

Swine Health Alert: Seneca Valley Virus (SVV)

Showing pigs at fairs, shows and other exhibitions has never been more popular. As always, a major key to having a successful show season and keeping pigs healthy involves following a biosecurity plan. Part of a biosecurity plan is to be aware of potential threats to your pig's health and learn how to avoid them.

Today, there is a disease called Seneca Valley Virus (SVV), also known as Senecavirus A, that all exhibitors should take seriously.

While SVV is not new to the United States, most producers and many veterinarians are unfamiliar with the virus. SVV is in the same family as foot and mouth disease virus and swine vesicular disease virus. Most cases occur between spring and fall. It remains unclear why, but the number of SVV cases has increased in 2017. Infected pigs develop blisters around the nose, mouth and hooves. Lameness is common, and general symptoms of illness, such as fever, lethargy and anorexia, may occur.

The main concern with SVV is that it looks very similar to foot and mouth disease and the only way to tell the difference is by veterinary diagnostic tests. This makes it very important to know the clinical signs of SVV so you can report it to your veterinarian right away.

The virus can spread through direct contact with infected pigs, through contact with fomites such as boots, brushes or other equipment. **Contact your veterinarian immediately if you see blisters or ulcers on your pig's snout, mouth or hooves.** If possible, isolate ill animals away from healthy pigs. **Do not send pigs with signs of SVV to a show or to market.** Following basic biosecurity steps can help to prevent the transmission and spread of SVV and many other diseases.



Clinical signs of SVV:

- Fever ($>102.5^{\circ}$ F)
- Off feed
- Lethargy (moving slowly, not wanting to get up)
- Lameness
- Vesicles (blisters) or ulcers on snout, mouth, tongue, and hooves at the coronary band or in between the toes



More detailed information about Seneca Valley Virus can be found at www.swinehealth.org/fact-sheets.

For Additional Biosecurity Resources, such as "A Champion's Guide to Youth Swine Exhibition" and "Exhibitors of All Pigs Going to Exhibits or Sales," go to www.pork.org/showpigs.