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BOAH Statement on Swine Exhibitions This Season

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The recent decision by one county fair board to cancel the local swine show has generated many questions to the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH). This statement seeks to clarify BOAH's position on handling this, and other, disease issues of interest.

BOAH recognizes that PEDv (porcine epidemic diarrhea virus) is an important disease that has been a challenge to many farms across the United States and Indiana. The loss of pigs and the economic loss have been difficult for many producers whose herds have been affected. The members of the board, as well as agency staff, do not take this—or any other disease—lightly.

The challenge in dealing with this disease continues to be the unknowns pork producers and veterinarians face. We know PEDv is spread via oral-fecal transmission. Nationally, research is ongoing to identify other potential sources of infection and spread.

Until then, BOAH remains committed to educating swine owners, veterinarians, industry partners and others about the importance of biosecurity and preventing the movement of disease-causing organisms. The need for awareness about this disease is much like other swine diseases that the industry has (and continues) to face, such as PRRS, TGE and pseudorabies. That is why biosecurity has been—and always will be—extremely important as long as hogs are moving to markets, shows, sales and other farms.

BOAH is not recommending or promoting the cancellation of shows at this time. BOAH also recognizes that each county must determine the best course of action for that community. The agency does, however, offer the following recommendations to exhibition organizers, exhibitors and pork producers:

- Education and awareness is the best defense. The National Pork Board has been working to provide guidance documents that emphasize the latest research findings to prevent spread of PEDv. Many informational resources for producers, exhibitors and others are online at www.pork.org.
- Farms where PEDv has been diagnosed or is suspected should not provide swine to exhibits or other swine events (such as pig wrestling) without first consulting with a veterinarian.
- Swine owners should contact a veterinarian if animals show signs of illness.

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- Swine that are ill or have clinical signs of illness (such as diarrhea, fever, respiratory signs, coughing, lethargy, etc.) should not be taken to shows or sales.
- BOAH encourages strong biosecurity measures on the farm and at shows to prevent the introduction of disease into a herd.
- People can be vectors of PEDv as well as other diseases. Shoes and clothing worn to places where swine are/were present (shows, sales, markets, etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected, and not worn at the home farm.
- Show equipment should not be shared while at an exhibition. All gear (including tack boxes and clothing) should be thoroughly cleaned then disinfected after the event.
- Vehicles should be cleaned of all organic matter (soil, manure, etc.) and disinfected. This includes the interior floor boards as well as the outside.
- Commercial pork producers should consider their own participation and attendance at swine exhibitions based on the biosecurity risk to their operations. Extra measures should be taken to prevent the movement of disease back to the home farm. This should extend to other family members and employees who have contact with swine and/or barns at home.
- Terminal shows are an alternative to cancelling shows.
- Swine that have been to exhibitions should be isolated and observed for any signs of illness after the event.
- Exhibition organizers should incorporate steps to minimize the transmission of influenza at shows based on guidelines BOAH published in 2012. Those are available online at: <http://www.in.gov/boah/2569.htm> .

County fair organizers who would like more information or to discuss options with BOAH staff may contact a district veterinarian or the central office at 317-544-2400.