Swine Health Producer Guide

Swine Health Recommendations: Biosecurity for Organizers of Weigh-in or Tagging Events

Animals that are commingled at an exhibition, sale or another event pose a risk for spreading disease. Organizers and advisors scheduling commingled pig events should assess each situation and the associated risks to pig health. The recommendations listed may be applied to all swine commingling events at centralized locations and to other pigs that are physically on the premises. Before your event, have a plan in place to manage pigs from many different locations and to handle sick pigs properly. This planning will help reduce the chance of disease spread.

Basic Biosecurity: At the weigh-in

1. Owners should be the only persons going into a trailer to sort or restrain pigs.
2. At the time of the weigh-in, owners and advisors should wear clean clothes and footwear which can be cleaned (or disposable coveralls over clothing and plastic boots over one's shoes).
3. Have a garbage bag for disposing used plastic boots. Carry another for clothes that may be dirty. Dispose of disposable coverings before leaving weigh-in site.
4. Keep the health papers in a zip-lock bag (just in case you drop them on the ground).
5. Limit the exposure of your pigs to the facility and equipment as much as possible.
6. If an animal is suspect to be ill at the time of handling, manage that animal last.

Basic Biosecurity: At the weigh scale

1. When using a stationary scale (one that does not move from site to site):
   - Have owners move pig to the scale but they should not enter the scale.
   - Sweep the scale free of manure and shavings between pigs and when finished. Remove manure from scale area.
   - Thoroughly wash and disinfect the scale and area around it at the end of weigh-in. Allow to dry before re-use.
2. When using mobile scale (a scale that goes to more than one location):
   - Prior to use, make sure that the scale is fully clean and free of dirt/manure. Disinfect and allow to dry.
   - Have owners move pig to the scale but they should not enter the scale.
   - Sweep the scale free of manure and shavings between pigs and when finished. Remove manure from scale area.
   - Thoroughly wash and disinfect the scale and area around it at the end of weigh-in. Allow to dry before sending to another location.
   - The vehicle that moves the scale should also be cleaned and dried before going to another location. The interior of the vehicle should be free of any dirt and debris.
   - Contain any garbage that may accumulate at one site and dispose of before going to another location.

Clean and dry equipment will help to reduce the spread of pathogens.

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This message funded by America's Pork Producers and the Pork Checkoff.

2/2014 #04166

Basic Biosecurity: Tagging animals

1. Owners should be the only persons to enter a trailer and restrain the pig(s).
2. If tagging can be done at the back of the trailer:
   - Owners should sort pigs to the back gate and restrain the pigs.
   - Staff assisting in ear tagging should not enter the trailer.
3. Start with clean and disinfected taggers and have multiple taggers available that are clean and ready to use.
4. Disinfect/wipe down taggers between each pig (Examples: utilize bleach wipes or have pre-mixed disinfectant available for use).

Basic Biosecurity: Vaccinating pigs

1. Owners should be the only persons to enter a trailer and restrain the pig(s).
2. If vaccination can be done at the back of the trailer:
   - Owners should sort pigs to the back gate and restrain the pigs.
   - Staff assisting in vaccination should not enter the trailer.
3. Start with clean and disinfected syringes and needles. Have additional equipment available for use that are clean and ready to use.
4. Wipe down the exterior of the syringe in between each pig (Examples: utilize bleach wipes)
5. Use a new needle for each pig.
6. If using a multi-dose syringe:
   - Use a new needle each time a new dose or amount of vaccine is taken from the bottle
   - Use a new needle per pig
7. Keep proper records for each pig of vaccine given including the date, dose, product name, vaccine serial number and withdrawal time

Biosecurity recommendations for exhibitors are available at *pork.org*