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On March 20, 2020, Gov. J.B. Pritzker issued Executive Order No. 2020 – 10 which outlines protocol for stay at home; social distancing requirements; and essential businesses and operations. Section 1.12.b. of this Order denotes that food and beverage manufacturing, production, processing, and cultivation, including farming, livestock, fishing, baking, and other production agriculture, including cultivation, marketing, production, and distribution of animals and goods for consumption are essential services and not subject to restrictions set forth in the Order.

At this time, producers may continue to conduct business and hold livestock sales as scheduled. IBA strongly recommends organizers of livestock sales encourage customers to use online or phone bidding options when possible, especially for out of state buyers, those over 60 years of age or who have compromised immune systems and buyers who are feeling sick. Organizers and those attending livestock sales are encouraged to follow CDC guidelines and mitigation measures, which include avoiding person-to-person contact, avoiding touching ones face, washing hands frequently and sneezing or coughing in a tissue or your elbow.

IBA staff will continue to monitor this constantly changing situation and provide updates and information as it becomes available.