

North Dakota Swine Health Recommendations: Organizers of 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.

Prior to the exhibition:

- **Identify** a veterinarian to be available and assist organizers with the show, including:
 - Animal check-in
 - Daily health evaluation during the exhibit or sale
 - Sample collection and submission
 - Determining actions for sick pigs, including, removal from the exhibit, isolation and/or treatment
- **Post** the veterinarian's contact number at the exhibit/sale office and in the barn.
- **Write and discuss** a plan to address biosecurity protocols and potential animal health issues with the veterinarian and event staff to coordinate all efforts, including sample collection if needed.
- **Ensure that all event staff** assisting with the event become familiar with the clinical signs of a sick pig (fever, off feed, lethargy, nasal discharge, cough, diarrhea, etc.) and will relay that information to the veterinarian and/or primary organizer contact.
 - Understand the risks to humans and animals of having a sick pig at the event.
 - Locate an isolation area away from the main exhibit to be used in the event sick pigs are identified:
 - An off-site location is preferable.
 - If not possible, utilize an area blocked off from public and animal traffic.
 - Utilize personnel who do not have any contact with other pigs at the facility.
- **Other animals, such as cats and dogs, can transfer pathogens. To prevent the spread of disease, request that pets be kept home and not brought to the event.**

At the exhibit:

- **At check-in**, each pig should be evaluated, and any sick pig should not be unloaded. Sick pigs should be sent home immediately.
- **Check-in recommendations:**
 - Event personnel should avoid entry into trailers. Owners should provide health certificate for event staff to review outside of trailers.
 - If event personnel have to enter a trailer to examine an animal, they should use disposable coveralls and boots, and dispose of them immediately after a single use.
 - Use a hand-washing station between loads or have hand sanitizers or wipes available.
- **Animals** should have accompanying intrastate and/or interstate health certificate(s). The certificate must include:
 - Exhibitor's name, contact information and farm address
 - Premise identification number (required for Pork Quality Assurance certification or state equivalent)
 - **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."
- Health certificates are valid for 30 days.
- Pigs must originate from a pseudorabies- and brucellosis-free state or area/zone. Pseudorabies vaccination is prohibited except with the written permission of the state veterinarian.
- **If pigs originated in North Dakota**, an intrastate health certificate is required by the North Dakota Board of Animal Health. 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.
- **If pigs originated outside of North Dakota**, then an interstate health certificate is required by the North Dakota Board of Animal Health. 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.

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

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

- **Observe swine daily** for signs of illness, which may include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, nasal discharge, cough, vomiting or diarrhea.
- **Report any illness** to the primary veterinarian or the appropriate event staff (swine superintendent) so the pig can be evaluated. In the case of a PEDv diagnosis, also contact the state veterinarian, Dr. Susan Keller, at (701) 328-2655.
- **If swine are ill**, they should be moved immediately to a designated isolation area away from the main exhibit or sale site. Consult the veterinarian and barn superintendent **before** moving the animal.
- **Use precaution** when caring for sick pigs to minimize the opportunity for disease transmission to other pigs or people:
 - Do not restock the sick pigs’ pen with other pigs.
 - Halt or limit foot traffic around the pen.
 - Scoop or sweep manure back into the pen and then carry the shovel or broom to isolation.
 - Wash hands after handling sick pigs, and change clothing and boots.

After the exhibit or sale

Animal health experts recommend that organizers of exhibits and sales put in place a voluntary notification system so attendees can notify the event organizer of a disease outbreak, particularly PEDv, within 48 hours of leaving the exhibit or show.

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

PQA Plus/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.