

# How to Create an On-Farm Foreign Animal Disease Investigation Kit for Swine

During a foreign animal disease investigation a specially-trained federal or state veterinarian will enter your premises to examine pigs and, if necessary, collect diagnostic samples. Just like private veterinarians, federal and state veterinarians visit many farms with many different animals, and follow biosecurity best practices when moving between them. After each visit, the veterinarians disinfect all of their equipment before returning it to their vehicles.

When arriving at your premises, they will have all the equipment and materials needed to collect samples. However, based on your biosecurity protocols, you may not want them to take anything other than themselves across your line of separation. If your biosecurity protocols do not permit **outside equipment and materials** from crossing your line of separation, you should consider having the following supplies on your farm. This will allow federal or state veterinarians to complete a foreign animal disease investigation:

- ▶ **Restraint equipment**
  - Hog panels
  - Hog snare
- ▶ **Personal protective equipment**
  - Coveralls (*disposable or freshly laundered*)
  - Ear plugs
  - Exam gloves (*medium, large, extra-large sizes*)
  - Eye protection
  - Footwear (*disposable covers or boots/shoes that stay on site*)
  - N95 respirator masks
- ▶ **Tissue collection equipment**
  - Forceps
  - Sterile sample collection tubes
  - Sterile swabs (*with plastic shafts*)
  - Whirl-Pak or Ziploc bags
- ▶ **Necropsy equipment**
  - Boning/necropsy knife and sharpening steel
  - Curved scissors
  - Cut gloves (*medium, large, extra-large sizes*)
- ▶ **Labeling supplies**
  - Fine point sharpie
  - Fine tip marking pen (*for labeling tubes*)
  - Pen
- ▶ **Blood collection equipment**
  - Disposable syringes (*12 cc or 20 cc*)
  - Syringe needles:
    - *Piglets (up to 55 lbs):*  
20 gauge, ¾ to 1 inch length
    - *Grower (55 lbs to 155 lbs):*  
18 gauge, 1 ½ inch length
    - *Finisher/breeders (over 155 lbs)*  
14 to 16 gauge, 1 to 4 inches
  - Vacutainer tubes:
    - *Green top tubes: plasma*
    - *Purple top tubes: whole blood*
    - *Red top tubes: serum*
  - Vacutainer hubs
  - Vacutainer needles (*double-ended*):
    - 20 gauge, 1 ½ inch length
    - 18 gauge, 1 ½ inch length
- ▶ **Miscellaneous**
  - Portable light source
  - Sharps container
  - Thermometer
  - Disinfectant
  - Something to carry supplies (*i.e. tote, bucket*)

Check expiration dates on these supplies regularly and replace expired supplies as needed. You may also consider keeping supplies that rapidly expire at a centralized location, distributing them to individual premises as needed. Regardless if you supply materials to federal or state veterinarians visiting your premises, you should plan to keep all disposable materials used during the investigation on-site and discard of them appropriately.

If you wish to order supplies and would like further guidance on what would specifically be used on your premises during an investigation, contact your local IDALS or USDA veterinarian. Contact information is located on page 13 and 14 of the *Iowa Veterinary Accreditation Handbook* found at:

<https://iowaagriculture.gov/animal-industry-bureau/veterinary-resources>.