



Fair Board Members,

Last summer, pigs at fairs in other states spread the flu to other pigs and to people who cared for the pigs. In response, a national working group was created to identify ways to reduce this risk. Although the measures created specifically address pigs, many also could be applied to other types of fair livestock. The measures enclosed were suggested for fair organizers to review and take into consideration when planning this year's fair. The entire working group report is also included for your review. Feel free to call either of us with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for the important work that you are doing to promote educational fairs in our state,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Schmitt".

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Garvey".

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Suggested Measures for Fair Organizers

Measures to consider before the fair

- Limit the time pigs are congregated and co-mingled at an exhibition. Measures might include:
 - Shorten the total time pigs are on the exhibition grounds; ideally exhibition swine should be on the exhibition grounds no more than 72 hours.
 - Release pigs from the exhibition grounds as soon as possible following their respective show(s).
 - If offering both terminal pig and breeding swine shows, schedule the terminal show after the breeding swine show or schedule a break between shows. Use this break to clean and disinfect the facility.
 - Locate longer-term swine exhibits (i.e. Big Boars, birthing center animals, display exhibits of pigs) away from areas where the competition swine are housed.
- Establish a relationship with a veterinarian(s) who will be present or on call for the duration of the exhibition. The veterinarian(s) will be responsible for monitoring the animals for clinical signs, evaluating sick animals and taking additional steps as warranted to minimize the risk of influenza-like illness in the swine.
- Establish a protocol to immediately remove sick swine from the exhibition area.
- Maintain records of individual swine identification and source farms to enhance the speed and accuracy of an animal disease investigation associated with the exhibition.
- Establish methods to rapidly communicate (i.e. email addresses and/or phone numbers from show entry information, social media channels, etc.) with exhibitors about procedural changes or incidents associated with the exhibition.
- Host non-animal-related activities (i.e. dances, pizza parties, etc.) in locations other than animal barns.

Measures to consider during the fair

- Host a meeting with exhibitors and their family members prior to the start of the exhibition to do the following:
 - Provide contact information for the designated exhibition veterinarian.
 - Provide instructions on how to report animal illnesses and explain any specific actions that may be required if a pig becomes sick at the show.
 - Provide contact information for a public health official who can answer public health questions and be available during the exhibition.
 - Review exhibition regulations.
 - Review and encourage disease control measures to be utilized during the exhibition, including the daily monitoring of the animals during the show, as well as for when the exhibitor returns home.
- Provide easy access to hand washing stations.
- Post informational signage that includes the following messages:
 - No eating or drinking in the animal areas
 - Wash hands frequently
 - No pacifiers, sipping cups or strollers in the animal areas
- Discourage sleeping in the animal areas.
- If human or swine influenza-like-illness is associated with the exhibition, animal health and public health officials should be notified immediately. Public health officials should facilitate human testing for influenza viruses, including variant influenza viruses, investigate the source of illness, and attempt to identify additional human cases. If illness is detected in swine or humans, public health recommendations include:
 - People who have influenza-like illness should leave the exhibition immediately and seek medical care. They should advise their health care provider about their exposure to swine.
 - People at high risk for developing more severe complications from influenza, as listed above, should be discouraged from entering the swine areas.
- When the animals are released, clean and disinfect the swine exhibition areas.