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WVDA Waives Requirements for Animals Evacuating Hurricane Florence

Charleston W.Va. -- The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) announced it will be waiving movement entry requirements for animals evacuated into West Virginia due to Hurricane Florence. Meanwhile, the State Fair of West Virginia is offering temporary shelter for evacuated equine. The State Fair can accommodate up to 100 horses.

“Two years ago, West Virginia needed help from surrounding states during a massive flood. It is our turn to open our doors for those in need,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt.

Normally, all equine entering West Virginia from other states are required to have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection issued within 30 days and a negative Coggins test within the past year. State Veterinarian Dr. James Maxwell made the decision to waive those requirements.

“Just like people, we must get animals out of harm’s way,” said Dr. Maxwell. “This is common practice in emergency situations.”

The State Fair is requesting anyone seeking accommodations do so by calling in advance to 304-645-1090 during business hours and 304-667-5089 after hours. Owners will be responsible for the care of their own animals. There will be no stalling fee for horses. Owners wishing to camp can do so at a minimal charge of \$15 per night for full hook ups.

The State Fair of West Virginia is located in Fairlea, in Greenbrier County, just off the I-64 exit.

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture protects plant, animal and human health through a variety of scientific, regulatory and consumer protection programs. The Commissioner of Agriculture is one of six statewide elected officials who sits on the Board of Public Works.

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