

On Farm deFense (OFF) Fact Sheet



What is Biosecurity and Why is it Important to Me?

Biosecurity refers to the measures taken to keep diseases out of herds, flocks or groups of animals. Some diseases can only spread from animal to animal, but there are some that can have significant health effects on humans (ie: E. coli O157:H7, salmonellosis and club lamb fungus).

In addition to federal guidelines, individual states can set regulations on animals entering their state. Examples are: Brucellosis, Tuberculosis and Pseudorabies. These diseases are monitored by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection through the animal health regulations for county fairs, exhibitions and state fairs.

The responsibility at the herd, flock level lies with the owner (you). You must do the following items in order to be successful: address how you will isolate animals, how traffic (people, animals and equipment) will be regulated and how cleaning and disinfection procedures will be used to reduce disease. Fairs and shows are such an enjoyable activity for many people, it is important to keep these events open and accessible to both exhibitors and the public.

How can I reduce the risk of diseases entering my farm?

Step 1:

- Select healthy animals for your project.
- Does your animal appear normal?
- Observe stance and movement.
- Is appetite normal?
- Are other animals on the farm healthy?
- Expect good body condition, healthy skin and no lameness.
- Examine discharges and mucous membranes, and exclude those animals with abnormal discharges.

Step 2: What steps does the farm take to keep diseases out? Buy animals from a known source with an effective preventive medicine program, including appropriate vaccines and a specific program to prevent the introduction of new diseases to the herd. This would include at a minimum isolation and observation of any animal arriving on the farm. Veterinary advice is strongly recommended, since effective programs will vary depending on the specific risk for each herd.

Step 3: Develop your own herd health plan with your county agent, or veterinarian to meet your needs. It can be very simple and may only involve vaccinations, deworming and a good feeding and husbandry program.

Step 4: Keep accurate records of who visited your farm and which animals were introduced. Ask if they have visited a farm that currently has sick animals. If they have, do not allow them to visit your animals.

Step 5: You can dramatically reduce the risk of disease transmission if you plan to exhibit your animal at only one terminal show. Terminal shows are events at which animals are sold for harvest and don't go back home. If you plan to bring animals back home from fairs and exhibitions see the following procedures.



Practical ways I can reduce introduction of new diseases in my animals

- Get a premises identification number (PIN) for where you are housing your animals. To receive your PIN, contact the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium at 1-888-808-1910, or go to their web site at www.wiid.org.
- Movement records for each animal should be kept by the exhibitor. The following movement information should be recorded every time livestock are moved between sites.
- Name, address or PIN of where the animals were purchased.
- PIN where the animals are housed or raised
- A nimal ID for each animal (lists all tags, tattoos or ear notches)
- Date the animal were moved
- Destination PIN (where animals were weighed, exhibited or moved to). Records should be kept in a safe place and copies of those records should be with exhibitors any time they move their animals.
- Vehicles used to transport your animals should be cleaned, disinfected and allowed to dry before other animals are hauled.
- Do not exhibit animals that have clinical signs of any contagious disease or have been in contact with sick animals in the past week. Animals can shed disease days before appearing sick.
- Have your animals checked by a veterinarian and obtain a health certificate 30 days or less before the fair.
- Isolate all purchased animals, animals returning from a show or other animal contact for 30 days. If they are incubating a disease, you may detect it before other animals are exposed. Hold isolated animals in a separate pen in a different barn or at least a separate corner of the barn. At a minimum, avoid nose to nose contact between isolated and non-isolated animals.



Handle the animals separately. Use different boots for isolated animals and wash your hands before and after caring for them. If possible, handle isolated animals after you have finished chores for the non-isolated animals.

- Do not share equipment among exhibitors, unless it is disinfected between uses. Ringworm and club lamb fungus are rapidly spread through contaminated clip-pers. Other diseases can be spread by use of feeding and watering equipment. Make sure equipment is cleaned and disinfected before going home. Remove all dirt from items (boots, equipment etc..) with soapy water. Then disinfect. Disinfectants aren't as effective if organic material has not been removed. When working with an animal that has ringworm or club lamb fungus it may be necessary to wear rubber gloves.

- If using someone else's truck and trailer, clean and disinfect it before you use it and when you return home from a show. Make sure inside and outside wheels, bumpers, etc.. are disinfected.

- Disinfectants: One Stroke Environ^T and Virkon S^T or another commercially available disinfectant that is labeled effective to kill bacteria and viruses, or use a solution of 3/4 cup of household bleach to one gallon of water. **Ask for assistance from an adult when using and mixing bleach & disinfectants.** Note that all disinfectants are only effective on clean surfaces, with adequate contact time and in non-freezing conditions. Check the label for contact time. For example, bleach requires 5 minutes to work. Disinfectants aren't as effective when the temperature is cold.

Personal Hygiene:

- Discourage visitors from touching or petting your animals. If you allow it, have visitors use a hand sanitizer or put on disposable rubber gloves before touching your animals.

