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Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

Date: November 20, 2025

Notice: Recommendation to Postpone Equine Events

Due to recent outbreaks of Equine Herpesvirus (EHV) reported in Oklahoma and Texas, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture recommends that all equine events, including shows, competitions, and large gatherings, be postponed for two weeks as a precaution to protect the health of horses across the state. The Department also recommends that horses that have traveled to equine events in Oklahoma and Texas in November 2025 be isolated and monitored for fever and clinical signs of illness for 21 days following the event.

EHV is a contagious virus that can cause respiratory disease, neurological issues, and, in some cases, abortion in mares. Horses can spread the virus before showing signs of illness, making prevention critical.

The following actions are recommended for horse owners and event organizers:

- Postpone or cancel nonessential equine events during this period;
- Monitor horses closely for any signs of fever, nasal discharge, or neurological symptoms;
- Practice strict biosecurity measures, including limiting horse-to-horse contact, disinfecting equipment, and restricting access to visitors; and
- Isolate any horse showing signs of illness and contact a licensed veterinarian immediately.

The Department will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary. Veterinarians should report suspected or confirmed cases of EHV to the Department. These precautionary measures are intended to minimize the risk of EHV spreading to Arkansas.

For more information, please contact the Department at andrew.fidler@arkansas.gov.