

Recommendations for Risk Management at Swine Exhibitions and for Show Pigs August 2012

Background: The National Pork Board facilitated in developing this document. These recommendations were developed by a working group of people involved in swine exhibitions. Input was sought from various stakeholder audiences including public health, veterinary medicine, regulatory veterinary medicine, influenza researchers and other commercial producers.

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines about informing the public and reducing the risk of transmission of influenza A at fairs, sales and exhibitions. These guidelines make no guarantee that exhibitors and patrons who attend fairs or shows with swine will avoid infection with the influenza A virus, even if they take all recommended precautions. Exhibitors and patrons assume the risk of influenza A infection by attending a fair or show at which pigs are being shown.

For general questions related to this document, please contact the National Pork Board Service Center at 1-800-456-7675. For specific questions related to your state, please contact you state animal health official.

Definitions

Terminal shows – Exhibitions where all animals exhibited are sent directly to slaughter following the show

Breeding shows – Exhibitions where the animals exhibited are considered to be breeding stock. The animals may return to their original farm of origin or be sold to a new producer through a sale at the show. The animals exhibited return to a farm for entry into the breeding herd. Recommended practice is to isolate these animals for 30 days prior to entry into the breeding herd.

Jackpot and other non-terminal market hog shows – Exhibitions for market hogs that would not be sent to slaughter immediately following the show. These animals may return to their home premises and/or go to subsequent exhibitions.

General Risk Management Recommendations

Swine Health

- The temperature of all pigs should be taken at entry to the fair. Any pigs with elevated temperatures should return home immediately or, if that is not advised by the veterinarian in charge, be isolated in a facility with a separate air space from other pigs under the supervision of the veterinarian in charge. Additional diagnostics and/or instructions for follow-up should be established by the veterinarian in charge BEFORE the animal is transported home.
 - The normal temperature range for pigs is 101.5°F to 102.5°F and the normal respiration rate is 25-30 breaths per minute.
 - Fevers in naïve pigs experimentally infected with influenza tend to peak 24-48 hours after infection. Temperatures in the range of 103.0°F to 105.0°F are typical. Pigs with partial immunity may not have elevated temperatures or have a reduced febrile response.

- Temperatures of 103.5°F or greater in a cool rested pig should be an indication for continued monitoring particularly if in conjunction with other signs of illness such as discharge from eyes or nose, increased respiration, inappetance, lethargy, and coughing.
- Pigs should be observed daily for signs of disease or infection. If influenza-like signs are observed, a veterinarian should be contacted for diagnosis. Project pigs with clinical signs of any disease or in the early treatment phases for disease should be isolated in a facility with a separate air space from other pigs under the direction of the veterinarian in charge.
- Pigs with clinical signs of influenza-like illness are considered good candidates for inclusion in the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Surveillance Plan for Swine Influenza Virus in Pigs. The veterinarian in charge should be consulted to determine the appropriate sample collection protocol.

Human Health

- Exhibitors and other animal caretakers experiencing influenza-like illness (fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, muscle aches) should not be in contact with swine for at least 24 hours after the fever ends without the use of fever-reducing medicine or until a physician has ruled out influenza as a diagnosis.

Terminal Shows Risk Management Recommendations

Show Committee/Organizers

- Terminal shows should be held following breeding shows.
- Shows should be scheduled so that pigs are not allowed to stay on the show grounds for more than three (3) days and that there are no holdovers allowed.
- Any pigs with elevated temperatures should return home immediately or, if that is not advised by the veterinarian in charge, be isolated in a facility with a separate air space from other pigs under the supervision of the veterinarian in charge.
 - The normal temperature range for pigs is 101.5°F to 102.5°F and the normal respiration rate is 25-30 breaths per minute.
 - Fevers in naïve pigs experimentally infected with influenza tend to peak 24-48 hours after infection. Temperatures in the range of 103.0°F to 105.0°F are typical. Pigs with partial immunity may not have elevated temperatures or have a reduced febrile response.
 - Temperatures of 103.5°F or greater in a cool rested pig should be an indication for continued monitoring particularly if in conjunction with other signs of illness such as discharge from eyes or nose, increased respiration, inappetance, lethargy, and coughing.
- The show committee should work with show veterinarian in charge, state veterinarian and state public health veterinarian to develop a plan for identification of/response to influenza-like illness in pigs or exhibitors.
- Measures should be taken to increase separation of spectators from pigs including, if possible, physical separation and signage to discourage close contact.
- An increased number of hand washing stations, stocked with disinfectant, will be maintained during the exhibition. Signage to encourage use of these hand washing stations should be posted. Disinfectant hand gel should also be supplied.

- Animal disposition to packing plants or lockers following the show should be verified.

Exhibitors

- Exhibitors should work with their veterinarian to determine if vaccination for endemic strains of swine influenza is beneficial. If pigs are vaccinated, withdrawal periods before slaughter need to be observed.
- Movement records should be maintained for each pig brought to the show.
- Exhibitor may sign an affidavit declaring that exhibitor, exhibitor's close contacts, show animal or animals that show pig has had close contact with have not exhibited influenza-like symptoms during the previous seven (7) days.

