

# Pighealth BYTES

Number: 156  
Biosecurity III

Your own reference source on pig health



Animine

Anpario

Danbred

Evans Vanodine

Henke-Sass Wolf

Herbonis

Livisto

LUBING

Mervue Laboratories

Mirius

Nucleus

Olmix

Perstorp

## The boundary approach

We can take staff food as an example of how to define a protocol for minimising the risk of taking something on to a pig farm. On some farms staff food will be considered an essential item, but not on others, so we need to identify the risks.

The risks could include the introduction of salmonella, campylobacter, STEC, and disease-causing agents in raw meats. It is also known that undercooking of pork or ham can result in swine fever virus persisting in the meat which, incidentally, is one reason why many countries have rules or laws relating to the feeding of swill (waste human foods) to pigs.

This could result in the statement that:

*No employee or visitor shall take raw meat or any form of meat derived from pigs (including cooked meat) onto the farm.*

Then, considering the risks associated with proximity, another rule could state:

*Staff may only take food on to the farm as long as it is immediately taken to and stored in the designated cupboard or fridge. It must also be consumed only in the designated canteen area. Food must never be taken to an area where there are live pigs.*

## Staff/visitor risks

The concept of proportionality will also come into play with some of the risks we will have identified. For example, what is the cost of preventing the problem, such as the entry of a pathogen? Basically, what is the point of spending \$1,000 dollars to save \$100?

So, in deciding what measures to take, we have to consider what the costs will be if our biosecurity fails. The costs of a disease outbreak will increase as we go up the breeder pyramid. Thus, a small fattening operation may consider they are adequately managing the visitor risk by providing overalls and boots, whereas the breeding company owner would require a much more stringent regimen. This would include permission from head office for the visit to occur and for the visitor to stay free of pigs and other hazardous situations, such as slaughterhouses, for 72 hours. On arriving at the farm, the first thing the visitor should do is sign a compliance declaration confirming that they have had no pig contact. Then they should shower on to the farm and put on clothing provided by the company.

Silvateam

Special Nutrients

Wisium/Neovia