



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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To: Kentucky Stallion/Breeding Operations

From: E.S. Rusty Ford 
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Date: January 6, 2021

Subject: COVID-19 – Breeding Sheds

The public health threat presented by COVID-19, aka the coronavirus, continues to impact all sectors of our agricultural entities, including the equine industry.

Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles, our newly appointed State Veterinarian Dr. Katie Flynn, and retired State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Stout are appreciative of the proactive steps our agricultural industries have taken thus far. Working together as we have these past ten plus (10+) months has helped to insure our own health and that of our industry. Protecting the health of ourselves, families, friends, employees and one another is of paramount importance.

As evidenced by the number of cases continuing to be announced each week, along with an increasing positivity rate that recently exceeded 11%, the need for vigilance in the way we conduct our daily equine activity does necessitate continued application of the biosecurity guidance and protocols developed and distributed this past spring. The guidelines (general activity as well as specific equine activity that includes breeding shed protocols) are also accessible for viewing on the Department of Agriculture's web page at www.kyagr.com/statevet/equine.html. In addition to the equine specific guidelines, individuals should familiarize themselves and practice the CDC's Coronavirus Guidelines for America at www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/coronavirus-guidelines-america/

On the reverse side, I have included the procedures and protocols developed and previously distributed to breeding sheds. It is our mutual goal to see the standards we defined and distributed last spring continue to be adopted and practiced by all farms, practitioners and horsemen working together in our industry here in Kentucky.

KY's Office State Veterinarian's 2021 COVID-19 Guidance for Breeding Sheds
Updated January 4, 2021

BREEDING SHED ACTIVITY: With vans and individuals visiting multiple facilities each day we do recommend adopting standard practices in how we manage people and horses visiting sheds. We in the Office of State Veterinarian are of the shared opinion that implementing the following practices will be advantageous to our maintaining breeding shed activity.

1. Submission of documentations for mares booked to be bred would best be done electronically.
2. Eliminate outside individuals (van drivers and mare attendants) from coming into the prep area and shed. To accomplish this the van would arrive, the mare would be offloaded and handed off to a shed employee (using the shed's shank) who would handle the mare through the process. The van driver and anyone accompanying the mare to the shed should remain outside in the parking area while maintaining social distance with other individuals.
3. After cover, the mare would be returned to the loading area and handed off to the attendant for loading onto the van. If there is need for a mare's attendant to witness the cover, this should be accomplished from outside – looking in, videotaped or virtually.
4. The shank would be cleaned before returning to the shed or reuse and attendant would wash hands.
5. Breeding equipment (leg straps, collars, boots etc.) would be cleaned before reuse.
6. Additionally, maintaining enhanced biosecurity in our daily activity is essential to all of these mitigations.

Implementing these practices, and any other action you can take to eliminate people from congregating in common areas will be beneficial and could be critical in our ability to continue transporting horses to/from sheds. I welcome any additional recommendations you might have.

For additional information regarding the COVID-19 status in KY please visit <https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>. Guidelines, updates and information offered by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture can be viewed at www.kyagr.com/communications/covid-19-ky-agriculture-updates.html.