

**Excellence in Exhibition: Preventing Disease in Animals and People**  
***Bring Home the Blue, Not the Flu!***

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Youth agriculture programs, including raising and showing livestock, help youth develop responsibility, learn good sportsmanship, gain confidence, and teach the public about animal agriculture. However, many zoonotic diseases can affect exhibitors and spectators, especially when people have close contact with animals. Several animal related disease outbreaks, such as variant influenza A virus of swine (H3N2v) and enteric diseases caused by *E. coli* and *Campylobacter*, have been associated with fairs in recent years. Children infected with these pathogens are at increased risk for severe complications. Youth involved in animal agriculture, teachers, volunteer leaders, and parents, should understand disease risks and preventive measures to reduce the occurrence of zoonotic diseases. Providing accessible, free, web-based education can produce engaging results and can be easily incorporated into current agriculture or science curricula. Excellence in Exhibition: Preventing Disease in Animals and People ([www.BlueNotFlu.org](http://www.BlueNotFlu.org)) is an online, interactive, educational course that was developed by CFSPH in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Public Health and with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. The course, which includes six lessons designed to be completed in 20–30 minutes each, may be taken independently by anyone at any time, but is targeted at youth aged 13–18 years. The first three lessons cover specific zoonotic diseases, such as influenza, and ways to prevent transmission to humans and animals. The remaining lessons review case studies, agencies, and career opportunities in One Health. Learning objectives, PowerPoint slides, supplemental materials, and class activities are also available. The course is designed to be used widely and in a variety of ways, including incorporation into classroom, chapter, and club curricula, into 4-H projects on animal and human health, as preparation for FFA contests, and/or as prerequisites for showing at local or state exhibitions or fairs. Real-time information on user data associated with course web page views has shown over 2900 unique page views in 47 states and 32 countries since release; additionally, an optional evaluation component has indicated an increase in knowledge and plans to adopt disease prevention habits upon post-course completion.

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