

TAILGATE TOPIC



TOPIC: General Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Swine Operations

OVERVIEW: A disease that can be transmitted between humans and animals is called zoonosis. While it is rare to become infected with a zoonotic disease, it is important that employees are trained to prevent, recognize and report zoonotic diseases. This includes what to do if either an employee or pig(s) show signs or symptoms, how to report potential zoonotic diseases and steps that employees can take to prevent transmission of zoonotic diseases. In this tailgate, we will talk about important steps to prevent zoonotic disease.

TALKING POINTS:

- Know and understand the signs and symptoms of zoonotic diseases in humans and pigs.
- Washing your hands is one of the most important precautions against zoonotic infections.
- Make sure that you wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 15 to 20 seconds.
- You should not eat, drink or smoke while handling pigs or while working in areas where pigs are housed or where waste or body products are being handled. Before engaging in any of these activities (eating, drinking or smoking), including using the restroom facilities, you should wash your hands thoroughly.
- Avoid touching your face, eyes and mouth while you are working around pigs.
- Wear gloves when handling aborted fetus, placental membrane or reproductive fluids.

- Gloves should be properly discarded after use. Always wash your hands after removing gloves.
- If you come into contact with feces or other body fluids while handling pigs, wash your hands and other exposed body parts thoroughly.
- Report any potential zoonotic diseases (either in you or the pigs) immediately to your supervisor.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. True or False: Washing your hands is one of the most important precautions against zoonotic infections. (Answer: True)
2. What should you do if you believe you or a pig(s) has a potential zoonotic disease? (Answer: Report to supervisor or owner)
3. True or False: It is o.k. to eat, drink or smoke while handling pigs. (Answer: False: You should not eat, drink or smoke while handling pigs.)
4. What should be worn when handling aborted fetus or discarded afterbirth? (Answer: Gloves)

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