

May 31, 2019

Dear Fair Board Members, 4-H Leaders, and FFA Advisors:

I am writing to request your support in safeguarding animal health across the commonwealth. We are very fortunate in the United States to have remained free of diseases such as African Swine Fever (ASF) thus far. However, in light of the ongoing rapid spread of ASF across Asia (including China), parts of Europe and Africa, the Bureau of Animal Health is instituting special exhibition requirements as a precautionary measure.

In the interest of swine health during this time of elevated international risk, the Bureau has published swine exhibition requirements that take effect on June 1, 2019 with the intent of protecting exhibitor's swine and the health of our nation's swine as a whole.

African Swine Fever can affect all ages and types of pigs, but ASF does not affect people. ASF can be spread through direct contact with infected pigs, contaminated feed, fomites (non-living objects) such as shoes, clothing, vehicles, equipment, etc., and by feeding uncooked food scraps that contain meat from countries that currently have ASF.

Pigs that are sick with ASF have a very high fever (>105 F), are weak and off feed, and have diarrhea, vomiting, red blotchy skin and difficulty breathing. Currently, there is no cure for this highly contagious and deadly disease and no vaccine to prevent it.

Beginning June 1, 2019, no swine species shall be exhibited in Pennsylvania unless each animal:

- Is accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) issued within 30 days of the fair;
- Is permanently identified by an official ear tag and the number is recorded on the CVI; and
- Has been visually inspected for signs of disease immediately prior to unloading at the exhibition by an accredited veterinarian.

All market swine exhibited shall move directly to slaughter following the exhibition and may not be diverted to premises other than a recognized slaughter establishment or slaughter market.

Please review the attached quarantine orders and the National Pork Board guidance documents on swine health recommendations for organizers of exhibitions regarding biosecurity and best management practices to ensure a happy and healthy show. I greatly appreciate your help to ensure the health and well-being of animal agriculture at fairs and exhibitions across the commonwealth.

Sincerely,



**Kevin Brightbill, DVM** | State Veterinarian, Director