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SPOTLIGHT

Biosecurity for Youth Livestock Exhibitors

Dr. Jodi Sterle, Professor, Texas A & M University/Texas Cooperative Extension

Biosecurity – what is it?

Biosecurity is a big word for two pretty simple ideas: keep diseases from entering your farm and affecting your pigs, and prevent diseases that may break on your farm from spreading to other pigs. For youth livestock exhibitors, the risk their animals contracting a disease from being exposed at a show or sale is fairly high. Some simple steps can help your pigs get started on the right track!

Being Prepared

If you are like most livestock exhibitors, you can hardly wait to get your next set of pigs and begin developing them into champions. However, there is homework to be done before you pick out the perfect pig.



- Pens – The main key to biosecurity is *cleaning and disinfection*. Start with the pen. While the most obvious place to start may be the floor/ground, it is probably best to start at the top and work down. Spray down ceilings, shade cloths, light bulbs, fans, fences, etc. with water. Then, take a long-handled brush and some disinfectant (Nolvasan®, Clorox® solution, One Stroke Environ®, or comparable anti-viral, anti-bacterial disinfectant mixed and used according to manufacturer directions) and thoroughly scrub ALL exposed surfaces. Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry completely. If you have dirt or sand, spread some agricultural lime and turn the dirt, to minimize exposure to pathogens.
- Feeders and waterers – Similar procedures apply for equipment in the pen. Include self-feeders, feed pans, nipple or cup waterers, and any other equipment.
- Showbox and equipment – An often overlooked, but potentially dangerous source of pathogens is your showbox and everything in it! Show sticks, shampoo bottles, exhibitor number holders, anything that goes to the show and comes back home, including the showbox itself, should be scrubbed down and disinfected.
- Trailer – All bedding should be removed and discarded, and the trailer ceiling, walls and floors cleaned and disinfected.

Taking a few simple steps to minimize the risk of disease exposure will help you make it to the first pen at the show!

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Daily Mail Tuesday, October 30, 2007 7:36:00 PM GMT

[SBA Disaster Loans Available in New York Following Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Declaration](#)

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