

North Dakota Swine Health Recommendations: Exhibitors of All Pigs Going to Exhibits or Sales

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With animals being commingled at an exhibition, show or sale, spreading disease is a risk. The recommendations listed apply to ALL swine that are on the premises of an exhibit or sale. Having a plan in place to identify and handle sick pigs properly will help reduce the chance of disease spread.

In preparation for the exhibit or sale:

- **Consult** a veterinarian to understand and implement applicable biosecurity and swine health practices. Keep the veterinarian's phone number in your barn with your pig's papers and, if possible, in your cell phone.
- **Obtain the appropriate paperwork** for the exhibition, including health certificates.
- **For your pig's health certificate**, you will need to provide the following information:
 - Your name, contact information and farm address
 - Premises identification number for your farm or where the pigs are housed (required for Pork Quality Assurance certification or state equivalent)
 - Individual pig identification and physical description for each animal going to the exhibit or sale
 - **North Dakota Board of Animal Health's identification requirement:** "All swine imported into North Dakota for exhibition purposes must be officially, individually identified by one form of permanent and one other form of approved official use tag."
 - Information for exhibit-specific requirements
 - Any current vaccines the pig has received and current disease testing, if requested
- **ANY pigs moving within North Dakota** are required to have an intrastate health certificate. This includes swine being transported for exhibition or sale and excludes swine being transported for slaughter. The intrastate health certificate **must** include the following statement: "The premises the swine are originating from has not had any signs or a diagnosis of Transmissible Gastroenteritis (TGE) or Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv) in the last 60 days." and be signed by the veterinarian **and** owner.
- **If pigs originate in North Dakota and are going to be exhibited or sold outside of North Dakota**, have your veterinarian check with the state in which you are exhibiting or selling for specific requirements.

Certificate of Veterinary Inspection: This is the form to use for intra and interstate health certificates.

The image shows a sample 'CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION' form from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. The form is divided into several sections:

- Header:** Includes the title, department name, and a 'No.' field.
- Origin and Destination:** Fields for '1. Name of Consignor/Owner', '2. Address', '3. Origin (Address of Originator From Above)', and '4. Destination Address (If Different From Above)'. It also includes '5. State' and '6. Date Issued'.
- Animal Details:** Fields for '7. Species', '8. Breed', '9. Sex', '10. Age', '11. Weight', '12. Color', '13. Markings', '14. Identification', and '15. Vaccination Status'.
- Individual Animal Identification and Test Data:** A table with columns for 'EARTAG NO OR OTHER IDENTIFYING SYMBOL', 'AGE', 'SEX', 'WEIGHT', 'TEST NAME', 'TEST RESULT', 'RESULTS', and 'REMARKS'.
- Veterinary Certification:** A section for the veterinarian's signature and stamp, including '16. Signature of Veterinarian', '17. Signature of Owner', and '18. Date'.

- **If pigs originate outside of North Dakota and are going to be exhibited or sold in North Dakota**, then an interstate health certificate is required. This health certificate **must** have the following statement: "The premises the swine are originating from has not had any signs or a diagnosis of Transmissible Gastroenteritis (TGE) or Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv) in the last 60 days." and be signed by the veterinarian **and** owner.

IMPORTANT: Violating the health requirements established by the state can result in legal action and fines.

- **Become familiar** with the clinical signs of a sick pig (fever, off feed, lethargy, nasal discharge, cough, "thumping" or difficulty breathing, diarrhea).
 - The normal rectal temperature of a pig is between 101.5 and 102.5 F.
 - Pigs can't sweat and need help staying cool on hot days. Hot weather may cause a pig's temperature to be elevated. If a pig's temperature is raised, allow the pig to cool off and retake the temperature.
 - Work with your veterinarian if your pig becomes sick.
- **Some diseases can transmit** from humans to pigs and from pigs to humans (such as influenza); therefore, do not go to the exhibition or sale if you or your pig is sick.

- **Make sure all of your equipment**, including your show box and its contents, is cleaned, disinfected and ready to go prior to the exhibition. Do not share any equipment with other exhibitors once at the exhibit.
- **Be aware** of what the event organizer will require in the case an animal becomes sick. With PEDv, the organizers may implement special requirements, so you must read and understand regulations before going to a show or sale.

At the exhibition or sale:

- Assess your pig's health on a daily basis.
- Report any swine health issues to the exhibit organizer (swine superintendent) or show veterinarian so they can assess the pig in question.
- Ask the event organizer about any specific actions that may be required if a pig becomes sick at the show.
- Keep your area clean and free of manure contamination.
- Do not share equipment with other exhibitors.
- Do not bring your pets (cats or dogs) to the exhibit. They can carry pathogens that can make pigs sick and, particularly, can transport feces contaminated with PEDv.

Once you return home

When pigs from different farms are brought to an exhibit or sale and commingled with other pigs of a different health status, the risk of catching a disease can be high. Just as people can spread illness to each other when gathered in a group, pigs from many locations in an exhibit or sale can spread illness to each other. Therefore, when you bring your pig home from an exhibit or sale, you should place it in isolation.

Isolate returning pigs from other pigs at your farm.

- Work with your veterinarian on an isolation plan. The isolation period before allowing the returning pigs to have contact with other pigs should be a minimum of seven to 30 days to detect an illness.
- Do chores in the isolation area as the last task of the day after you already have worked with your other pigs.
- Have dedicated boots and coveralls for use only in the isolation area. Another option is to use disposable coveralls and plastic boots in the isolation area.
- Supplies such as buckets, feed pans and trash cans should not be shared between pigs in isolation and other pigs.
- All equipment should be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly, and allowed to dry after use in the isolation area.
- Contact your local veterinarian and the event organizer if your pig becomes ill.
- **Clean and disinfect** equipment, clothing, shoes, show box and contents, and vehicles/trailers that were used at the exhibit or sale.

PEDv

Clinical signs:

- PEDv is similar to TGE.
- Look for pigs that are off feed or vomiting, and have severe diarrhea.
- The mortality rate in preweaned pigs is high.

Diagnosis:

- Send fresh fecal samples from untreated pigs to the NDSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL). The samples should be on ice (chilled).
- Use a sterile container that can be placed inside a second container to avoid contamination of the environment.
- Work through the local veterinarian.
- Contact the VDL at (701) 231-8307.

Transmission: Oral contact with contaminated feces. Most common sources of infected feces are pigs, trucks, boots and clothes.

Incubation period: Only 12 to 24 hours

Shedding period: Up to three to four weeks

Youth PQA Plus

All people raising and/or exhibiting swine should be certified through the Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA Plus) program. Youth PQA Plus mirrors the content of the industry's adult program (PQA Plus) and is available for youth pork producers of ages 8 to 19. Youth PQA Plus provides youth with information about on-farm good production practices for the promotion of pork safety and pig well-being.

For more information on Youth PQA Plus, call (800) 456-7675 or go to www.pork.org.

Adapted from "Swine Health Recommendations: Exhibitors of All Pigs Going to Exhibits or Sales," a National Pork Board swine health guide