Breeding Shows (and Sales) Risk Management Recommendations

Show Committee/Organizers

- Terminal shows should be held following breeding shows.
- Shows should be scheduled so that pigs are not allowed to stay on the show grounds for more than three (3) days and that there are no holdovers allowed.
- The temperature of all pigs should be taken at entry to the fair. Any pigs with elevated temperatures should return home immediately or, if that is not advised by the veterinarian in charge, be isolated in a facility with a separate air space from other pigs under the supervision of the veterinarian in charge.
 - The normal temperature range for pigs is 101.5°F to 102.5°F and the normal respiration rate is 25-30 breaths per minute.
 - Fevers in naïve pigs experimentally infected with influenza tend to peak 24-48 hours after infection. Temperatures in the range of 103.0°F to 105.0°F are typical. Pigs with partial immunity may not have elevated temperatures or have a reduced febrile response.
 - Temperatures of 103.5°F or greater in a cool rested pig should be an indication for continued monitoring particularly if in conjunction with other signs of illness such as discharge from eyes or nose, increased respiration, inappetance, lethargy, and coughing.
- Pigs should be observed daily for signs of disease or infection. If influenza-like signs are observed, a veterinarian should be contacted for diagnosis. Project pigs with clinical signs of any disease or in the early treatment phases for disease should be isolated in a facility with a separate air space from other pigs under the direction of the veterinarian in charge.
- The show committee should work with the show veterinarian in charge, state veterinarian and state public health veterinarian to develop a plan for identification of/response to influenza-like illness in pigs or exhibitors.
- Measures should be taken to increase separation of spectators from pigs including, if possible, physical separation and signage to discourage close contact.
- Install and maintain an increased number of hand washing stations supplied with disinfectant and paper towels. Signage to encourage use of these hand washing stations should be posted. Disinfectant hand gel should also be supplied.
- The show barn should be clean and well ventilated.
- Records of animals sold through the sale should be sent to the state veterinarian to facilitate any necessary trace back.

Exhibitors

- Producers should work with their veterinarian to determine if vaccination for endemic strains of swine influenza is beneficial. If pigs are vaccinated, withdrawal periods before slaughter need to be observed.
- Movement records should be maintained for each pig brought to the show.
- Veterinary health inspections/certificates of veterinary inspection:
 - Veterinary inspection should ideally be conducted within 72 hours prior, or as close as possible, to the animal leaving their farm to attend the exhibition but a certificate of veterinary inspection, verifying overall animal health, should be issued no more than 30 days prior to the animal leaving their farm to attend the exhibition or according to state regulation.
 - To facilitate veterinary inspection as close to the show date as possible, the certificate of veterinary inspection could be required to be specific to that show – no multiple certificates of veterinary inspection.
 - All purchasers must have a certificate of veterinary inspection issued prior to leaving the show.
- Exhibitor may sign an affidavit declaring that exhibitor, exhibitor's close contacts, show animal or animals that show pig has had close contact with have not exhibited influenza-like symptoms during the previous seven (7) days.
- Animals returning from shows should be isolated in a separate facility with appropriate biosecurity for at least 30 days prior to entry into the herd.
- Animals returning from breeding shows and sales are not to be exhibited at subsequent shows

Jackpot Shows and Non-terminal Market Hog Shows Risk Management Recommendations

- Non-terminal market hog shows should observe all risk management strategies recommended for terminal shows. Pigs should not be allowed to attend a subsequent show within 14 days.
- Movement records should be maintained to track all intra- and inter-state movements. Certificates of veterinary inspection should ideally include a veterinary inspection within 72 hours of the animal leaving the farm.

Points Outside of Exhibition Settings Risk Management Recommendations

On-Farm Sales Risk Management Recommendations

- Sellers require the buyers (and close contacts), and animals within their own herds, have no influenza-like illness within seven (7) days of entering seller's premises
- Sellers inquire about the herd health at previous premises visited and should adjust down time requirements between visits if necessary.
- Buyers should shower-in, or wash hands, wear barn-specific clothing and maintain separation from the animals.
- Animals entering a new herd should be isolated in a facility with a separate air space and appropriate biosecurity for at least 30 days prior to entry into the herd or according to the direction of the herd veterinarian.

Public Sales Risk Management Recommendations

- Take measures to increase separation of spectators from pigs including, if possible, physical separation and signage to discourage close contact.
- Install and maintain increased hand washing stations, supplied with disinfectant and paper towels. Display signage to encourage use of these hand washing stations.
- Stress that people exhibiting influenza-like illness, or those that have been in contact with people exhibiting influenza-like illness, should not attend the sale.
- Maintain sales and movement records.
- Animals entering a new herd should be isolated in a separate facility with appropriate biosecurity for at least 30 days prior to entry into the herd or according to the direction of the herd veterinarian.

Transportation Risk Management Recommendations

- Clean and disinfect trailers and equipment.
- Ensure that transporter, and other persons handling the pigs, have not had influenza-like illness within seven (7) days.
- Movement records should be maintained to track all intra- and inter-state movements. Certificates of veterinary inspection should include a veterinary inspection ideally within 72 hours of the animal leaving the farm.
- Inform exhibitors who share transport vehicles about the importance of notifying others who shared transport if one pig gets sick within the isolation period.

Weigh, Tag and Validation Risk Management Recommendations

- To minimize commingling of swine, exhibitors and their parents/project leaders should develop protocols for self-validation of show requirements.
- If self-validation cannot be performed, heightened biosecurity at validation events should be initiated. This would include:
 - Exhibitor may sign an affidavit declaring that exhibitor, exhibitor's close contacts, show animal or animals that show pig has had close contact with have not exhibited influenza-like symptoms for the last seven (7) days.
 - Education on biosecurity and need to clean and disinfect trailers and equipment.
 - Conduct event on hard surfaced lot, and provide ample space between trailers. Crews should wear boots and gloves that are changed between each trailer and any equipment should be properly disinfected according to label instructions.