



Biosecurity for Pig Farms

One of the best ways to keep animals healthy and protect pig farms across the country is to practice good biosecurity. Biosecurity for pig farms is another way of saying “infectious disease control.”

Producers can start developing a plan by first identifying risks or vulnerabilities – the weakest links – within a production site. The next step is to develop a custom biosecurity plan that addresses specific site needs – use the following tools to get started.

Layered Protection

“It’s important to have layers of biosecurity to provide redundancy. When mistakes are made in one layer, there is another layer to prevent an outbreak. A biosecurity system with multiple layers is more likely to be robust enough to tolerate mistakes.”

Derald, Holtkamp, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University

Animal Disease Prevention and Preparedness

Harsh weather plus an uptick of PRRS cases across parts of the country means pig farmers should stay vigilant by monitoring herd health and enforcing biosecurity.

Expand All ±

Get Started with These 14 Biosecurity Resources

The Pork Checkoff provides research and best practices for producers to use on their farm. Get started creating a plan and reviewing biosecurity protocols on your farm by reviewing this sample [collection of 14 biosecurity resources](#).

How to Obtain a Premises ID Number in Each State

Federal Premises Identification Numbers (PIN) or Location Identifiers (LID) are administered by each state. This allows animal health officials to quickly and precisely identify where animals are located in case of an emergency.

[Visit this USDA link for a complete listing of animal health officials contact information by state.](#)

Producers should be prepared to provide the following information to register for their PIN:

- Name of entity or company
- Contact information for the owner or other appropriate individual
- Type of operation
- Street address, city, state, and ZIP code
- Phone number
- Some states have an optional category for latitude and longitude numbers
- Most states request the species of livestock on the site

It is important to note that the number of livestock is not required. The information gathered at the federal level for Premises Registration is only intended to identify that livestock are present and not the numbers of animals of each species.

Verify a Premises ID Number ▼

Verify a premises ID number and get printed barcode labels in three easy steps using our [premises verification tool](#).

How to Obtain USDA's Official Premises ID Tags ▼

Official identification is required for sows and boars entering harvest channels to meet USDA's requirements for pre-harvest traceability of breeding swine. [Get more information about PIN tags.](#)

Approved PIN Tag Suppliers

- Destron (800) 328-0118
- Allflex (800) 989-8247
- Y-Text (800) 443-6401

Seven Steps to Start A Biosecurity Plan



1. Draw A Strict Line Of Separation

The first step to creating a biosecurity plan to prepare for and prevent an animal disease is to designate a line of separation on your farm and maintain it. A line of separation divides the inside, clean area of your pig barn from the outside, contaminated area. The inside is clean; the outside is dirty.

Be strict that crossing the line requires some level of hygiene. Provide visual reminders of the line by painting door frames and concrete or designating areas with colored duct tape. In fact, you may need to set up several lines within a site, because biosecurity is not just about exposure from the outside, but also the lateral spread of disease.



2. Establish Clothing and Showering Requirements

On sow farms, showering in and out is a fixture, but it is less common on growing-pig sites. A shower is not always necessary, but at a minimum everyone should be required to change into dedicated farm clothes and shoes before entering a pig barn. Handwashing is also important, as well as honoring all clean/dirty lines. Keep in mind that the effectiveness of showering is based on proper usage, how clean it is, how it's supplied, and its location and flow from clean to dirty sides (including towels – clean side only).



3. Keep Up With Maintenance

Good equipment maintenance goes hand in hand with a solid biosecurity plan. Ensure that feed is not spilling out and building up under bins, as it's an invitation for birds, rodents and other wildlife. The cost of regular repairs also helps avoid wasting feed.



4. Share Farm Rules With Incoming Crews

While onsite workers should be trained the biosecurity rules, occasional visitors, such as vaccination and loadout crews or repairmen and technicians, pose higher risks. It's a good idea to call ahead of time to explain the biosecurity rules, including how to enter the farm, what clothing/showering requirements are in place, and how to recognize the clean/dirty lines. Stay focused on biosecurity measures even for visitors who may not have much exposure to pigs, and don't be tempted to bend the rules.

5. Prioritize Loadouts

Prioritize clean trailers for the first cut of market hogs because there are not enough truck washes, time, or personnel to wash, disinfect and dry every truck/trailer every time. You have another four to five weeks to empty the barn, so you don't want to expose the remaining pigs to a disease that could cause some serious consequences. Staged loading is another idea gaining traction.



6. Avoid Mistakes Bringing In Supplies

The pass-through windows, UV chambers and disinfectant rooms for incoming supplies are common areas for mistakes. All surfaces need to be exposed for disinfection, and everything coming into a barn should be addressed.

7. Follow Biosecurity Plan When Removing Culls and Mortalities

Both are high-risk events, and it's important to respect the clean/dirty line. For culls, apply the staged loading concept. If rendering is required, an off-site pick-up location is important, but recognize that it's contaminated and your vehicle will be too. After all, the rendering truck has known exposure to sick pigs. Sometimes changing behavior means a design change, so prioritize biosecurity when designing new production sites/buildings or when remodeling.

Rethink the Clean/Dirty Line with Staged Loading

[How It Works](#)



[1. The Truck](#)



[2. The Chute](#)



[3. The Barn](#)



[4. The Equipment](#)



Transporting live hogs presents a significant biosecurity risk, with more challenges than solutions. But staged loading is a method that veterinarians are researching and applying on some farms. It's a low-cost fix, and it adds another layer to the biosecurity process.

Other Pork Production and Management Resources

Animal Disease Prevention

An animal disease outbreak is the number one risk facing the pork industry today. Know the basics of pig diseases and be able to recognize the symptoms.

Environment

Find the tools you need to continue implementing stronger, more efficient and sustainable management practices.

Working in Pork

The pork industry supports nearly 550,000 jobs across the country.

There's a pork-related job for virtually every skill. Many careers in the pork industry involve working with more people than pigs.