

Hello Potential 4-H State Fair Rabbit Exhibitor-

As many of you are aware, Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Type 2 (RHDV-2) has been identified in the southern and western states in the United States. The State Veterinarian, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA), Nebraska 4-H, and the Nebraska State Fair are in on-going communication to determine how this disease will impact the 4-H State Fair Rabbit Show.

At this time, RHDV-2 has not been diagnosed in Nebraska; we will continue to watch closely for any cases and stay updated with the NDA. The NDA is also collaborating and staying in close contact with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to increase awareness and surveillance if needed should the NDA receive any reports indicating an increase in deaths in our wild rabbit populations in the state.

With the increased concern of RHDV-2, **all 4-H rabbits exhibiting at the 2020 Nebraska State Fair must have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) within 15 days of exhibition.** The CVI must list the Nebraska State Fair as consignee and will need to have the official identification (ear tattoo) listed on all rabbits being exhibited during the State Fair. The health papers will be checked by a representative of the State Veterinarian's Office.

Each CVI must:

- a. Be issued by an accredited licensed veterinarian.
- b. Show name and address of owner or exhibitor.
- c. Show that the rabbit does not have signs of RHDV-2.

The NDA has created a link for rabbit owners to review information, guidance, and links for public knowledge to increase awareness and provide guidance regarding this disease.

Link: <https://nda.nebraska.gov/animal/diseases/rhd/index.html>

Additionally, the 2020 State Fair Rabbit Show format will follow the NDA's biosecurity recommendations.

- Exhibitors will arrive the morning of the Rabbit Show (Sunday, August 30) and bring their own carrier(s) to keep their rabbits housed through the morning/afternoon. Rabbits will not be housed on the fairgrounds like they have in the past.
- Exhibitors will show their rabbits and go home after exhibition.
- Bring your own carpet square to place your rabbit on during the show.
- All rabbits should be quarantined for 30 days after returning from the show and all equipment and cages should be sanitized once you return home.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you apprised of any other changes that need to be made. We appreciate your understanding as we work to ensure the health and safety of your rabbit projects. Please let us know if you have questions.



Brandy Schulze

4-H Educational Engagement Coordinator

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

114 Agricultural Hall

Lincoln, NE 68583-0700

402 472 9023

bschulze@unl.edu
