

Tips for Keeping Healthy During Show Season



Many cattle are exhibited during the fall cattle shows. For some producers, showing cattle is how their farm and livestock are advertised. It is a prime opportunity to see the best of the breeds, acquire new stock and participate in friendly competition.

Extra care and attention by the exhibitors is required to prevent illness due to stress or co-mingling. Water, feed, rest, exercise, grooming and weather are just a few of the many considerations taken into account to ensure the needs of the animals are met and that they look their best come show day.

Months of work spent halter breaking, feeding, grooming and caring for these animals can be shattered by one bad batch of feed, a sick animal, a trailering accident or an abrupt noise causing an animal to panic. What should a member of the public do if a show animal gets loose? Avoid chasing or yelling at the animal, no use of sirens, as all of these will cause added stress. People familiar to the animal should pursue the animal calmly. Always let professionals handle unruly or frightened livestock.

Vaccinating livestock well in advance of travel and having a discussion with your veterinarian about the show season can help prevent issues. If livestock are sold out of country, they may need export certificates and testing completed before their departure.

Whether showing, selling or buying livestock, being able to obtain insurance for investments into the herd is important. No one wants to see a \$20,000 animal lost, but it's even worse when there is no insurance.

Animal Welfare is always at the forefront any time producers are working with livestock. Treating animals well, keeping them healthy and low-stress handling all add up to happier animals and more profits in the producer's pocket.

