

January 25, 2007

Dear Swine Event Participants,

There has been an alarming increase in the number of swine herds in this country found to be infected with Swine Brucellosis and/or Pseudorabies during the last couple years. Most of the cases are related to exposure with feral or wild swine. Feral swine now exist in almost every state, including every county in Oklahoma, and serve as a reservoir for Swine Brucellosis and Pseudorabies.

Oklahoma is currently classified by USDA as Brucellosis and Pseudorabies Free for Commercial Production Swine. There is no disease free status given to the show/sale pig industry in any state because of the different management, confinement, and commerce practices.

Swine Brucellosis and Pseudorabies affect pigs of all ages and types. These infections can be passed along in a variety of ways. A positive sow can have offspring born with the infection or pass it through the milk. A positive boar can transmit the infection in the semen. The infection is shed in the urine and other secretions which serve to contaminate food and environment and spread the disease. For these reasons all types of pigs should be tested, including barrows.

All swine events in Oklahoma are required to have a permit from the Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF). The new Brucellosis testing regulations for barrows will take effect June 1, 2007. The Event Permit applications reflect these changes.

There are many labs that perform these tests and prices vary. All swine samples submitted to the ODAFF lab for Pseudorabies are routinely tested for Brucellosis at no additional charge, therefore swine owners can meet the new Brucellosis regulations with no additional financial burden.

Swine testing requirements protect the industry in many ways. It provides protection to swine owners and the entire industry by minimizing the chances for exposure at swine events. It protects Oklahoma by allowing only test negative pigs to enter the state. It protects swine owners because these two diseases can infect people. Testing young pigs provides information on the herd of origin because they may carry antibodies acquired from the sow. The commercial production swine industry is huge in Oklahoma. These testing requirements also serve as an important factor in maintaining disease free status for that industry.

In an effort to protect the enormous swine industry in Oklahoma, which includes both commercial and show/sale swine, the Department of Agriculture is initiating an educational outreach program to all swine event participants. Swine events in Oklahoma are a gathering point for thousands of swine from many states, and without proper safeguards could easily serve to disseminate disease to an extraordinary level of involvement and expense to the industry. The program will serve to update swine event participants on the current laws and requirements for swine shows and sales. It will include reviews of sale/show documentation and on-site visits from Department representatives.

Thank you for assisting in the effort to protect this valuable resource.

APPLICATION FOR SWINE EXHIBITION PERMIT

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY (ODAFF) ANIMAL INDUSTRY SERVICES

P.O. Box 528804
Oklahoma City, OK 73152

Phone (405) 522-6124

Fax (405) 522-0756

I, _____ do hereby request permission to hold a Swine Exhibition
(Print Person Responsible for the Event)

under the provisions of Oklahoma Statute, Title 2, § 1751 at _____,
(Location)

on _____, under the name of _____,
(Date) (Name of Event)

I understand **All** swine present at this Event shall meet the following requirements:

Oklahoma origin Swine:

Certificate of Veterinary Inspection within 30 days of entry or official test chart
Individual identification by USDA approved ear tag, breed, and sex of pig
Negative Brucellosis and Pseudorabies test
(dated after June 1 for fall events/after December 1 for spring events) **OR**
Validated/Qualified Herd Number and current quarterly test date (within 105 days)

Out of State Swine:

Permit issued by ODAFF, Certificate of Veterinary Inspection within 30 days of entry
Individual identification by USDA approved ear tag, breed, and sex of pig
Negative Brucellosis and Pseudorabies test within 30 days **OR**
Validated/Qualified Herd Number and current quarterly test date (within 105 days)

I agree to maintain the following records for one year from event date and make them available for inspection by an authorized agent of the Department:

Name, address, phone number of participants
Individual ID by USDA approved ear tag, breed, sex, and test status of pig
(Test status is individual test date or VQ Herd Number and quarterly test date)

A copy of these records shall be submitted to Animal Industry Services within 15 days after event date. (Electronic spreadsheet document preferred)

(Signature)

(Address)

(City) (Zip)

(Area Code) (Telephone Number)

(Area Code) (FAX Number)

Approved By: _____
(Animal Industry Official)

(Date)