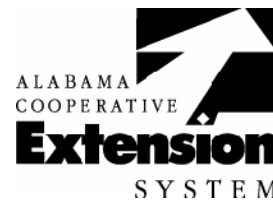




Swine Fact Sheet

Animal and Dairy Sciences

Auburn University



SFS-0201

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Biosecurity Precautions for Touring a Swine Farm

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Biosecurity is an important part of pork production, regardless of size, facilities and type of production. Animals in a closed group will develop immunity to strains of organisms in the group. High-health herds have little or no immunity to "typical" organisms, due to lack of exposure to these organisms. Biosecurity procedures are required to prevent or reduce exposure to organisms or strains of organisms not present on a farm.

Biosecurity in its simplest form is complete isolation from all forms of exposure. Although some have tried, it is rarely if ever practical. Any effective biosecurity plan will provide steps for minimizing contact with "outside" organisms by controlling contact with human and animals.

There are cases where you may need to visit a swine farm. Make sure there is no acceptable alternative to an actual site visit. If there is no alternative, following these steps should minimize any negative impact you may have on the health status of the farm.

1. Prior to your visit, ask for the biosecurity considerations for the farm and follow them whenever possible.
2. Dress appropriately:
 - a. Wear clothing provided by the farm, or
 - b. wear disposable coveralls and boots if available, or
 - c. wear washable coveralls and rubber boots (clean and sanitize between farms)
3. Avoid entering structures (animal barns and offices) unless essential for your visit.
4. Avoid the air stream from ventilation or cooling fans.

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5. Avoid direct contact with manure or mortalities.
6. Look at waste and mortality storage/treatment facilities after touring animal facilities.
7. Follow the flow pattern set by the farm. If one is not available, go from the youngest to oldest animals.
8. Make sure the farmer understands your willingness to abide by their biosecurity plan whenever possible.
9. Clean and sanitize all equipment used on the visit immediately after leaving the farm.
10. Keep air-tight containers for storing soiled clothes and disposable materials.
11. Remember you are a visitor that may be held liable for health problems resulting from your visit.

Following these simple steps will help you meet your goals while minimizing your impact of the health of the swine herd.

For more information, contact your local County Extension Office.

