



**STATE OF OHIO**  
Emergency Operations Center  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Precautions Farmers Should Take Against Swine Influenza**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (April 28, 2009) – Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Robert Boggs today issued a statement regarding precautionary measures Ohio swine farmers should take to prevent the spread of influenza in their herds.

“As news spreads across the state about the unique strain of the swine influenza virus, it is important to remind Ohio swine producers to implement strict biosecurity measures on their farms to protect the industry as well as industry workers. At this point in time, restricting visitor access to swine facilities is extremely important. To date, no pigs have been found to be infected or sick with this virus in the United States.

“It is also important to remind Ohioans that pork is safe to eat. The swine influenza is not transmitted through meat consumption. Consumers should follow proper handling and cooking tips, such as avoiding cross contamination with other products and cooking pork to an internal temperature of 160° F.

“As in any emergency situation, the department stands ready to assist its federal, state, and local partners in any capacity. We will work closely with the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and the USDA to provide continued surveillance of the Ohio swine population.

“We will continue to monitor this situation, and will keep Ohioans informed throughout this process.”

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