



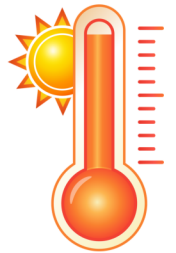
Beat the Heat!



TIPS FOR 4-H EXHIBITORS TO KEEP ANIMALS (& THEMSELVES) SAFE AND HYDRATED!

Take one look at the forecast for the next couple of weeks, and you just might end up sweating as you think about upcoming fair activities! Whether we have animals at home or are heading to the county fair soon, it is important to put our animal's health and hydration at the forefront of our priorities. Keep reading for tips on how to keep your livestock, horses, poultry, rabbits and even yourself safe in these brutal summer temperatures.

Extremely warm temperatures can easily cause **heat stress** in our animals, especially pigs as they are not able to sweat. **Some possible signs of heat stress could include: panting, open-mouth breathing, excessive salivation, lack of coordination, body trembling, inability to stand, and a fever.** Heat stress can cause effects such as: reduced feed intake, weight loss, or even death. The best method of avoiding/reducing heat stress in our animals is to maintain their body temperature. Temperatures over 90 degrees are ultimate cause for heat stress concern, and are considered an "Emergency Stress Index".



It's important to note that many of the actions it takes to get animals to the county fair add additional stress. Taking them to a fair or show with a new environment, a new pen, new water and other factors can add even more stress.

Tips for Transportation

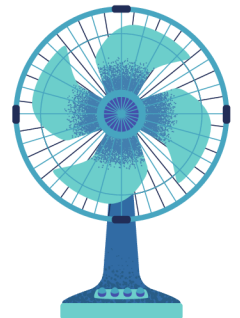
- Always haul animals during the coolest part of the day.
- Make sure animals have been properly hydrated and cooled with water prior to loading on the trailer.
- Use wet bedding in the trailer to provide comfort, but always make sure that there is proper grip to keep animals from slipping and getting injured during transportation. *Avoid using straw bedding, as it acts as an insulator.*
- If you are hauling pigs, consider emptying a bag of ice on top of trailer bedding before departing home.
- DO NOT crowd animals into the trailer. Make more trips with fewer animals if necessary.

Tips for Transportation, Cont.

- Be sure that there is plenty of airflow/ventilation available on the trailer.
- Always remember that calm and slow is best! Whether transporting, loading or moving from pen to wash rack, moving slowly and remaining calm will keep everyone much cooler. Sometimes this means we need to have more people on hand, water sprayers, or sorting panels available.
- **Load and unload animals promptly!** Do not allow animals to sit in a trailer that is not moving for too long. Always load your animals very last, right before departing.

At the Show:

- Check your surroundings upon arriving for: proper shade, access to water (both drinking & misting), and access to electricity.
- You should ALWAYS plan to have a fan setup for your animal if a fan is not already provided. Proper ventilation and airflow is crucial in keeping animals cool.
- If a misting system is not provided, consider investing in a mister that can be attached to fans.
- Regardless of mister availability, always be available to frequently cool animals by spraying with a handheld water sprayer or taking to wash racks periodically to hose down.
- **The availability of clean, fresh, and cool drinking water is CRUCIAL.** If automatic waterers are unavailable, be present to water animals at a minimum of once per hour. If automatic waterers are available, check frequently that the water is cool and fresh.
- Take the time to ensure your animal knows where the water is located and how to use the watering device if it is provided in their pen/stall. **Do not assume they know where or how to access water, as this could be deadly.**
- Animals are smart! The water in their new location could taste and/or smell differently. If they are refusing water while at the fair, it is recommended that you haul water in that they are used to.
- The use of electrolytes in the water or feed for many species can be extremely beneficial in maintaining proper hydration.
- Consider freezing water in pop bottles for poultry and rabbits to lay on.
- For swine exhibitors: **always send your project into the show ring wet.** Handheld sprayers are extremely beneficial on show day!



It's important to note that if your animal has overheated, too cold of water applied too quickly can do more harm than good! COOL water poured over an animal slowly will help to lower your animal's internal body temperature more effectively.

For Exhibitors & Fair-Goers

As important as it is for our fair animals to stay cool and hydrated -- it is equally as important for exhibitors and spectators to take the appropriate steps to stay safe as well! Here are a few things to consider as you visit your local county fair:

- Be sure to stay hydrated – first and foremost!
- Take breaks in the shade
- Limit strenuous outdoor activities, especially during the heat of the day
- Make sure to wear sunscreen
- Wear light-colored clothing
- Visit the indoor exhibits
- Bring a cool, wet rag to place around your neck and/or a fan for extended visits



According to the National Weather Service, heat-related conditions is one of the greatest weather threats. **Be sure that you know the signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke and always take proper precautions for you and your family when spending the day in these blistering temperatures!**

We at the Post Rock Extension District would like to wish all of our county fair exhibitors the best of luck as you showcase your hard work and talents over the next few weeks! We also invite the public to come out and support our local youth and open class exhibitors, it is always appreciated.

For more information about Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne and Smith County Fairs, visit our website at:

<https://www.postrock.k-state.edu/4h-youth-development/events/county-fairs/>



JEWELL COUNTY
JULY 9-12



LINCOLN COUNTY
JULY 13-18



SMITH COUNTY
JULY 16-20



MITCHELL COUNTY
JULY 20-25



OSBORNE COUNTY
JULY 22-25

Questions? Contact one of our Post Rock District staff members listed below, we're happy to help!

Jenilee Godsey, 4-H Youth Development Agent: 785-346-2521 or jenileem@ksu.edu

Blaire Todd, Livestock Production Agent: 785-738-3597 or blairet@ksu.edu

