in keeping rare breeds strong — farm size doesn't guarantee protection from disease. A biosecurity plan reduces accidental exposure and protects valuable genetics.

Why You Need a Biosecurity Plan

A biosecurity plan does more than prevent disease, it lets you demonstrate an absence of risk.

- **Proactive Disease Prevention:** Stops pathogens before they reach your animals.
- **Safeguarding Rare Genetics:** Reduces exposure risk to help preserve rare, endangered heritage genetics.



What are the Risks?

Disease-causing pathogens spread across your farm through several common pathways:

- **Direct & Indirect Contact:** Shared pens, water troughs, or infected pastures.
- **Aerosol:** Sneezes and coughs.
- **Vectors:** Wild birds, rodents, insects, and humans.
- **Contamination:** Dirty boots, clothing, shared equipment, and vehicles.



The Power of Prevention

Prevention is your most cost-effective defense against disease. Check off these foundational steps to protect your farm.

- ☐ **Secure Feed and Water:** Use sealed containers and indoor setups to block wildlife access.
- ☐ **Fence Off Waterways:** Keep livestock and poultry away from natural ponds and streams.
- ☐ **Control Farm Pests:** Manage rodents, birds, predators, and insects that may harm your animals.
- ☐ **Restrict Pet Access:** Keep free-roaming dogs and cats away from vulnerable stock.
- ☐ **Lock Down Equipment:** Stop sharing tools and strictly disinfect any used or shared gear.
- ☐ **Separate Species:** House different livestock types separately to stop cross-infection.
- ☐ **Close Your Herd or Flock:** Limit the introduction of new animals to your herd.
- ☐ **Source Quality Genetics:** Buy only healthy animals from reputable, certified breeders.

Daily Habits

A strong defense relies on simple daily habits. Use your chores to observe animals closely and stop pathogens in their tracks.

- ☐ **Dedicated Gear:** Wear farm-only clothes and footwear. Wash clothing after tending sick animals.
- ☐ **Observe Your Herd:** Learn to quickly spot the difference between normal, stressed, and sick animals.
- ☐ **Don't Mix Too Quick:** Quarantine new animals before introducing them to your herd or flock.
- ☐ **Plan Your Path:** Tend to healthy young animals first, then healthy adults. Save sick or quarantined animals for last.
- ☐ **Keep It Clean:** Routinely clean equipment, pens, troughs, and high traffic areas.
- ☐ **Track Traffic:** Limit visits to and visitors from other farms. Diseases travel on hands, boots and clothes.

