

Our world and society has become a global entity, where people and animals move about often. With the ability to move animals the potential risk of moving animal disease increases. Currently the United States and other countries are dealing with a rather pesky swine virus, which has caused concern of how viruses spread. In all animals, especially swine, practicing good biosecurity is imperative to minimize the spread. What is Biosecurity and why is it important? Biosecurity refers to the measures taken to keep diseases out of herds, flocks or groups of animals. Examples of practices are: washing & disinfecting boots, not allowing visitors on your farm and wearing coveralls and plastic boots just to name a few. As Wisconsin youth members begin to think about preparing for show season, it's time to think about how to deal with the many questions and challenges associated with Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv), the pesky virus that is affecting much of the United States. Being mindful of commingling feeder age pigs at sales, weigh-ins, exhibitions and other venues where the virus could potentially be spread is being a good citizen and steward of the swine industry. Regardless of PEDv's presence though, certain measures should always be a priority for anyone involved in swine shows.

What do we know about PEDv as of right now – this virus is passed through the manure, with symptoms of extreme diarrhea and vomiting. Baby pigs usually don't have enough reserves to survive however older pigs can survive and recover with extra care if added hydration such as water and electrolytes. If animals get exposed to the virus, symptoms show up rather quickly, 1-3 days. This is a new virus to the United States and still much is not specifically known on this virus. More information is gleaned each day for better ways of detecting and minimizing the spread of the virus. What is most important to know and share with concerned consumers is that PEDv has no food safety risk. Pork products are safe to consume and pigs are the only host for this virus, it is not found in other animals and can't be transmitted to humans.

#### **Sales/Farm Visits**

- Contact the farm(s) that you will visit in advance. Do they have any requirements for visitors – i.e. not visited another farm for 24 hours; will they provide disposable boots, coveralls; is there a specific location you should park your vehicle?
- Ask questions about the health of the animals you are purchasing. Have there been any health challenges in the current group of pigs for sale? If so, have they been treated and with what product?
- What vaccinations have the pigs received? When were they given?
- The risk for spreading PEDv is through fecal material. If manure gets on your shoes, clothes, truck mats, trailer, equipment or other items, they should be washed, disinfected and dried when you get home and before going to another farm, sale, or into your barn.
- Make sure you have a clean line of separation between farms, here is an example. Remove all of the boots, coveralls, etc. at that farm and have them discard. Then get into your vehicle. The clothes & boots that you wear when pig shopping should be different then what is used on your farm and or where your project animals are located.
- You should really schedule one visit per day to a farm for pig selection. Research has indicated showering has minimized the spread. Also make sure you are washing your hands frequently.

#### **When Pigs Get Home**

- Have your facilities ready for pigs. With cool spring weather, you will want to provide an area that is free of drafts and warm with plenty of bedding. Calf hutches or other structures work well until the pigs have grown and the weather has warmed.

- Isolate new pigs coming to your farm from other pigs that are already on the farm. The recommended isolation period before returning to contact with other pigs should be no fewer than 30 days in order to detect an illness. 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.
- Monitor pigs daily. Are they eating and drinking? Showing any signs of illness?
- Know the number of a large animal veterinarian. If pigs start to show signs of illness, make sure you work with the veterinarian for antibiotic use, electrolytes such as Swine BlueLite (made by *Techmix*), and other possible treatments.

### **Preparing for the Show, Returning Home**

- Bring only healthy pigs to a show, if the pig is sick they need to stay home. We understand that being able to show is important, however bringing sick pigs indicates you are not being a respectful exhibitor and steward of the animal industries. Observe them daily because the pigs will tell you a lot.
- Clean out the tack box and do it away from the barn or pigs. Remove any organic material, then wash and disinfect all equipment—pails, brushes, waterers, whips, panels, gates—even the boots you wore at the show. Use a commercial disinfectant according to label directions and allow everything to dry.
- Clean out the truck cab and trailer. Use the same basic approach—remove organic matter, floor mats, gates, ramps—and wash, disinfect and dry.
- Take only the feed and shavings that you will need, and leave anything not used behind. Don't bring any feed or shavings home—it's not worth the risk. To not waste feed, weigh and bag the amount of feed you will need for each day of a show, add in a couple extra servings for a safety net and that's it.
- Pigs that return home should go into isolation—if at all possible—for at least 30 days or longer if possible. A shed or another room in a low-traffic area is good.
- Do the chores in the isolated area last each time and wash your hands before and after. Wear disposable boots and coveralls, and put them in the trash away from other pigs. Finally, be sure no equipment crosses out of this area.

### **Use of disinfectants:**

Step 1: Remove **ALL** manure, bedding, etc. with hot soapy water from boots, show equipment, etc. If the manure material isn't fully removed, the disinfectant likely won't work.

Step 2: Disinfectant the boots, equipment, etc. and let sit for at least 1 day, potentially longer if possible. It seems with this virus the longer they sit the better kill effect it has. Such disinfectants are: One Stroke, Virkon, Tek Troll, etc. Make sure you follow the dilution directions specifically. Four parts water to one part bleach is also a good mix for disinfecting, however this solution can be hard on equipment – thus monitor this.

### **Supplies:**

Disposable boots & coveralls <http://www.farmtek.com/>, [www.nasco.com](http://www.nasco.com), many others.

Disinfectants – location farm supplies stores, Farm & Fleet, Fleet Farm, Grocery store (bleach).

No doubt this virus has created changes in swine exhibition, however it shouldn't minimize youth's participation in this great learning experience that the swine project provides. Being a good steward of animal care and health, you too can minimize the spread of most disease. REMEMBER KEEP SICK ANIMALS AT HOME and TO WASH YOUR HANDS! There are many resources and fact sheets available from the Pork Checkoff and on the Wisconsin Youth Livestock Program website. Youth can find those at [www.pork.org/pedv](http://www.pork.org/pedv) and <http://fyi.uwex.edu/youthlivestock/pedv>

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