

HSFGR - Porch Packet

Travel, Shows & Preventing Parasites at Home



Shows, sales barns, and shared livestock facilities bring animals from many different regions together. Even well-managed events can unintentionally become places where parasites spread through **shared stalls, bedding, equipment, or close animal contact.**

A simple post-travel routine protects your herd and the broader breeding community.

Travel, Shows & Preventing Parasites at Home.

Shows and livestock events bring together animals from many different regions. A few simple precautions help protect your herd and the herds of others.

Before Traveling With Goats

Perform a basic parasite inspection

Check the following areas before leaving home:

- armpits (behind elbows)
- brisket
- base of tail
- ears and ear base
- pasterns and lower legs

Look for:

- lice or nits on hair shafts
- dandruff or hair breakage
- crusting or scabs
- excessive scratching

Starting with **clean animals** reduces the chance of spreading parasites to others.

Barn Flies & Environmental Risk

Large barns can accumulate flies quickly due to:

- manure buildup
- wet bedding
- animal density
- warm temperatures

Helpful steps:

- keep stalls dry
- remove manure frequently
- use fans when allowed (air movement discourages flies)
- keep feed containers clean
- avoid letting goats stand in damp bedding

At the Show or Event

Shared Barns Require Extra Hygiene

Shared facilities often house many animals in a short period of time. Parasites can be present in:

- leftover bedding
- cracks in stall boards
- feed troughs
- tie rails
- grooming areas

Best practices

- remove any bedding left from previous animals
- add your own fresh bedding when possible
- avoid nose-to-nose contact between unfamiliar goats
- do not share grooming tools, collars, or blankets
- clean up spilled feed and wet bedding promptly

Returning Home: The Smart Biosecurity Step

Recommended routine

1. Separate returning animals for 7–14 days

This allows time for:

- lice eggs to hatch
- mites to show early symptoms
- minor skin irritations to appear

2. Perform another coat inspection

Focus on:

- armpits
- brisket
- tail base
- ears
- pasterns

3. Wash or disinfect equipment

Clean before returning items to general herd use:

- brushes
- clippers
- halters
- blankets
- collars
- show boxes