



Topic 12. Swine (Hogs)

Swine are managed across a wide range of settings, from pasture-based and small-scale systems to more confined environments. From a biosecurity perspective, swine management emphasizes understanding how animal movement, housing density, and contact with people, equipment, and other animals can influence disease pathways.

Animal movement is a key consideration in swine biosecurity. Hogs may be introduced from outside sources, moved between pens or facilities, transported for breeding or sale, or temporarily commingled at markets or events. These movements create opportunities for indirect exposure through shared environments, equipment, or transport vehicles. Biosecurity education focuses on recognizing when movement occurs and how it fits into the overall health context of the herd.

Housing and space use also shape biosecurity considerations for swine. Hogs often have close contact with one another and with the surfaces of their environment, which can affect how pathogens persist and spread. In small operations, housing arrangements may change seasonally or as animals grow, making awareness of space use and animal flow particularly important.

Environmental interfaces are another factor. Swine areas may overlap with wildlife activity, insects, rodents, or birds, especially where feed storage or outdoor access is present. While direct contact with wildlife may be limited, indirect exposure through shared resources or contaminated surfaces is part of the broader biosecurity picture.

Health monitoring plays an important role in swine biosecurity. Regular observation of behavior, appetite, movement, respiratory patterns, and social interactions helps establish what is normal for a group. In small herds, familiarity with individual animals often supports early recognition of changes. When observations are paired with basic records, they can provide useful context over time.

Biosecurity education for swine emphasizes situational awareness rather than fixed protocols. Swine operations vary widely in scale, purpose, and management style. Educational materials therefore focus on understanding how movement, housing, environment, and observation interact, supporting informed evaluation of risk within the realities of hog husbandry.



References

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