- If humans exhibit flu like symptoms they should stay home or stay away from animals in all locations; farms, fairs, exhibitions, etc.. Pigs, poultry & other species can be infected with human flu virus and transmit it to humans and other animals.

- If they do, encourage them to wash their hands before and afterwards or use disposable disinfectant wipes or chemical disinfectant gels both before and after touching your animals.

- Wash your hands with soap and water (good) or disinfectant soap and water (better) after direct contact with animals and before you contact other animals or eat.

- Avoid eating in animal exhibit areas.

- Practice good personal hygiene. Wash with soap and water after handling your animals and put on clean clothes. Keep your boots and shoes clean and don't carry barn muck into the house. Change clothes when returning home from a show to do chores. If you must

contact other's animals, wash and disinfect hands and change or clean and disinfect boots before handling yours.

Visitors:

- Be cautious regarding who has contact with your livestock. Make sure they check in at the house before entering barns. Visitors to your farm should wear clean clothes that have not been in contact with other animals since they were last laundered. Be sure their boots and shoes are clean and disinfected, or provide them with disposable plastic boots or boots and coveralls you keep for visitor use.



- Post an emergency sign with the address for the farm, contact information for producer and farm veterinarian.

- Minimize nose-to-nose contact with other animals to the extent that it is possible. Use solid paneling instead of open panels and have empty pens in between animals wherever possible. Keep your animals as comfortable as you can to reduce stress.

Use this opportunity to educate the public. Explain what biosecurity is and why it's necessary all the time, not just now. Tell consumers that biosecurity not only protects the farmer, but also protects them by assuring animals are healthy. Healthy animals mean safe food for people.

Animal Well-Being

Animals that are well cared for will grow faster and be healthier—Good care equals good welfare or well-being. Producers' care and management of their animals are through: 1. Feed, 2. Water and 3. Facilities.

- Feed and Water—all producers should provide their animals the right amount of clean feed and water on a daily basis and on a routine. They should also make sure the feed has the right level of nutrients—protein, energy, vitamins and minerals.

- Facilities—producers should provide a comfortable thermal environment for their livestock. For example: some way for an animal to warm up or cool down. Provide the correct amount of space for the animals to lay down and eat and drink.

Other items of concern:

- Look at your animals every day.

- Observe animals for abscesses, wounds, etc..

- Treat all animals with respect at all times. Handling animals safely is important for both animal and handler.

- Provide your animal a stress free environment to grow.

Websites with additional information: <http://www.usda.gov/>; <http://www.biosecuritycenter.org/>; <http://data.state.wi.us/>; <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/animalscience/>

Information Adapted from these Resources: University of Nebraska, The Ohio State University, National Pork Board: Patrick Webb, DVM, National Pork Board & WI Pork Association materials. Prepared by: Larry Bauman, Extension Veterinarian University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Bernie O'Rourke, Extension Youth Livestock Specialist; & Tammy Vaassen, Wisconsin Pork Association.

Measures to minimize disease transmission BEFORE the Exhibition

Each state should establish and maintain a communication network that includes the state animal health agency, state and local public health officials, exhibition organizers and managers, veterinarians, Cooperative Extension Service educators, vocational agriculture instructors and other stakeholders.

State animal health officials in collaboration with state public health officials should determine a testing protocol for swine with clinical signs consistent with influenza and establish a method to distribute any test results to the appropriate animal health and public health agencies.

Swine Measures

For Exhibition Organizers:

- Limit the time pigs are congregated and co-mingled at an exhibition. Measures might include:
 - Shorten the total time pigs are on the exhibition grounds, ideally exhibition swine should be on the exhibition grounds no more than 72 hours.
 - Release pigs from the exhibition grounds as soon as possible following their respective show(s).
 - If offering both terminal pig and breeding swine shows, schedule the terminal show after the breeding swine show or schedule a break between shows. Use this break to clean and disinfect the facility.
 - Locate longer-term swine exhibits (i.e. Big Boars, birthing center animals, display exhibits of pigs) away from areas where the competition swine are housed.
- Establish a relationship with a veterinarian who will be present or on call for the duration of the exhibition. The veterinarian will be responsible for monitoring the animals for clinical signs, evaluating sick animals and taking additional steps as warranted to minimize the risk of influenza-like illness in the swine.
- Establish a protocol to immediately remove sick swine from the exhibition area.
- Maintain records of individual swine identification and source farms to enhance the speed and accuracy of an animal disease investigation associated with the exhibition.

For Exhibitors:

- Consult a veterinarian to understand and implement applicable biosecurity and swine health practices at home.
- Become familiar with the clinical signs of influenza A in swine (fever, anorexia, lethargy, nasal discharge and cough).
- Seek veterinary assistance if a pig becomes sick.
- Understand the risks to both humans and animals of taking a sick pig to an exhibition.
- Ask the exhibition organizer about any specific actions that may be required if a pig becomes sick at the show.
- Refrain from showing a pig and herd mates for at least seven (7) days after returning from an exhibition to reduce the risk of spreading influenza.
- Discuss the use of swine influenza vaccines with a veterinarian. Vaccines are available commercially and may be used prior to an exhibition. Swine vaccinated for influenza may be less likely to become ill, and if they become sick, they may be contagious for a shorter time.

