



Keeping workers and audiences safe during COVID-19

In the Outdoor Event Industry in England

Addendum 1 - Agricultural Shows

The following information has been provided by the Association of Show and Agricultural Organisations [ASAO], a membership organisation representing over 200 agricultural and country shows as well as 100 associated other events that take place across the country every year.

These shows are part of an annual cycle, serving the specific needs of the agricultural and food industry, as well as their local communities – and are, in most cases, run by the charity sector, utilizing volunteers.

Agricultural sector events entertain over six million people each year, providing economic benefits for local businesses and bringing visitor spend to the area, while also providing softer community benefits, including an educational remit for visitors, young and old, and they help to bring communities together, increasing their pride, solidarity and wellbeing.

Show operators may need to modify practices to address the human health risks arising from coronavirus but they must ensure they continue to comply with all animal health and animal welfare obligations. Where this cannot be achieved, animals should not be present at the show. For example, more room may be required around vehicle cleansing and disinfection facilities to allow social distancing and additional protection measures may be needed where people are handling animals. Shows will need to consider how they manage social distancing in areas where stock are inspected by vets and experts prior to entry or during the event.

In addition to the general event guidance, these events have their own unique issues that need to be addressed in relation to COVID-19:

Golf Buggies/Mobility Scooters: These vehicles are frequently used by visitors to get around events and consideration will need to be given to keep these away from potential pinch points around shows. Cleaning of hired buggies/scooters after use will be important.

DEFRA Animal health licensing and regulations: Organisers should consider how these requirements can be managed to maintain physical distancing and the

safety of those involved in handling animals. Due to the biosecurity regulations for animal areas, disinfectant and hand washing points are already enhanced and the use of hand sanitizer in these areas is prohibited.

Ring Events and similar areas: Consideration needs to be given to managing crowds gathering around rings where livestock are on show and displays take place. It will be important to provide guidance on physical distancing in these areas. This may involve marking out spectator viewing points and creating tiered viewing points to help people see from further back. Access to viewing points to maintain distancing needs to be considered. It may be that some of these events will not be able to take place while social distancing is in place.

Small Animal Shows etc.: A feature of many shows are the small animal marquees where visitors can walk round and see the animals that are being judged. Social distancing rules need to be applied in these areas with clear signage directing people in one-way system around exhibits, much as they would follow signage in a supermarket. The petting of the animals in these situations also needs to be assessed separately as it could provide a contact point for passing on the virus.

Horses and Stabling: All reasonable precautions need to be taken to avoid cross-contamination where stables and other areas are used by more than one person.

Non-cleanable surfaces: Some materials used at events involving livestock, such as wood, are not disinfectable. The erection of these areas should be managed to minimise cross-contact between workers and consideration should be given to using other materials at points (such as gates) that are likely to be touched by workers or the public. Covering these areas with a disinfectable material might be considered. [See PHE guidance](#).

For green field events: See the following:

- [COVID-19: Cleaning historic surfaces](#) (Historic England)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): advice on accessing green spaces safely](#) (DEFRA)

Exhibitors, Traders and Demonstrations: All exhibitors, whether using a tabletop or a formal stand, should provide the organisers with a COVID-19 risk assessment stating how they will manage social distancing. Grouped stand areas should follow the same principles as retail shop guidelines. Consideration should be given to the viability of seated or standing audiences watching display and how physical distancing can be maintained.

Viewing Banks: Organisers need to consider the management of physical distancing in all viewing areas, including the use of area markers and signage.