

Southwest Border Food
Protection and Emergency
Preparedness Center
All About Discovery!

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Developed to help inform the public on the importance of awareness on Agricultural Issues.

Issue: Humans becoming sick after attending fairs across the nation.

The General public needs to be informed about the potential safety hazards when it comes to handling livestock. There have been several cases across the nation dealing with the “fair illness”. Most cases involved pathogens like E. coli, which was inhaled through dust in exhibit barns, and other cases dealt with food contamination. While this is a scary situation, we need you to inform the public on the importance of having livestock. At most events livestock are just for show, while others will end up in a breeding production, or even food production, in which case, safety, is a major concern. Encourage the public to not eat or drink until they wash their hands after coming in contact with animals and their environments to avoid becoming sick.



(Photos Courtesy of Ramey Newell. nmsumerge.com)

Wash Hands When Leaving Animal Exhibits

WHO

Everyone, especially young children, older individuals, and people with weakened immune systems

WHEN

Always Wash Hands:

- After touching animals or their living area
- After leaving the animal area
- After taking off dirty clothes or shoes
- After going to the bathroom
- Before preparing foods, eating, or drinking



HOW

- Wet your hands with clean, running water
- Apply soap
- Rub hands together to make a lather and scrub well, including backs of hands, between fingers, and under fingernails
- Rub hands at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice
- Rinse hands
- Dry hands using a clean paper towel or air dry them. Do not dry hands on clothing



For more information, visit CDC's Healthy Pets, Healthy People website (www.cdc.gov/healthy pets) and CDC's Handwashing website (www.cdc.gov/hand)

“KNOW” How To Keep the Public Safe Around Your Animals:

- K**now that animals carry germs that can make people sick.
- N**ever eat food that has been in direct contact with animals, or feed animals human food.
- O**lder adults, pregnant women, and children need to take extra precaution due to a higher susceptibility to germs and illnesses.
- W**ash your hands with soap and warm water after handling animals.

www.nasphv.org/documents/CompendiaAnimals.html. Accessed July 29, 2014.