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Indiana State Board of Animal Health Disease Risk Management Recommendations For Swine Exhibitions October 11, 2012

I. Background

The Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) has compiled the following recommendations for managing disease risks associated with exhibiting swine. These recommendations were compiled after the diagnosis of influenza virus in swine and people during the 2012 exhibition season in Indiana and other states. The principles set forth in this document will aid in managing the risks associated with many swine diseases, but this document is specifically focused on influenza viruses.

II. General Risk Management Practices for All Swine Exhibitions

Exhibition organizers should apply the following principles to all swine exhibitions in Indiana:

1. The exhibition organizer should:
 - a. Establish a relationship with a veterinarian who will serve as the show veterinarian or that is willing to be on-call for show related veterinary needs.
 - b. Work with the show veterinarian to develop a plan for identification of and response to influenza-like illness in pigs or exhibitors. The plan should include a protocol to communicate with exhibitors before, during and after the show.
 - c. Hold terminal shows following breeding animal shows whenever possible.
2. Exhibition organizers should inform exhibitors and animal caretakers that people experiencing influenza-like symptoms (fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, muscle aches) should not be in contact with swine for at least 24 hours after the fever ends without the use of fever-reducing medication or until a physician has ruled out influenza as a diagnosis.
3. The following should be discouraged:
 - a. Eating, drinking and smoking in animal areas.
 - b. Preparing or serving food and drinks in animal areas.
 - c. Bringing pacifiers, baby bottles, drink cups and other eating or drinking utensils into animal areas.
 - d. Sleeping in the animal areas.
4. An adequate number of hand washing stations should be maintained during the exhibition. Signage to encourage use of these hand washing stations should be posted.
5. Barn hygiene should be monitored and maintained. Special attention should be paid to areas where the public may have access.

III. Influenza Risk Management Recommendations for Show Organizers

BOAH recommends that show organizers utilize the following tools to manage the animal and public health risk associated with influenza viruses at swine exhibitions. These tools will not eliminate the risk of influenza infection. Each tool will by itself aid in reducing the risk of influenza spread. However, using a combination of the tools together as a part of an overall biosecurity plan will likely provide the greatest reduction in risk.

A. Vaccination

BOAH strongly recommends that all swine should be vaccinated for influenza prior to the opening day of the exhibition.

Swine should be vaccinated within 120 days of the opening day of the exhibition. Swine should be vaccinated according to the label directions which often require two doses of vaccine. If exhibited swine will be sold for slaughter, careful attention to vaccination withdrawal times is warranted. Most influenza vaccines have a required 21 day withdrawal period prior to slaughter. Exhibition organizers should take precautions to prevent ineligible swine from entering the slaughter channel.

Swine vaccinated for influenza are less likely to become ill and if they do become ill are likely to shed the virus for a shorter time. The immune system of a pig vaccinated for influenza is strengthened against influenza infection. Influenza vaccination will likely provide a significant level of protection even if the swine are exposed to an influenza strain that is different than the specific virus strains used to make the vaccine.

Influenza vaccines are commercially available by the vial through farm supply stores, distributors and veterinarians. Veterinarians may offer smaller quantities to clients.

B. Length of Stay

Exhibition organizers should takes steps to limit the amount of time swine are congregated on the exhibition grounds. Ideally pigs entered in the competition will be on the exhibition grounds for not more than seventy-two (72) hours.

The longer pigs are congregated together the greater the risk that influenza virus will circulate among the pig population at that exhibition. If pigs become infected, a shorter duration of stay will decrease the risk other swine and people will be exposed to the virus.

Exhibition organizers should:

1. Encourage dismissal and load-out of swine soon after they have completed their competition.
2. Separate animal displays, such as a sow with litter and breed type displays, from the animals entered in the competition.

C. Barn Monitoring

Pigs should be observed daily for signs of disease or infection. Exhibitors should be encouraged to report signs of illness in swine to the appropriate show staff. If flu-like signs are observed, the show staff should contact a veterinarian to evaluate the animal and/or take the pig's temperature to determine if the pig will remain on the exhibition premises.

Pigs may be screened for signs of illness by taking a rectal temperature of the pig. BOAH recommends the following procedure for evaluating temperatures:

- a. If the temperature is 105.0°F or higher, verify with a non-digital, glass thermometer for one minute.
- b. If the temperature is verified to be over 105.0°F, remove the pig from the exhibition grounds.

The thermometer should be disinfected between each pig using an appropriate disinfectant.

In addition to monitoring of pigs in the barn, an exhibition organizer may choose to take temperatures prior to the pigs entering the barn (at check in) to screen for sick pigs. However, BOAH understands that it may not be practical to take temperatures for all entering swine at some exhibitions. When taking the temperature of pigs upon arrival, use the following procedure:

- a. If the temperature is 105.0°F or higher, verify with a non-digital, glass thermometer for one minute.
- b. If the temperature is verified to be over 105.0°F, either:
 - i. Remove the pig from the exhibition grounds; or
 - ii. Wait 20 minutes for the pig to rest. At the 20 minute mark, take the rectal temp again. If the temperature is 105.0°F or higher, remove the pig from the exhibition grounds.

D. Animal Identification

Exhibited swine should be identified with an official identification that is unique to the pig. **BOAH recommends that exhibition swine are identified with USDA approved 840 radio frequency identification (RFID) tags.** The tag number on an 840 tag is visible on the tag but it also contains a small chip that stores the 15-digit tag number. The tag number is associated with the location where the animal resides. The 840 tag enhances the speed and accuracy of any animal disease investigation that may arise out of the exhibition.

The tag number may be read using a panel or wand reader providing an opportunity to incorporate the identification information into electronic show records that may save time and effort for organizers.

IV. Event Registration and Records

Exhibition organizers should be aware of and follow the following state laws:

Exhibition organizers must notify the BOAH within ten days of the opening of the exhibition of the following:

1. The opening date of the exhibition.
2. The duration of the event.
3. The location of the event.
4. The nature of the event and species of the animals expected to be at the event.
5. The name, address and phone number of the person organizing the event. 345 IAC 7-4.5-2.

Exhibition organizers must keep the following records for at least two years:

1. Each participants name and address.
2. The species of each animal exhibited by the participant.
3. If an animal is sold through an auction or other sale as a part of the exhibition, the name and address of the purchaser of the animal. 345 IAC 7-4.5-3.