Human Measures

It is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that everyone 6 months of age or older be vaccinated annually against seasonal influenza. Seasonal influenza vaccine is usually distributed in late summer and early fall, and people should be vaccinated as soon as the vaccine becomes available.

People at high risk for developing more severe complications from influenza include the following: children younger than 5 years old, people 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, and people with certain long-term health conditions (like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, chronic respiratory disease, weakened immune systems, and neurological or neurodevelopmental conditions). People in these high risk groups should limit their exposure to infected swine.

For Exhibition Organizers

- Establish methods to rapidly communicate (i.e. email addresses and/or phone numbers from show entry information, social media channels, etc.) with exhibitors about procedural changes or incidents associated with the exhibition.
- Host non-animal-related activities (i.e. dances, pizza parties, etc.) in locations other than animal barns.

For Exhibitors

- Understand that pigs and people can become infected from sick people. People with influenza-like illness should stay away from pigs until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Measures to minimize disease transmission DURING the Exhibition

Swine Measures

For Exhibition Organizers

- Host a meeting with exhibitors and their family members prior to the start of the exhibition to do the following:
 - Provide contact information for the designated exhibition veterinarian.
 - Provide instructions on how to report animal illnesses and explain any specific actions that may be required if a pig becomes sick at the show.
 - Provide contact information for a public health official who can answer public health questions and be available during the exhibition.
 - Review exhibition regulations.
 - Review and encourage disease control measures to be utilized during the exhibition, including the daily monitoring of the animals during the show, as well as for when the exhibitor returns home.

For Exhibitors

Observe swine daily for signs of influenza-like illness, which may include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, nasal discharge or cough.

- Report any influenza-like illness to the designated exhibition veterinarian or the appropriate exhibition staff so the pig can be evaluated.
- The designated veterinarian should consider testing swine with signs of influenza-like illness. Results should be shared with animal health and public health officials.
- Swine deemed to be ill should be removed from the exhibition immediately.
- Use precautions when caring for sick pigs to minimize the opportunity for influenza transmission to other swine or people.

Human Measures

For Exhibition Organizers

- Provide easy access to hand washing stations.
- Post informational signage that includes the following messages:
 - No eating or drinking in the animal areas
 - Wash hands frequently
 - No pacifiers, sipping cups or strollers in the animal areas
- Discourage sleeping in the animal areas.
- If human or swine influenza-like-illness is associated with the exhibition, animal health and public health officials should be notified immediately. Public health officials should facilitate human testing for influenza viruses, including variant influenza viruses, investigate the source of illness, and attempt to identify additional human cases. If illness is detected in swine or humans, public health recommendations include:
 - People who have influenza-like illness should leave the exhibition immediately and seek medical care. They should advise their health care provider about their exposure to swine.
 - People at high risk for developing more severe complications from influenza, as listed above, should be discouraged from entering the swine areas.

Measures to minimize disease transmission AFTER the Exhibition

Swine Measures

For Exhibit Organizers

- Clean and disinfect the swine exhibition areas.

For Exhibitors

- Isolate and observe animals for illness after returning home and before allowing contact with other animals
 - The isolation/observation period for clinical signs of influenza should be no fewer than 7 days
 - Clean and disinfect equipment, clothing, shoes, and vehicles/trailers that were at the exhibition.
 - Consult a veterinarian if swine become ill.

Human Measures

- Consult a health care provider and a public health official as soon as possible if exhibitors or family members develop influenza-like illness
 - Inform the health care provider of close contact with swine and/or exhibition attendance.
 - Ill people should avoid all contact with swine until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/>
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-cases.htm>
http://www.flu.gov/about_the_flu/h3n2v/index.html#
<http://www.flu.gov/symptoms-treatment/symptoms/index.html#>
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-factsheet.htm>
http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/swineflu/fair_exhibitor_factsheet.pdf

National Pork Board Influenza Resources:

<http://www.pork.org/Resources/1389/influenza.aspx>
[A Champion's Guide to Youth Swine Exhibition - National Pork Board](#) (will be updated online and in print in 2013):
<http://www.pork.org/filelibrary/NPB%20A%20Champions%20Guide%20to%20Youth%20Swine%20Exhibition.pdf>

National Pork Board Youth PQA (will be updated online and in print in 2013):

<http://www.pork.org/Certification/21/youthPqaPlus.aspx>

USDA Swine Influenza Virus (SIV) Surveillance Program Information:

<http://animalhealth/surveillance/siv/default.aspx>

Information provided by: National Pork Board and national renown veterinarians.