

Important information for Swine Exhibitors

Most of you are aware of the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PED) that is a potential threat to our swine population. It is a very contagious disease that can affect your pig projects. Here are some things that you need to think about and some things that can help your own biosecurity. Remember, these suggestions are made for any possible disease too, not just for PED. If you would like more detailed information about the disease, check our 4-H Website.

Information to consider about PED:

- It takes 12-24 hours from time of exposure until clinical signs appear in piglets.
- Once infected, the animal can infect other animal up to 3 to 4 weeks
 - This is why we recommend 30 days quarantine time.
- Once you clean and disinfect your equipment, it is necessary to dry those things in the sunlight to get rid of any moisture where the disease can remain.

If you raise pigs at your facility:

- Use good sanitation procedures to help minimize possible contamination of your facilities.
- See suggested sanitation procedures below.

If you buy pigs from other breeders:

- If you purchase new pigs, it is recommended that you isolate your pigs for 30 days to make certain they are not sick.
- If you have any concerns, contact your veterinarian for help.

If you attend Swine Jackpots:

- Going to jackpots, especially with younger pigs, increases your chances of contacting other sick pigs and bringing the sickness home.
- It is suggested that if you attend a jackpot, you need to isolate your pigs for 30 days after you get home and follow good sanitation procedures.
- This includes cleaning and sanitizing all your feeders, waterers, shovels, rakes, etc. that were used at the jackpot.
 - This includes your trailer, bedding and personal clothing that you wore. Then place these items in the sun for a few days to dry .
 - If it is clothing items, wash them and place in the dryer, then you do not need to place them in the sun.
 - Remember – many times you can spread disease from your shoes, boots, jacket's because they can carry home the disease in the manure that is on your clothes.

Recommended sanitation procedures:

At the exhibition or sale:

- Assess your pigs' health on a daily basis.
- Report any swine health issues to the exhibit organizer (i.e. swine superintendent) or show Veterinarian's so they can assess the pig in question.
- Keep your area clean and free of manure contamination.
- Do not share equipment with other exhibitors.
- Do not bring your pets (cats or dogs) to the exhibit.

Once you get home:

When pigs from different farms are brought to an exhibit or sale and commingled with other pigs of a different health status, the risk of catching a disease can be high. Just like people can spread illness to each other when gathered in a group, pigs from many locations in an exhibit can also spread illness to each other. Therefore, when you bring your pig back home from an exhibit or sale, it is best to place them in isolation.

Isolate returning pigs from the other pigs at your farm.

- Work with your veterinarian for an isolation plan. The isolation/observation period before returning to contact with other pigs should be no fewer than 7-30 days in order to detect an illness.
- Consult a veterinarian if your pig becomes ill.
- Clean and disinfect equipment, clothing, shoes, show box and contents, and vehicles/trailers that were used at the exhibition.

Clean-up can be as simple as washing, disinfecting and allowing your equipment to dry out in the sun. Clean and dry equipment will help to prevent the spread of pathogens.

Recommendations for isolation: (if you have other pigs at your farm)

- Isolation will allow for time for pigs to be observed for disease after they return from an exhibition or sale. When pigs are in isolation, additional testing can be complete to check for diseases before pigs are added back to the rest of the farm. Check with your veterinarian for testing recommendations.
- Have a designated area away from other pigs that have not been to a show.
- Do chores for the pigs in the isolation area as the last task of the day after you have already worked with your other pigs.
- Have dedicated boots and coveralls for isolation only. Another option is to use disposable coveralls and plastic boots for use in isolation and then thrown away when done in isolation.
- Have a separate trash can for use in isolation only.
- Supplies such as buckets and feed pans should not be shared between pigs in isolation and other animals.
- All equipment should be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and allowed to dry after use in the isolation area.