Biosecurity is vital to good health management of swine. Establishing a line of separation between the clean area (inside a swine facility) and the dirty area (outside a swine facility) is an essential step to good biosecurity.

A routine biosecurity method for swine barns is a “shower in/shower out” procedure. That requires employees and visitors to leave shoes and clothing outside the swine facility, enter through a shower and use clothing the facility provides.

However, when showering facilities aren’t available, the next best option is a Danish entry system. This simple system creates a barrier— a bench— everyone entering a swine facility must cross over without footwear. This has proven to be effective against disease issues, particularly porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv), that transfer through fecal material.

Follow these steps:

1. Make sure your shoes and clothing are clean of debris and have not been worn around other swine. Sit on the bench with your street shoes on the “dirty” side.

2. Remove your shoes or boots and leave them on the “dirty” side, then swing your feet over the bench to the “clean” side. Make sure your feet don’t touch anything on the “dirty” side.

3. Clean your hands by washing them at a sink or using hand sanitizer.

4. Put on the farm boots the swine operation provides for you to wear.

An alternative to removing your street footwear is pulling on plastic boots over your shoes or boots before swinging your feet over the bench to the clean side. Make sure the plastic boots do not touch anything on the dirty side.