



State of Oklahoma
Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry

Mary Fallin
Governor

Jim Reese
Secretary of Agriculture

August 25, 2017

Dear Swine Exhibitors, Parents, and Sponsors:

Representatives from Oklahoma State Fair, Tulsa State Fair, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma Pork Council, and Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry agree that with the 2017 State Fair season upon us, everyone needs to take steps to ensure that show pigs and people stay healthy. Influenza or “flu” occasionally can be transmitted from people to pigs and pigs to people. People can get serious gastrointestinal diseases from inadvertently ingesting animal feces. Pigs can become infected with Seneca Valley Virus, which mimics Foot and Mouth Disease. Pigs can be exposed to other sick pigs and take serious diseases home to the rest of the herd. In order to keep you and your animals healthy and protect the pig farms across the country, here are some recommendations we encourage you to follow:

- If anyone in your family has flu-like symptoms, please do not attend fairs/exhibitions for 7 days after symptoms begin or until you have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.
- If any of your pigs show signs of ANY illness on the farm, check with your veterinarian before taking your pigs to the fair/exhibition. Symptoms that should be of particular note are respiratory signs and blisters or sores on the nose and/or feet.
- Please take every pig's rectal temperature before transporting to the exhibition. If the rectal temperature is higher than 103.5, please don't bring that pig.

While at the show, take these simple precautions to protect yourself and others:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand cleaner, especially after you cough or sneeze or have contact with animals.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. Wash or cleanse your hands after coughing and sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Do not eat or drink near animals or animal pens.
- During the fair/exhibition, monitor your pigs for any signs of illness and report any illness to the exhibition management or veterinarian on call.
- When you come home from a fair/exhibition, be sure to quarantine your pigs, disinfect your trailer and equipment (show boxes, feed pans, etc.) and watch for any illness in your pigs. For more information, refer to “A Champion’s Guide to Youth Swine Exhibition: Biosecurity” available at www.pork.org.

Seneca Valley Virus is a particular concern. Because this disease mimics Foot and Mouth Disease (blisters or sores around the snout and/or feet) animals showing symptoms and animals in the vicinity must be quarantined until testing for FMD proves negative. Inspect your pigs closely before loading them to come to the fair. If they have blisters or sores around the nose and/or feet do not bring them to the fair.

We appreciate your cooperation at fairs/exhibitions this summer and fall. It is the shared responsibility of every pork producer, our state associations and related industry groups to work together to protect herd health and public health. Remember to have your Premise ID Number available so your veterinarian can write it on your health certificate. Please take this opportunity to be proactive in helping to protect the future of our industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod Hall DVM".

Rod Hall, DVM, State Veterinarian, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry
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