

AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT[21]

Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 21—Chapter 59
“Exhibition Requirements”

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 163.2A

State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code chapter 163

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

July 29, 2026
10 to 11 a.m.

Borlaug Conference Room (H516)
Hoover State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

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Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Email: colin.tadlock@iowaagriculture.gov

Purpose and Summary

The purpose of this proposed rulemaking is to clarify, consolidate, and update rules for the exhibition of animals in Iowa at exhibitions, demonstrations, shows, competitions, and fairs. Rules related to exhibition of animals were previously found in several chapters. This rulemaking organizes all exhibition rules for all animals into one chapter.

Analysis of Impact

1. **Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:**

● **Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:**

Persons exhibiting animals as well as the exhibitions in the State of Iowa will bear the costs.

● **Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:**

Persons who own animals in the State of Iowa, agricultural producers, animal exhibitors, and the general public will benefit from the proposed rulemaking. The exhibition requirements ensure that animals exhibited are healthy and free from infectious, contagious, and communicable diseases, which prevents the spread of disease and provides a safer environment for all exhibitors to participate in.

2. **Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:**

● **Quantitative description of impact:**

Exhibitors will incur costs to identify their animals, to have appropriate testing prior to exhibition, and to obtain a certificate of veterinary inspection for their animals prior to exhibition when

applicable. Some classes of exhibitors are exempt from obtaining a certificate of veterinary inspection. Exhibitions will have to pay a veterinarian to supervise the health of the animals at the exhibition.

- **Qualitative description of impact:**

The rules create uniform animal health requirements at exhibitions that are public events, ensuring the health of exhibited animals, the animals of Iowa, and the people of Iowa. Mandatory identification allows for traceability of animals in the case of a disease outbreak. The requirements for cleaning and sanitation also keep animals healthy.

3. **Costs to the State:**

- **Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:**

Departmental costs are minimal. Minor staff costs will occur with the review of poultry and swine exhibitions and swine exhibition reporting. Enforcement will fall to the Department, but with all exhibitor requirements being consolidated into one chapter, compliance will also be improved.

- **Anticipated effect on State revenues:**

There is no anticipated effect on State revenues.

4. **Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:**

Inaction leaves these rules in multiple locations with outdated requirements. By consolidating all rules related to exhibitions into one location, this rulemaking provides an improved compliance outcome and increases efficiency. The proposed rulemaking also provides efficiencies for animal traceability in the event of a disease outbreak that could otherwise lead to severe economic and trade implications for agriculture in Iowa.

5. **Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:**

The proposed rulemaking provides the most efficient and reasonable requirements for exhibitions that adequately ensure the health of exhibited animals and animals within Iowa. No less costly or less intrusive methods exist that would effectively ensure the health of animals exhibited in Iowa.

6. **Alternative methods considered by the agency:**

- **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

The Department considered retaining the current rules with these provisions located throughout rather than providing more concise and consistent direction on exhibition requirements.

- **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

The current rule scheme, with scattered rules, has led to confusion for those exhibiting animals, especially for exhibitions that include multiple species. This rulemaking provides reasonable and consistent requirements that provide necessary disease traceability.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

- Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.

- Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

- Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.

- Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.

- Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

The proposed rulemaking does not pose any substantial impact on small business. By consolidating the rules into one location, compliance is more likely to be achieved because the requirements are more easily discernable. Exemptions previously provided in rule for certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs) for 4-H and FFA exhibitors at county fairs are maintained in this rulemaking and balance the burden on younger exhibitors while still ensuring the health of animals at those exhibitions. Digital registration and reporting for exhibitions reduces paper and costs.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Adopt the following **new** 21—Chapter 59:

CHAPTER 59
EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS

21—59.1(163) Definitions.

“Animal” means any nonhuman vertebrate of the kingdom Animalia.

“Cervid” means all animals belonging to the Cervidae family.

“CWD monitored herd” means a herd of cervids enrolled in the chronic wasting disease herd certification program, as defined by 9 CFR Part 55, dated February 8, 2002, as one-year, two-year, three-year, four-year and five-year monitored herds in accordance with the time in years such herds have been in compliance with the chronic wasting disease herd certification program.

“Exhibition” means an exhibit, demonstration, show or competition involving an event on the state fairgrounds, a county fair or another exhibition event.

“Foreign animal disease” means diseases of animals not known to exist in the United States.

“Livestock” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 717.1.

“NAHLN laboratory” means an approved diagnostic laboratory participating in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

“Official electronic identification” means a nationally unique identification tag approved by the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) that is permanently associated with an animal bearing the U.S. shield and that must be visually and electronically readable.

“Official veterinarian” means a licensed and accredited veterinarian retained by the exhibition who is responsible for the inspection of animals for disease, verifying certificates of veterinary inspection and overseeing animal health during the exhibition.

“Poultry” means chickens, turkeys, domestic waterfowl, domestic game birds, ratites and exhibition birds, excluding doves and pigeons.

