

Guidance for Livestock Auction Markets During COVID-19

Issued April 3, 2020

The Illinois Department of Agriculture strongly recommends that all livestock markets adhere to the following guidance. Each auction should be critically evaluated to determine whether it needs to be held and whether it can be held remotely. **If an auction can be hosted virtually or by telephone, it should not be held in-person. If a live auction can be postponed, please do so.**

If an auction must be held, take the following protective measures:

- Use technology to host virtual sales. If you lack the ability to host virtual sales, limit the number of buyers present in the sales ring to ensure that buyers always maintain at least a 6-foot separation between each other. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-10, there should be no more than ten people in the same shared space.
- Participants should be restricted to actual buyers that have a buyer number.
 - Only buyers with a buyer number should be allowed in the sales ring.
 - If someone has a buyer number and does not give indication they are intending to buy, they should be asked to leave.
 - No spectators (including family members and farm help) should be allowed at the auction market.
- Sellers should unload livestock and immediately leave. Sellers should not be allowed to enter the auction building past the unload area.
- Offer sellers flexibility to pick up their checks (if they cannot wait for the mail) including delivery or picking up their checks from their vehicle while waiting in the parking lot.
- Screen all persons entering the auction market grounds (including all staff, sellers, and buyers) by asking if they have a fever or respiratory illness. If anyone indicates that they have been ill or is visibly showing signs of illness (i.e., coughing and sneezing), deny their entry.
- Close all parts of the auction market that are not directly associated with the sale to prevent people from co-mingling. This includes common seating areas, cafes, and food vendors.
- Post signage at the auction market instructing all staff, sellers, and buyers to practice social distancing, cover coughs and sneezes, and wash hands or use hand sanitizer often.
- Update your website with detailed instructions for sellers and buyers so they understand the expectations prior to your sale.
- Clean and disinfect any commonly used areas frequently, including restrooms.
- Restock restrooms with handwashing supplies frequently, including soap and paper towels.
- Biosecurity is critical to protecting the health of the animals and the people who come in contact with them.

If your auction market cannot abide by these measures, please cancel your sales.