

OBJECTIVE:

To reduce/eliminate the spread of PRRS and other diseases while transporting pigs through the proper execution of best management/hauling practices.

Swine collection points can pose a major risk for producers because PRRS positive pigs cross through these facilities. Since the PRRS virus can survive for years when frozen and up to 11 days when kept moist, cold wet weather poses the highest risk for spreading the virus. The virus is also highly infectious, meaning a few virus particles can infect a pig.

PROPER STEPS TO REDUCE DISEASE TRANSMISSION:

1. Put on clean coveralls and plastic boots prior to loading pigs. Disposable gloves should be worn during loading/unloading and then discarded.
2. Load pigs onto trucks and trailers under your control. Trucks must be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and *dried* prior to loading.
3. Establish a “clean/dirty line” and assume that the truck and the production unit are on different sides of the line.
4. Load pigs so that farm personnel do not step across that line into the receiving cargo area. Similarly, if the driver assists loading pigs by entering the cargo space, he/she should never cross the clean/dirty line to enter the production unit.
5. After the trailer or truck is loaded, used boots and coveralls should be placed in a new garbage bag and left in a “dirty” supply box prior to entering the cab.
6. The cab should be clean and remain that way. Never wear used boots or coveralls in the cab. The driver should have clean coveralls, two pairs of disposable boots and disposable latex gloves in the cab.
7. Always drive the most direct and biosecure route. Make no fuel stops while clean or loaded.
8. After backing the trailer to the unloading dock at the collection point, the driver should step into coveralls and apply two pairs of boots prior to leaving the cab. Go directly into the cargo area to assist in unloading. No other personnel should enter the cargo area and pigs should flow one-way into the collection point. A “clean/dirty line” should be established at the entrance to the collection point. Collection point personnel should not cross the line into the cargo area; the driver should not cross the line into the collection point alley way.
9. After the pigs have been unloaded the driver should remove one pair of boots, leave them in the trailer, and go directly to the office wearing the second pair of boots.
10. When paperwork is complete and the driver returns to the truck, coveralls and the second pair of boots should be removed, placed into a new garbage bag and placed in the “dirty” supply box.
11. The driver should wipe hands and steering wheel with a chlorine wipe. Refuel and proceed to the nearest truck washing station to be washed, disinfected and dried. Pay particular attention to the loading ramp and rear gates of the cargo area since these areas have the highest risk of contamination. The sooner the trailer is washed after hauling, the easier it will be to properly clean.

**Assume that PRRS is everywhere! The smallest mistake can lead to a costly outbreak on your farm.
Find more information about biosecurity at www.pork.org.**

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