Safety at the Fair

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Growing up I loved the fair. I couldn’t wait to get my animals ready. I loved brushing, washing, and blowing them out, basically giving them a “Spa Day”. All summer long I would take my steer and heifer for a walk each morning and evening. I practiced teaching them to “walk into their stand” and if they didn’t quite have it right, a slight push of a show stick moved that leg back into position. My animals were very tame, but that did not mean they would act the same way when moved into a strange place with strange animals, noise, and environment.

This time of year, we are gearing up for county fairs. The excitement, schedules, heat, and fatigue can cause us to forget or ignore safety. The following are important suggestions to keep in mind when attending a fair:

Traffic - watch out for everyone! Drivers watch out for pedestrians, and pedestrians watch out for all vehicles. Remember there are blind spots in every vehicle, especially trailers.

Respect Animals - This is a new adventure for animals and for some this makes them pretty scared. Do not run through the barns, or up to an animal or try to pet an animal. Do not poke or hit or try to touch an animal. Do not scream or yell or throw things at animals.

Sanitation - Animals & people carry germs so be sure to wash your hands after you have used the toilet, cared for animals, and before eating.

Heat - July & August is known for its heat. Make sure you drink plenty of water during the fair. Remember to drink at least 8 - 10 cups of water/liquid every day. Liquid included is water, sports drinks, milk, & juices. An occasional pop is ok but should not be your only liquid source. Pop has a high sugar content and can cause dehydration.

Exhaustion - Early mornings, late nights, can cause exhaustion. With exhaustion comes recklessness and short tempers. Make sure to eat good nutritious food, drink plenty of water, and rest when you can.

Remember to practice safety at the fair: watch for cars & pedestrians, respect animals, wash hands before eating, drink plenty of water, and get some rest.

We invite you to come out to the Phillips County Fair July 30 – August 2 and the Rooks County Free Fair August 8 - 14.

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