“Poultry exhibition” means an exhibition, demonstration, show, competition, sale, swap meet, flea market or live bird market involving poultry.

“Swine exhibition” means an exhibit, demonstration, show or competition involving an event on the state fairgrounds, a county fair or another exhibition event involving swine.

21—59.2(163) Health requirements for exhibition of animals.

59.2(1) General requirements.

a. Animals must not originate from an area under quarantine.

b. All animals originating from out of state must meet the state of Iowa’s import requirements as outlined in 21—Chapter 65.

59.2(2) Certificate of veterinary inspection. Animals are not eligible for exhibition until the owner or agent presents an official certificate of veterinary inspection unless otherwise exempt by these rules. No certificate of veterinary inspection will be required on livestock, poultry and birds exhibited at a county 4-H or FFA show.

a. The certificate of veterinary inspection must be issued by a licensed and accredited veterinarian prior to entry into the show as indicated below.

(1) Swine within seven days prior to the date of entry into the exhibition grounds.

(2) Sheep within 14 days prior to the date of entry into the exhibition grounds.

(3) All animals, except swine and sheep, within 30 days prior to the entry into the exhibition grounds.

b. The certificate of veterinary inspection must indicate that the veterinarian has inspected the animals and any nurse stock that accompany them, the date inspected and that they are apparently free from symptoms of any infectious, contagious or communicable disease.

c. Any evidence of any infectious, contagious or communicable disease, including but not limited to warts, ringworm (club lamb fungus), draining abscesses, footrot, sore mouth or pink eye, shall eliminate the animal from the show.

d. Individual official identification must be listed on the certificate of veterinary inspection unless otherwise exempted.

e. Individual certificates of veterinary inspection will not be required in certain classes if the division superintendent for the exhibition has made prior arrangements with the official veterinarian and state veterinarian to have all animals inspected on arrival.

59.2(3) *Official veterinarian.*

a. The state fair must have an official veterinarian.

b. County fairs and other exhibitions must have an official veterinarian who will inspect all livestock, poultry and birds when they are unloaded or shortly thereafter.

59.2(4) *Removal from fair or exhibition.* The official veterinarian in charge shall order that any animals found to be infected with any infectious, contagious or communicable disease are to be immediately isolated from the remainder of the animals until such time the infected animal(s) can be removed from the fair or exhibition. The state veterinarian must be notified immediately upon any suspicion of a reportable or foreign animal disease as defined in rule 21—64.1(163), and all animals afflicted with or exposed to suspected foreign animal disease must be isolated.

59.2(5) *Disinfection.*

a. *State fair—disinfection of livestock quarters.* It shall be the duty of the livestock superintendents under the authority of the chief of the division of animal industry to supervise the disinfection of all buildings, stalls and pens at the state fairgrounds just prior to the opening of such fair and in between shows.

b. *County fairs and other exhibitions—disinfection of livestock quarters.* It shall be the duty of all secretaries of all county fairs or exhibitions of livestock or livestock superintendents in the state of Iowa, at exhibitions other than the state fair, to supervise the disinfecting of all buildings, stalls and pens prior to the opening of such county fair or exhibition of livestock and in between shows.

59.2(6) *Cattle.*

a. *Individual identification.* All cattle intended for exhibition shall have individual official identification. Acceptable forms of official individual identification include a USDA APHIS-approved electronic identification tag bearing the U.S. shield or a purebred registry tattoo if the certificate of veterinary inspection is accompanied with registration papers that show the purebred registry tattoo.

b. *Certificate of veterinary inspection.* All cattle intended for exhibition shall be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection that lists individual official identification.

c. *Out of state.* All cattle originating from out of state must meet the state of Iowa's import requirements as outlined in 21—Chapter 65.

59.2(7) *Swine.*

a. *Individual identification.* All swine intended for exhibition shall have individual official electronic identification.

b. *Certificate of veterinary inspection.*

(1) All swine intended for exhibition shall be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection that lists individual official electronic identification.

(2) All swine shall be inspected again upon arrival at the exhibition site and before the swine are unloaded or leave a designated and isolated inspection area.

