

# WHAT IS BIOSECURITY?

## FACT SHEET



Biosecurity includes any measure you take that prevents the introduction or transmission of an infectious agent capable of causing disease (e.g. bacteria, virus, parasite or fungus) from: (1) getting into your farm and infecting pigs, (2) reproducing on your farm and infecting your pigs, and (3) spreading between groups of animals on your farm.

These infectious agents can be spread by new pigs, other farm animals, wildlife, people, equipment, feed, water, insects and pests. The public health measures used to reduce the spread of COVID-19 are examples of biosecurity.

The ultimate goal of a good biosecurity plan is **to implement easily attainable protocols that protect the health and welfare of your pigs.**

Many of the management practices you are already using contribute to good biosecurity. Even small changes in herd management and the combining of multiple practices can bring about a significant reduction in both the risk of disease and its transmission.



### CONSEQUENCES OF INADEQUATE BIOSECURITY PRACTICES:

- High risk of disease transmission
- Pigs get sick which could lead to painful death
- Affect your ability to own pigs
- Lead to a quarantine of your farm or home
- Potential loss of income

### A VETERINARIAN IS A KEY TEAM MEMBER

- Veterinarians are an excellent source of information on biosecurity, the care of the pigs, and minimizing disease risks.
- They can help you create a practical biosecurity and herd health plan specifically tailored for your farm.
- A list of veterinarians that specialize or work with swine can be found at [www.SmallScalePigFarming.com](http://www.SmallScalePigFarming.com).

# IMPACTFUL & EASY TO IMPLEMENT BIOSECURITY MEASURES

## ✓ Workflow

- Wear separate clothing and footwear when working with pigs.
- Wash hands with soap and warm water (or sanitizer) before entering and after leaving livestock areas. Place hand sanitizer at entries for accessibility.
- Work with the youngest and most susceptible animals first. Leave any quarantined stock for last.

## ✓ Fences

- Fence your pig pens to keep the pigs in and keep wildlife (especially predators) out.
- Preferably prevent nose-to-nose contact between wildlife and your pigs.
- Inspect boundary fences regularly and repair as needed.

## ✓ Feed and water sources

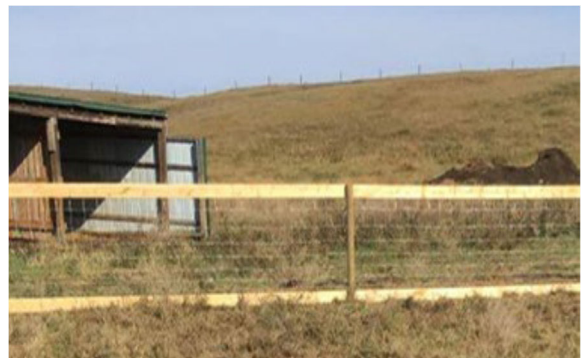
- Purchase feed and feed ingredients from reputable sources. Avoid purchasing feed from international sources.
- Store feed securely. Keep feed pest-free and dry, and sweep up feed spills.
- **Never** feed meat or meat by-products to your pigs! They can be sources of disease for your pigs. Avoid feeding kitchen waste or food scraps such as fruits and vegetables if there was ever a possibility of meat or meat product contamination.
- At least annually, water should be tested at the source to ensure it is clean and suitable for livestock production.

## ✓ Rodent and insect control

- Keep feed in tightly closed containers and clean up spilled feed. Keep area around pens free of debris and garbage.
- Use traps and tamper-resistant bait stations as required. Ensure pigs cannot access the bait as it is poisonous which could kill them and will contaminate their meat.
- Drain or remove standing water whenever possible.

## BIOSECURITY MEASURES FOR VISITORS

- Signage can be used to prevent unauthorized access to your farm.
- All visitors should be accompanied. Provide extra footwear and outerwear (coveralls, smocks, etc.) and hand sanitizer for visitors. Don't let them near your animals without proper protective gear.
- Restrict visitor access to your animals if the visitors have had recent (within 48 hours) contact with livestock (two weeks for foreign visitors).



## ✓ Introduction of new stock

- This is the most likely way for introducing disease into your farm. Consult with a veterinarian prior to introducing new pigs to your herd.
- Avoid purchasing pigs from markets and auctions. Purchase pigs from a single source with a known health status that are tested for and vaccinated for common diseases.
- Keep new stock in a separate quarantine area (pen) for 4 or more weeks and monitor them for abnormal behaviour and signs/symptoms of disease. If you notice unusual behaviour or symptoms, call for a veterinary inspection or tests.



## ✓ Herd health

- Separate sick pigs and house them in a hospital pen that prevents nose-to-nose contact with your other pigs.
- Contact a veterinarian when livestock appear sick, mortalities are high, or production drops off without apparent reason.
- Vaccinate as recommended by your swine veterinarian. Specifically look at vaccination programs for parvovirus and erysipelas.
- Internal parasites (worms), predators, sunburn, and heat stroke can have an impact on outdoor-raised pigs. Speak with your veterinarian about control strategies.
- Keep records of treatments and veterinary care.
- Any diagnostic testing must be managed through your veterinarian.

## ✓ Mortalities

- Purchase feed and feed ingredients from reputable sources. Avoid purchasing feed from international sources.
- Remove deadstock from the pig pens immediately. Clean and disinfect equipment used to move deadstock.
- Contact your veterinarian when unusual or unexpected death occurs. A post-mortem is strongly recommended, especially when the cause of death is unknown.
- Dispose of deadstock appropriately (burial, incineration, composting) according to provincial and municipal laws. Secure it in a way that does not attract scavengers.



## ✓ Cleaning and maintenance

- Indoor pens and shelters should be completely emptied, cleaned, disinfected, and dried at least annually. Pastures should be rotated and allowed to rest.
- Store manure where it will not contaminate water sources (wells, water bodies).
- All equipment that comes into direct contact with livestock should be cleaned and disinfected periodically. If sharing equipment with other farms, make sure to clean, disinfect, and dry equipment before using on your farm.

More information and resources about biosecurity can be found at [www.SmallScalePigFarming.com](http://www.SmallScalePigFarming.com).

