

Pighealth BYTES

Number: 157
Biosecurity IV

Your own reference source on pig health



Animine

Anpario

Danbred

Evans Vanodine

Henke-Sass Wolf

Herbonis

Livisto

LUBING

Mervue Laboratories

Mirius

Nucleus

Olmix

Perstorp

Silvateam

Special Nutrients

Wisium/Neovia

The risk of people

In the last Pighealth BYTES we briefly discussed the boundary approach to biosecurity, in which we placed a boundary around our pig unit and then reviewed everything that comes on to the farm. If something was not necessary we stopped it coming on to the farm and, if it was essential, we found ways to eliminate or greatly reduce any risk of disease associated with that item.

We will need to look at this approach in relation to people but, before that, let us consider how man can bring disease-causing micro-organisms on to the pig farm. Being generic these include:

- In the body (if the person is sick)
- On the body
- On their clothes
- On anything they take with them into the farm

Contamination in the body

Contamination in the body is the least likely of the above four ways to transmit disease into your herd. However, in the current climate of food safety concerns we must think of salmonella. Man can be a carrier of salmonella and that could be a porcine strain if they have eaten undercooked pork or pork sausages.

If a person has the actual disease they will shed more salmonella per hour than they will if they are just a carrier, but the carrier state can exist for much longer. In a situation like this, the salmonella first has to leave the person, and then be transferred to the pigs, but it still has to get into the pigs before they become diseased.

Transmission of salmonella is via the faeces so, in this example, the biosecurity of salmonella is all about stopping human faeces reaching the pigs. This means that we must provide our staff with good toilet facilities and keep them clean so staff are happy to use them. As there is always the possibility of hand contamination, a hand wash facility with a hand drier or paper towels should be close to the lavatory.

There is still a need in some countries to ensure staff do not urinate or defecate in pig pens. This practice must not occur as pigs are curious animals that root in the litter and human faeces may be quite appealing to a pig.