

## **Dealing with Animal Care Questions:**

It is important to realize that showcasing our project learning in a public setting provide opportunities to inform the public about the care of animals. Please demonstrate responsible behavior when caring for animals in public and in talking with the public. The following is a quick guide regarding talking with the public:

Regional and County Extension Staff and County FFA Advisors serve as spokespersons for 4-H and FFA on the issue of animal care. Ask people to refer inquiries to one of these people at the County Fair 4-H/FFA office. If a person disagrees with practices observed at the fair, do not argue and do not overreact. Refer the person to County 4-H/FFA Staff.

## **Bio-Security and Fairs-What You Need to Know**

While fairs provide an opportunity for youth to participate in animal orientated group activities, they also represent a potential threat to the health of any livestock herd or flock and the financial well-being of an industry.

To protect the health and wellbeing of all animals and the exhibitors, the following guidelines should be followed:

- Meet all health requirements for all animals as established by the state veterinarian.
- Have your animals checked by a veterinarian regularly and follow suggest health programs.
- Booster vaccinations should be given as recommended by your veterinarian.
- Leave unhealthy or contagious animals at home.
- Provide adequate feed and water during exhibition.
- Keep stalls/pens clean of manure and waste bedding.
- Make sure animals have adequate space and proper ventilation.
- Avoid sharing cleaning and grooming equipment with other exhibitors.
- Disinfect boots and equipment often, wash hands frequently.
- Change or wash clothes and shoes worn to fair before returning home to work with animals.
- Be cautious as to who has contact with your animals.
- After the fair, isolate exhibited animals from other animals on your farm for at least two weeks.
- Thoroughly clean your equipment and trailer to remove all soil and manure.