

**SWINE
FLU
FACTS:**

- Contagious 1 day before symptoms develop and 7 or more days after becoming sick
- Some viruses and bacteria can live 2 hrs or longer outside the body

Talk to your Sioux Nation Field Marketer about specials on the following products:

- Hi-Mag Mineral
- Insecticidal Ear Tags
- Hay Preservative
- Calf vaccines
- Synchronization Products

Swine Influenza and You

The following excerpts regarding swine flu were taken from the Centers for *Disease Control and Prevention's* website:

What is swine Flu? Swine Influenza is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses that causes regular outbreaks in pigs. People do not normally get swine flu, but human infections can and do happen. Swine flu viruses have been reported to spread from person-to-person, but in the past, this transmission was limited and not sustained beyond three people.

What are the signs and symptoms of swine flu in people?

The symptoms of swine flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with the swine flu. In the past, severe illness (pneumonia and respiratory failure) and deaths have been reported with swine flu infection in people. Like seasonal flu, swine flu may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions.

How does swine flu spread?

Spread of this swine influenza A (H1N1) virus is thought to be happening in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing and sneezing of people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth

or nose.

Are there medicines to treat swine flu? Yes. CDC recommends the use of oseltamivir or



zanamivir for the treatment and/or prevention of infection with these swine influenza viruses. Antiviral drugs are prescription medicines that fight against the flu by keeping flu viruses from reproducing in your body. If you get sick, antiviral drugs can make your illness milder and make you feel better faster. They may also prevent serious flu complications. For treatment, antiviral drugs work best if started soon after getting sick (within 2 days of symptoms).

What should I do if I get sick? If you live in areas where swine influenza cases have been identified and become ill with influenza-like symptoms, including fever, body aches, runny nose, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting or diarrhea, you may want to contact your health care provider, particularly if you are worried about your symptoms. Your health care provider will determine whether influenza testing or treatment is needed. If you are sick, you should stay home and avoid contact with other people as much as possi-

ble to keep from spreading your illness to others. If you become ill and experience any of the following warning signs, see emergency medical care.

In children:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Not waking up or not interacting
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough
- Fever with a rash

In adults:

- Difficulty breathing
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting

Can I get swine influenza from eating or preparing pork? No.

Swine influenza viruses are not spread by food. You cannot get swine influenza from eating pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork products is safe.



Is Your Bull Fully Loaded?

Failure to get your cows bred can result in substantial economic loss to your operation. Great EPD's and conformation mean nothing if the bull cannot settle your cows. The producer who turns out a bull without first conducting a breeding soundness exam is in essence playing Russian Roulette with their profitability.

On average 10% of bulls fail a breeding soundness exam. Therefore when deciding to semen test be sure to allow

yourself enough time to replace any bulls that fail. Bulls tend to collect better closer to breeding season but waiting may put you in a situation where you have little time to find a replacement and no bulls left to buy.

A typical breeding soundness exam consists of the following:

- Palpate testicles looking for abnormalities
- Measure scrotal circumference
- Palpate seminal vesicles checking for abnormalities
- Collect and evaluate semen
- Vets will also consider overall condition and observe how the bull travels

When semen testing your bulls keep in mind that this is a perfect opportunity to pour the bulls and administer vaccinations such as Anthrax or Foot Rot.

“For an efficient control strategy to work in goats, parasite challenge needs to be significantly reduced early in grazing season...”

Worming Goats by Mick Harding, DVM

Most parasitic control programs for goats have been more therapeutic than preventative. Treating goats after heavy parasite burdens has little impact on the future contamination of the environment. Furthermore, once high worm burdens are encountered, complete control is hard to achieve and often heavily infested goats continue to shed eggs even after treatment

A common recommended practice over the years has been to

deworm goats on pasture every 8 weeks. Since life cycles of internal parasites in goats is approximately 3 weeks or less, this practice has allowed goats to be clean for 3 weeks and wormy for 5 weeks. For an efficient control strategy to work in goats, parasite challenge needs to be significantly reduced early in grazing season otherwise high burdens will develop as the season progresses.

Worm control tips:

- Use dosages geared to the heaviest in the group
- Use oral wormers deposited on the back of the tongue, not in the cheek
- Repeat in 12-24 hours
- Don't graze pastures under four inches
- Don't forget to worm over the winter
- Make sure goats are getting an adequate level of protein in their diets

Ricketts, A New Yet Old Syndrome

Ricketts is a disease of pigs that occurs due to severe or marginal Calcium/Phosphorus imbalance or insufficiency. I recently observed a herd of **non-Profit Maker** fed pigs with this classic old disease. Pigs most susceptible seem to be early nursery although all ages can be affected.

You will initially see 5-40% of the pigs with stiffness as they get up and walk. You may see a very

acute onset of these signs or a slow chronic onset. As the syndrome progresses pigs will be reluctant to rise on their rear legs. They may vocalize due to pain when forced to get up. Eventually some pigs will lie on their side, being totally alert, unlike a meningitis type syndrome. Luckily pigs respond rapidly to appropriate feed changes. I believe this may be related to the quality of the phy-

tase used in the rations. All phytase is not the same. Due to ration cost optimization and marginal use of phosphorus, subpar grade phytase will not allow the appropriate phosphorus release from the other feed ingredients. Insufficient phosphorus then leads to Ricketts. If you have seen these signs in your herds, please contact your Sioux Nation Field Marketer.

