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AGRICULTURE**

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To: Lindsay Eng, Deputy Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture
Subject: Proposed Rulemaking - Hearing Officer's Report
From: Sunny Summers
Date: March 16, 2026

Rulemaking Summary - The purpose of this rulemaking was to allow public comment on proposed rules adopting disease control rules for livestock exhibitions.

Public Hearing – ODA held a public hearing on January 16, 2026. One comment was received that was generally supportive of the rules.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS - ODA accepted written testimony from the public through 5:00 p.m. on January 30, 2026. Those written comments and ODA response are found on the following pages.

Dated this 16th day of March 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sunny Summers', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sunny Summers, Hearings Officer
Oregon Department of Agriculture
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Comments

Commenter	Comment	Response
Kim M.	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I want to express my opposition to the proposal for adopting "disease control" rules for livestock exhibitions.</p> <p>Livestock exhibitions for anything other than commercial consumption is NOT the business of government to be dictating how, when or where they take place. If someone has concerns about exposing their animal to anything, that is their responsibility to simply stay home. This is not a place for the government to be interjecting.</p>	<p>Livestock exhibitions are a common commingling point of livestock, and a high risk for spreading high consequence diseases. The intent of these rules is to provide a framework to mitigate disease risks, while also ensuring that the event organizers have the records necessary for ODA to trace exposed and contact animals in the event of a high-consequence disease outbreak that involves an exhibition.</p>
Cindy B.	<p>I was unable to attend the hearing for the "Adopting Disease Control Rules for Livestock Exhibitions" remote meeting. I would like to submit the following comments via email.</p> <p>My chosen equine sport is barrel racing. I have been an active competitor in this sport for over 50 years. You can image the types of issues I have encountered in this sport.</p> <p>As a competitor, I am well aware of the risks associated with this sport, not only competing, but traveling to and stalling at various equine facilities. When the EVH outbreak was announced, our industry quickly cancelled all upcoming races. This cancellation lasted for 30-45 days</p>	<p>The intent of these rules is to provide a framework to mitigate disease risks, while also ensuring that the event organizers have the records necessary for ODA to trace exposed and contact animals in the event of a high-consequence disease outbreak that involves an exhibition. These rules are not intended to prevent all diseases, but rather to ensure that the necessary framework and records are present if an outbreak occurs at (or associated with) an exhibition. These rules are the same requirements as have been used on an emergency basis, but adopting them permanently will ensure that they are in place before an outbreak occurs.</p>



and was not contested by any competitors or race producers. Races resumed once the State confirmed it was safe to gather.

My issues with this potential ruling are:

1. **It WILL NOT** prevent rare outbreaks of diseases like EVH-1
2. **It WILL NOT** shorten the duration or incubation of these types of diseases
3. **It WILL** add a layer of complexity, and documentation that adds zero value to the State or event.
4. **It WILL** add unnecessary cost to producing and attending events

Basically, I'm saying that we cannot legislate ourselves out of these situations. Trying to do so wastes time, energy and money. Outbreaks happen and those of us who compete are aware of and accept the associated risk.

Even though they may be contagious, many animals do not show symptoms during early stages of most infections. Thus, trying to control this huge 'unknown' is next to impossible and the State could just keep using the existing emergency rules as they are appropriate and they work.

Thank you for your consideration,

