



Katy ISD Livestock Show

Comprehensive Ag Science Center Biosecurity Protocol & Guidelines

(Rev 7.28.2026)

Objective: To protect our livestock and community by establishing strict, clear standards to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases, pests, and contaminants at Katy ISD Agricultural Facilities.

General Farm Biosecurity Rules

Every student, teacher, and visitor must strictly adhere to these day-to-day practices while at the Young Ag Science Center.

1. Equipment & Tool Maintenance

- **Routine Cleaning:** Regularly clean and scrub all hand tools, feeders, waterers, treadmills, trim racks, and other surfaces.
- **Disinfection:** Always disinfect shared equipment when moving between different animal group areas.
- **No Sharing:** Avoid sharing personal grooming tools or personal livestock equipment with other students. Clean your tools immediately after use.

2. Feed, Water, & Waste Safety

- **Secure Storage:** Keep all animal feed stored tightly in sealed containers or protected areas to lock out rodents, wild birds, and other pests.
- **Clean Water:** Ensure animals always have access to safe, clean water. Scrub and clean water troughs on a strict, regular schedule.
- **Pest Mitigation:** Help eliminate pests by maintaining dry conditions and removing old bedding or hay.
- **Waste Disposal:** Dispose of manure, dirty bedding, and general farm waste promptly and properly in designated disposal areas.

Animal Health & Movement Protocols

1. General Health Management

- **Daily Observations:** Monitor your project animals daily for any visual signs of illness, changes in behavior, or injuries.
- **Veterinary Programs:** Work closely with your Agricultural Science Teacher (AST) and potentially a local veterinarian to stay compliant with designated vaccination and parasite-control programs.
- **Record Keeping:** Students must maintain organized records detailing animal purchases, vaccinations, health treatments, illnesses, and travel dates.

2. Off-Campus Travel & Livestock Shows

- **Pre-Travel Inspection:** Before any animal leaves the Katy ISD facility, verify they are healthy, free from disease symptoms, and fully up to date on vaccinations. Document any existing scratches or marks. Make sure you have notified your AST regarding travel to any shows, camps, or clinics as well as the current health status of your animal.
- **Clean Transport:** Thoroughly clean and disinfect all trailers, cages, halters, and show equipment before loading livestock. Provide fresh, clean bedding and feed for the trip.
- **Show-Site Precautions:**
 - Avoid direct nose-to-nose contact between your project and animals from other school districts or farms.
 - Do not share feed buckets, water containers, grooming tools, or halters with other exhibitors.
 - Provide clean water and feed from trusted, known sources.
 - Practice strict hand hygiene before and after handling animals at the event.

3. Mandatory Return-to-Farm Protocols

- **Daily Health Checks:** Monitor animals that have traveled daily for symptoms including fever, coughing, nasal discharge, diarrhea, loss of appetite, lethargy, or unusual skin lesions. Report any abnormalities immediately to your AST.
- **Post-Trip Cleanup:** Thoroughly clean, scrub, and disinfect all trailers, crates, show gear, and feed buckets upon returning. Wash or replace all travel bedding.

New World Screwworm (NWS) Prevention Protocol

Screwworm flies lay eggs in open wounds or body openings, and the larvae feed on living tissue. Because early detection is critical to protecting Texas livestock, Katy ISD enforces a strict prevention plan.

1. Mandatory Daily Inspection Areas

Examine your animals daily, checking closely for:

- Cuts, scrapes, scratches, and puncture wounds.
- Recent surgical or management sites (castration sites, dehorning wounds, ear tag zones, or branding sites).
- Natural body openings (eyes, nose, mouth, and genital areas).

2. Warning Signs & Red Flags

Immediately alert an AST if you observe:

- Foul-smelling wounds or unusual bloody discharge.
- Visible maggots crawling inside or around a wound.
- An animal separating itself from the rest of the group.
- Excessive licking, biting, scratching, or visible irritation at a wound site.

3. Immediate Wound Care Management

- **Clean & Treat:** Any discovered wound must be cleaned immediately and treated in strict accordance with veterinary and AST guidance.
- **Fly Protection:** Protect all healing wounds from fly exposure using approved protectants. Monitor the site daily until completely healed.

4. Suspected Screwworm Action Plan

If you discover a wound that looks suspicious or contains visible larvae, follow these precise steps:

DO immediately isolate the animal from the herd.

DO contact your AST immediately.

DO preserve any extracted larvae in alcohol as directed by veterinary authorities for official identification.

DO restrict all animal movements in the immediate area until official guidance is provided.

State Health Notice: Texas animal health authorities advise livestock owners to contact their veterinarian and the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) immediately if a screwworm infestation is suspected.

TAHC Reporting Hotline: 1-800-550-8242

Katy ISD Policy Agreement Acknowledgement

All students and parents must review this document thoroughly. By utilizing the Katy ISD Agricultural Sciences facilities, you agree to execute these biosecurity measures daily, report illnesses promptly, and strictly adhere to mandatory animal management rules to keep our program safe, successful, and disease-free.