

SWINE WEIGH-IN OR TAGGING EVENT BIOSECURITY

Organizers can take steps to reduce the risk of spreading disease when animals are commingled at a weigh-in or tagging event. Implementing these biosecurity measures for swine commingling events at centralized locations will help reduce the risk of disease spread.

PLANNING FOR THE EVENT

- Purchase items to implement biosecurity measures (cleaning and disinfecting products, disposable coveralls and boots, trash cans, etc.) for use at the site.
- Ensure all equipment (e.g., tagger, weigh scale, etc.) has been cleaned, disinfected, and dried before use.
- Determine the traffic pattern and create signage needed to communicate with participants.
- Discuss options for disinfecting vehicles.

AT THE WEIGH-IN EVENT

Owners should be the only people going into a trailer to sort or restrain pigs.

- Wear clean clothes or disposable coveralls and plastic covers over footwear.
- Limit the exposure of pigs to the facility and equipment as much as possible.
- Use trash cans for disposable coveralls or plastic boots that were used. Launder clothing or coveralls before reuse.



AT THE WEIGH SCALE

- Clean, disinfect, and allow the scale equipment to dry prior to use.
- Sweep the scale, pens, and alleyways free of manure and shavings between groups.
- Remove manure from scale area between different groups of pigs.
- Dispose of manure and shavings to a pre-determined location away from pig/exhibitor traffic. Avoid cross-contaminating other areas during transport.
- When an event is over, thoroughly clean and disinfect the scale equipment and surrounding area. Allow these areas to dry before re-use.
- Contain any garbage generated and dispose of it before going to another location.

When using a mobile scale (one that goes to more than one location), the vehicle that transports it must be cleaned and disinfected before it is moved to another location.



CLEANING, DISINFECTING, AND DRYING EQUIPMENT WILL HELP TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF PATHOGENS.

TAGGING AND EAR-NOTCHING ANIMALS

Owners should be the only people entering a trailer and restraining the pig(s). Staff assisting with ear tagging or ear notching should not enter the trailer.

- Have owners sort pigs at the rear gate of the trailer and restrain the pigs.
- Disinfect/wipe down taggers and ear notchers between each pig. For example, use disinfectant wipes or have pre-mixed disinfectant available for use).

BASIC BIOSECURITY: VACCINATING PIGS

Owners should be the only people entering a trailer and restraining the pig(s). Staff assisting in vaccination should not enter the trailer.

- Restrain and vaccinate animals at the rear gate of the trailer.
- Wipe down the exterior of the syringe between each pig (e.g., use disinfectant wipes).
- Use a new needle for each pig. Dispose of used needles in proper sharps containers.
- If using a multi-dose syringe, use a new needle each time vaccine is withdrawn from the bottle.
- Record information for each pig vaccinated including the date, dose, product name, vaccine serial number and withdrawal time.

KEY POINTS

Biosecurity measures for disease prevention can take time to implement, but with careful planning, these steps can become part of the process and help prevent disease spread.

- Work with your veterinarian to ensure you understand all necessary documentation that will be needed and an effective biosecurity plan for your event.
- Ensure all participants understand the biosecurity measures used during the event.
- Clean, disinfect, and dry all equipment and vehicles used to handle or transport animals.



DISEASE PATHOGENS LIKE TO HITCH A RIDE

Bacteria and viruses can survive in different types of materials, such as organic matter (e.g., shavings, manure), feed, water, mud, or even snow.

Without implementing biosecurity measures, contaminated boots, clothing, tires, undercarriages, trailers, shovels, winter panels, sorting panels, and people can spread pathogens and infect healthy pigs.

**KEEP PIGS HEALTHY!
PREVENT CROSS CONTAMINATION!**

Additional biosecurity recommendations for event organizers are available at porkcheckoff.org.