

## Biosecurity

Rapid detection of a foreign animal disease is crucial to prevent the spread of the disease across our nation. The problem grows as the time between infection and detection increases.

Producers and veterinary practitioners find themselves on the front lines in defense of U.S. animal agriculture.

Veterinarians play a vital role in keeping our nation's food supply secure. Please call your Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) or your State Veterinarian if you suspect a foreign animal disease on a client's farm.



# - VETERINARIAN -

## In the WAR Against Foreign Animal Disease



# Our future depends on YOU

**Observe Carefully, Report Quickly**

AREA VETERINARIAN IN CHARGE'S PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

STATE VETERINARIAN'S PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

*Hundreds of suspected foreign animal disease cases are investigated every year in the United States. Please do not hesitate to call your AVIC or State Veterinarian. We would rather investigate all suspicious illnesses than to miss an outbreak of a foreign animal disease.*

**When you call:**

- Please have directions to the farm readily available.
- A Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) trained at Plum Island Animal Disease Center in foreign animal disease recognition will come to the farm to evaluate the situation.
- Samples will be collected and sent to the appropriate laboratory.
- The State Veterinarian will make a decision on whether or not to impose a temporary quarantine or movement restrictions while the samples are being evaluated in the lab. Laboratory testing usually does not take longer than 24-48 hours.

For more information on government animal health emergency response plans, contact your State Veterinarian's office or the:

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
USDA

4700 River Rd., Unit 41, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

(301) 734-8073 • [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

USDA Foreign Animal Disease Hotline: (800) 601-9327

# Biosecurity

Preventing the introduction of disease agents is a continuous challenge for pork producers and veterinarians. The problem is compounded when pigs are housed outdoors because producers cannot control pig contact with wildlife, stray animals, rodents, insects, aerosols, and people. This guide will help producers assess and monitor the biosecurity of their farm.



## Biosecurity Considerations for Pigs Housed Outdoors or with Access to Outdoor Lots

- 1. Isolation.** Even in outdoor units, the greatest risk of disease introduction to a herd is by introducing infected stock. Direct contact between infected and uninfected pigs is the most efficient way to spread disease. Isolation of incoming stock provides a safeguard against such transmission. Isolation allows time for producers to observe new stock for signs of disease before herd entry. Isolation also gives producers the opportunity to test animals for exposure to certain diseases and to acclimate or vaccinate animals against current herd diseases.
- 2. Location.** Aerosol spread of pathogens usually is reported to occur approximately 2 miles around an infected farm. Locating your outdoor unit at least 2 miles from other swine could minimize the risk of infection by natural aerosol transmission.
- 3. Pig Flow.** All-in, all-out pig flow can help prevent transmission of diseases from pig to pig. Although, some pathogens can survive for lengthy periods of time outside of the pig, particularly in cold weather, most pathogens will not survive for very long outdoors because sunlight will dry and inactivate them.
- 4. Pest/Wildlife Control.** Control of birds, wildlife, and rodents is difficult in an outdoor system. However, you can do some things to make your farm less desirable to these creatures. Examples include controlling the vegetation within and surrounding the unit, cleaning up feed spills, discarding debris, and prompt carcass removal. Additionally, eliminating areas with standing water and spraying can lessen the insect population.
- 5. Access deterrents.** People can be discouraged from entering your premises and contacting pigs by posting "No Trespassing" and "No Visitor" signs surrounding the property and on entrance roads. Posting "Please don't feed the pigs" signs on gates can discourage transmission of disease by infected human food. Storage areas for medications, chemicals, etc. should be locked when not in use. A single, gated road that serves as both entrance and exit will discourage unwanted vehicles and visitors from entering the property.
- 6. Feed.** Covering feed bins can prevent tampering.
- 7. Vigilance.** You will not be able to prevent access to people with bad intentions; therefore, it is important to be aware of any signs of entry or tampering:
  - Injection sites on pigs, food wrappers, tire tracks, footprints, and broken equipment indicate trespassers.
  - Frequent pig inventories can detect stolen or added swine.
  - Monitoring for signs of disease can help detect an outbreak early so that it can be quickly contained. Call your veterinarian if you see blisters on the pig's snout, feet, or tongue, or if you observe an unusually high number of pigs with fevers, lameness, off-feed, or with discolored skin. Also, report any unusual death loss.

Securing an outdoor facility is challenging but procedures can be employed that discourage unwanted visitors and pests.

# Biosecurity

Most phone threats begin with the words, "Listen very carefully. I'm only going to say this once." Keep a copy of this guide by the phone along with a pen and pad of paper. If you receive a phone threat, try to remain calm. Record the call or write notes during and after the telephone call. Try to write down everything that the caller says. The questions below are a guide to help you remain calm while recording information that will be helpful to police for tracing the origin of the threat.



"Listen very carefully.  
I'm only going to say this once."

Time call began \_\_\_\_\_ Time call ended \_\_\_\_\_ Length of the call \_\_\_\_\_

Caller's name \_\_\_\_\_

Caller's organization \_\_\_\_\_

Threat that was made (in the caller's words)

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Demands that were made

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Did the caller say that they would call again?

NO      YES

Voice characteristics (Circle those that apply):

Accent                  NO      YES      (type of accent) \_\_\_\_\_  
Speech impediment    NO      YES      (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Gender of caller:

MALE      FEMALE      UNABLE TO DETERMINE

How old did the caller sound?

CHILD    TEEN    ADULT    SENIOR

Caller's attitude:

CALM    EXCITED    INTOXICATED    RATIONAL    IRRATIONAL    ANGRY    VULGAR    OTHER

Background noises:

NO      YES (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Did the call sound like it was made from a car or telephone booth?

NO      YES

After the call ends:

1. Hang up the phone.
2. Immediately pick up the receiver again and dial \*57 to mark the caller's call.
3. Call the police and tell them that you have marked the call by dialing \*57.
4. Finish filling out this sheet.
5. Notify your supervisor.
6. Write the name of the person who answered the phone here \_\_\_\_\_

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Pork producers play a vital role in keeping our nation's food supply secure.



# - PRODUCER -

## In the WAR Against Foreign Animal Disease



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**Observe Carefully, Report Quickly**

**Please call your veterinarian immediately if you observe:**

- Unusually high number of sick animals
- Unusually high number of deaths
- Blisters or vesicles on animals' snout, or feet
- Unusually high number of lame animals
- Unusually high number of animals with fevers
- Unusually high number of animals not eating
- Unusually high number of animals that do not want to get up
- Discoloration of the ears, belly, rump, legs, or tail

**HERD VETERINARIAN'S PHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

*Your veterinarian will contact the USDA Area Veterinarian in Charge or State Veterinarian if he/she suspects a foreign animal disease. Hundreds of suspected foreign animal disease cases are investigated every year in the United States. Please do not hesitate to call your veterinarian. Investigation of all suspicious illnesses is better than not detecting an outbreak of a foreign animal disease.*

*If you cannot reach your veterinarian or do not have a herd veterinarian, call your USDA Area Veterinarian in Charge.*

**AREA VETERINARIAN IN CHARGE'S PHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE VETERINARIAN'S PHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

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