(3) Biosecurity and sanitary practices shall be implemented for all inspections.

c. Pseudorabies testing. Swine originating outside Iowa must have a negative test for pseudorabies within 30 days prior to the show. Test results must be listed on the certificate of veterinary inspection. Individual show regulations may have more restrictive time restrictions.

d. Out of state. All swine originating from out of state must meet the state of Iowa's import requirements outlined in 21—Chapter 65.

e. Registration of swine exhibitions. All exhibitions that include the exhibition of swine must be registered with and approved by the state veterinarian at least 30 days prior to the exhibition. The sponsor must electronically file the approved registration form. The registration form includes the name of the exhibition and the physical address, telephone number and premises identification number of its location; the name, physical address and telephone number of the veterinarian; and the date(s) of the exhibition. Sales of swine will not be allowed unless the event has been registered with and received approval from the state veterinarian at least 30 days prior to the event.

f. Swine exhibition report required. The sponsor of the swine exhibition shall electronically submit to the department the approved report form within five business days after the conclusion of the exhibition. The form includes the following:

(1) Name of the exhibition and the physical address, telephone number and premises identification number of its location;

(2) Name, physical address and telephone number of the veterinarian;

(3) Date(s) that the exhibition occurred;

(4) Name, physical address, telephone number and premises identification number of the owner of the swine, if different than the premises of origin;

(5) Name, physical address and telephone number of the premises of origin and the physical address, telephone number and premises identification number of the premises from which the swine was moved after the exhibition if such premises is a different premises; and

(6) Official electronic identification.

g. Inspection of swine. The sponsor of the exhibition must retain an Iowa licensed and accredited veterinarian to supervise the health of the swine at the exhibition location.

59.2(8) Sheep and goats.

a. Individual identification. All sheep and goats intended for exhibition shall be individually identified.

(1) Sheep. All sexually intact sheep and wethers 18 months of age and older must be identified with an individual scrapie flock of origin identification tag, and this number must be listed on the certificate of veterinary inspection.

(2) Goats. All sexually intact goats and wethers 18 months of age and over must be identified with an individual scrapie flock of origin identification tag or by an official registered tattoo, and one of these numbers must be listed on the certificate of veterinary inspection. The certificate of veterinary inspection must be accompanied by the registered tattoo paperwork.

b. Certificate of veterinary inspection. All sheep and goats intended for exhibition shall be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection that lists individual identification.

c. Out of state. All sheep and goats originating from out of state must meet the state of Iowa's import requirements outlined in 21—Chapter 65.

59.2(9) Horses and mules. All horses and mules intended for exhibition shall be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection that lists a description that includes name, age, breed, sex, color and distinctive markings, or in lieu of color and distinctive markings, digital photographs sufficient to identify the individual equine (pictures of front and both sides), and may include unique permanent forms of identification if available (tattoos, microchips, brands). All horses and mules originating from out of state must meet the state of Iowa's import requirements outlined in 21—Chapter 65.

59.2(10) Poultry and birds.

a. Certificate of veterinary inspection. All poultry and birds intended for exhibition shall be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection.

b. Testing. All poultry and birds exhibited must come from U.S. pullorum-typhoid clean or equivalent flocks or have had a negative pullorum-typhoid test performed within 90 days of the exhibition by an authorized tester or a licensed and accredited veterinarian. Approved test results must accompany the poultry and birds. An approved certificate verifying this status shall accompany the exhibit.

c. Registration of poultry exhibitions/sales. All exhibitions and sales that include the exhibition or sale of poultry must be registered with and approved by the state veterinarian at least 30 days prior to the exhibition. The sponsor must electronically file the approved registration form. The registration form includes:

(1) Name of the exhibition and the physical address, telephone number and premises identification number of its location.

(2) Name, physical address and telephone number of the veterinarian.

(3) Name and tester number of the pullorum-typhoid tester.

(4) Date(s) of the exhibition.

d. Inspection of poultry. A licensed and accredited veterinarian shall inspect all poultry on the premises of the poultry exhibition, show or sale on the day of the activity to ensure poultry are free of infectious, contagious or communicable disease. All poultry showing signs of any infectious, contagious or communicable disease shall be removed from the premises immediately. The state veterinarian must be notified immediately upon any suspicion of a reportable or foreign animal disease as defined in rule 21—64.1(163), and all animals afflicted with or exposed to suspected foreign animal disease must be isolated.

e. Sales. The sale of poultry will not be allowed at unregulated facilities or events, including but not limited to flea markets, swap meets and live bird markets, unless such facilities or events have been registered with and approved by the state veterinarian at least 30 days prior to the event.

f. Out of state. All poultry and birds originating from out of state must meet the state of Iowa's import requirements outlined in 21—Chapter 65.

59.2(11) Dogs and cats. Dogs and cats exhibited must have current, official rabies vaccination certificates. A certificate of veterinary inspection is not required for in-state dogs and cats. All dogs and cats originating from out of state must meet the state of Iowa's import requirements outlined in 21—Chapter 65.

59.2(12) Cervids.

a. Individual identification. All cervids intended for exhibition shall have individual official identification.

b. Certificate of veterinary inspection. All cervids intended for exhibition shall be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection listing individual official identification.

c. Chronic wasting disease. All cervids intended for exhibition shall originate from a CWD monitored herd that has been enrolled in the program for at least one year. All cervids must have been kept for at least one year or have been natural additions.

d. Out of state. All cervids originating from out of state must meet the state of Iowa's import requirements outlined in 21—Chapter 65.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 163.1 and 163.14.