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**For Immediate Release**

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## **2016 Healthy Fairs Workshops Working Together for a Healthy Fair: Environmental, Human, and Animal Health**

Free Healthy Fairs Workshops will be held in two locations - one in Fergus Falls in April, and one in Duluth/Proctor in May. The topic is *"Working Together for a Healthy Fair: Environmental, Human, and Animal Health"*.

**April 28, 2016**

9:00am to 3:00pm (lunch included)

Bigwood Event Center

925 Western Avenue

Fergus Falls, MN 56537

**May 11, 2016**

9:00am to 3:00pm (lunch included)

Black Woods Banquet Center

195 US Highway 2

Proctor, MN 55802

Don't miss out on an opportunity to hear about current issues that could impact your fair season! You will also have a chance to ask questions of a sanitarian, a veterinarian and an epidemiologist. Highlighted topics will include petting zoo best practices, water supply issues, and animal ID requirements. *"These workshops are a great opportunity for different groups like county fair personnel, private petting zoo operators, U of M Extension, and human and animal health agencies to get together and discuss issues that matter to fairs"* says Carrie Klumb, workshop leader and epidemiologist at the Minnesota Department of Health and project leader with the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center.

Every year there are ~3,200 state and county fairs in the United States that attract ~150 million visitors. *"Fairs are great opportunities for people to observe animals, learn about animal agriculture, and experience the human-animal bond"*, says Carrie Klumb, who developed the workshops together with the Minnesota Department of Health Environmental Health Division and the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, *"but there is also the potential for human illness and injury at fairs from food, water, and animals."*

- **How aware are fair organizers of these risks?**
- **How ready are they to respond if an event occurs?**

This workshop will address issues of environmental, human, and animal health at fairs and petting zoos, and bring together groups of people that may not otherwise have a chance to meet; government officials, veterinarians, petting zoo operators, and fair officials all working together for a safe and healthy fair.

For more information and to **register** visit the website at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/fairs> or contact Carrie Klumb at 651-201-5414 or [carrie.klumb@state.mn.us](mailto:carrie.klumb@state.mn.us)

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*The Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH) is a multidisciplinary collaboration of five leading research and health care institutions, including the Minnesota Department of Health. The Healthy Fairs Workshops are only one example of how we address existing and emerging health and safety issues in agriculture. Visit our website at [www.umash.umn.edu](http://www.umash.umn.edu).*