

Biosecurity Recommendations for Showpig Operations and Those Traveling Between Farms and Sales



Introduction

Anytime there is traffic with people coming onto swine operations, especially when traveling from farm to farm, there is an increased risk for the spread of diseases, such as PEDv, among others. PEDv transfers via feces and survives in manure for extended periods of time. Anything that is contaminated with pig manure can be a source of infection for pigs. Everyone should be aware of the role they may play in the spread of PEDv and other swine diseases. Establishing and following sound biosecurity practices is the cornerstone for reducing the risk of spreading these diseases. EVERYONE needs to be accountable for maintaining a high standard of biosecurity practices because the spread of swine diseases as a result of irresponsible behavior on our part is poor animal husbandry, a poor reflection on those responsible, and brings negativity towards the industry as a whole. With showpig-buying season upon us, the following guidelines are some considerations for families, Ag Teachers and County Agents along with swine owners to consider that will help minimize disease exposure.

Recommended Supplies for Use at Swine Farms:

- ❖ **BE PREPARED** by having the proper supplies. Here is a checklist of supplies that should be used by farms and/or those visiting swine farms:
 - ✓ Disposable Boots – have enough for everyone to double boot at each location in case it is necessary; purchase boots with a min. of 4 ml thickness
 - ✓ Disinfectants - Tek-Trol (comes in both a liquid and an aerosol), 1Stroke, Environ, Virkon S, Synergize, or Chlorox; it is recommended to have both wipes and sprays
 - ✓ Clean Tote Box – this box should house all of the “clean” supplies (plastic boots, coveralls, trash bags, sanitizer, etc.) so that they are kept separate and are sealed away from a potentially contaminated environment
 - ✓ Trash Bags – for use in throwing away disposable items after completion of the visit



For Potential Buyers Visiting Swine Farms:

1. **COMMUNICATE** with the breeder/owner prior to arriving at their farm as to their expectations. Establish what direction to enter the farm, where to park, and what to wear. Follow the wishes of what each farm owner wants. Some will have specific instructions and different requirements that may be more detailed. Just because something is suitable for one, doesn't mean that will work for everyone. Ask the owner to detail any farm-specific biosecurity protocols that you will need to follow during the visit. Ask about the current herd health status. If the farm is undergoing a disease outbreak, it is recommended to NOT visit this farm due to the increased risk of spread to other farms that will be potentially visited.
2. **PARK** in the designated parking area for the farm. Obey all signage regarding access to specific areas. If no parking area exists, park as far away from the livestock barn as possible on the gravel or hard surface, or park on the edge of the public road close to the location. Avoid parking/driving in muddy areas on the farm.
3. **LEAVE ALL PERSONAL ITEMS** in the vehicle and do not bring them onto the farm; this should include, but not be limited to pig whips/bats, ball caps, jewelry, etc. (anything



that manure or infected dust particles can be transported on should be avoided). If it is necessary to wear a ball cap at multiple farms then you should apply an aerosol disinfectant on it between farms.

4. Respect the **LINE OF SEPERATION** at each farm. The Line of Separation is defined as the line between the area that is to be used by the visitor and the area to be used by farm personnel.
5. **DO NOT TOUCH** any pigs while on the farm if you do not have to. People that touch hogs need to sanitize hands upon departure before getting back into the vehicle.
6. When leaving **REMOVE DIRTY BOOTS** next to your vehicle but before you enter the vehicle. Put trash into a garbage bag and place in a location designated by the farm or away from clean supplies. Everyone should clean hands with sanitizer or wipes before entering the vehicle. Note that you should try to keep the inside of the vehicle as sanitary as possible.
7. **WASH/DISINFECT VEHICLES AND TRAILERS** in between each road trip. Pay special attention to the wheel wells and undercarriage. A high temperature wash is critical. Be sure to thoroughly disinfect the inside of the vehicle between road trips. Each night during a road trip spray the inside of the vehicle with an aerosol disinfectant and wipe down the steering wheel.
8. Shoes should be sanitized daily when traveling to farms and sales with one of the recommended disinfectants. If you are stopping at multiple farms in the same day then you should use an aerosol disinfectant (ie. Tek-trol) to spray down everyone's shoes, clothes, and ball caps in between farms.



For Swine Farm Operators:

1. Maintain a log of visitors.
2. Establish a clear line of separation at the farm. This is a line dividing the area that is to be used by the farm for live animals (often referred to as the clean area) and the area that is outside of the live animal area (the dirty area). Only the owner goes into the pens and has contact with the pigs. Enforce no reaching into pens and zero contact with pigs by visitors. It is recommended that a separate area be used to show/view pigs.
3. Designate a parking area for visitors.
4. Traffic flow – utilize a single direction traffic flow by designating a single entrance / exit point for vehicles.
5. Foot baths – If managed correctly, provide and encourage the use of foot bath stations as people enter the farm. Refresh the solution periodically depending on level of use. However, bear in mind that a contaminated foot bath could be more detrimental than helpful. Do not rely solely on the use of a foot bath.
6. Establish a designated area away from all swine for disposable items, such as boot covers and other trash, to be collected for removal.

