



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Ben Brancel, Secretary

DATE: June 17, 2013

TO: Wisconsin County Fair Officials and Veterinarians

FROM: Paul J. McGraw, DVM, Wisconsin State Veterinarian,
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

James Kazmierczak, DVM, State Public Health Veterinarian,
Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)

RE: Influenza Transmission at County Fairs and Exhibitions

You may recall that outbreaks of influenza occurred last summer involving persons who exhibited pigs at county and state fairs in multiple states, including Wisconsin. Both pigs and humans became ill from a strain of the influenza virus called H3N2v. This virus can be transmitted from humans to pigs as well as from pigs to humans.

It is likely that this flu strain will resurface this summer, and with county fair season approaching, it is important to remind ourselves of some extra precautions that should be taken to protect the health of swine exhibitors and fair attendees, as well as animal health. We recommend the following:

- 1) Veterinarians issuing certificates of veterinary inspection for pigs destined for public exhibitions are asked to be alert for signs of respiratory disease in swine.
- 2) Veterinarians who are working at county fairs should also be vigilant for any signs of illness among pigs on the grounds. If pigs are found recumbent (lying down unable to stand) or with respiratory signs, please attempt to do the following:
 - a. Confine sick animals to an isolation area that is away from other swine and not accessible to the public, or have the sick pigs returned to their farm of origin.
 - b. Check their temperature and obtain a nasal swab for submission to the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin.
 - c. Promptly notify the DATCP Division of Animal Health at:
During business hours (7:45 AM to 4:30 PM. Monday-Friday)
Dr. Darlene Konkle (608) 224-4902

After hours

Dr. Darlene Konkle, (608)-516-9121 OR Dr. Paul McGraw, (262)-203-0574

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- 3) Fair officials are advised to close the swine barn to the public if any pigs are noted to be recumbent or have respiratory signs.
- 4) Fair officials are urged to distribute the attached information sheet to swine exhibitors and to post signage for the general public which prohibits food and drink in the animal areas and urges hand washing when leaving animal barns.

Thank you for your efforts in making this a safe fair season.