Good Habits that Keep You and Your Pigs Healthy

Influenza or "flu" occasionally can be transmitted from people to pigs and pigs to people. In order to keep you and your animals healthy and protect pig farms across the country, here are some recommendations 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 flu-like illness on the farm, check with your veterinarian before bringing your pigs to the fair/exhibition.

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 with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If a tissue is not readily available, use your elbow joint to minimize hand contact.
- 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 veterinarian on-call.
- When you come home from a fair/exhibition, be sure to quarantine your hogs, 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.

Brought to you by National Pork Board

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