

LESSON 1

Biosecurity and Health of Pigs



FAIR OAKS

— FARMS —

ENRICHMENT

SOME BACKGROUND

The health of our pigs is our number one concern. We practice biosecurity here on the farm. Biosecurity means that we prevent diseases, viruses, and pathogens from entering our farm. Of course, we are not perfect, but we certainly try very hard! We practice biosecurity in many ways. You will notice that biosecurity is different on every farm. You might even notice a big difference between the pig farm and the dairy farm! The most common way that all our farmers practice biosecurity is by taking showers! Every day when the farmers come to work, the first thing they do is take a shower. Once they have showered in, they can enter the barn. The farmers are provided with uniforms that are kept right here on the farm where we can wash and sanitize them we even sanitize their boots! The farmers then go about their day working with the pigs. It is impossible to eliminate every risk of viruses and pathogens entering the farm, so we must do whatever we can to minimize the risks as much as possible to keep the herd healthy. We want them to be healthy so they can grow, just like you need to stay healthy!

BIOSECURITY ACTIVITY

Lesson 1 | Explore | Elaborate



Materials

- Small cups for candy (not clear)
- 2 types of individual candies
 - M&M candies
 - Skittles
- Spoons to transfer candies

Introduction to Activity

Biosecurity is very important to the farmers at Fair Oaks Farms. We take as many careful steps into consideration when working with our animals. We want them to be happy and healthy, just like you! We have our farmers shower in before handling the pigs and that is why when you visit Fair Oaks Farms, you are above our operation looking down at the farm. So you stay healthy and our pigs stay healthy!

Facilitating the Activity

- Give each participant other than 2 or 3 a small cup with 5 to 10 candies of one type inside
- Give the 2 or 3 participants that did not get a cup originally a small cup with 5 to 10 candies of a different kind
- Remind participants to not eat their candy
- Instruct participants to move about the room and talk/socialize, exchanging a candy during the conversation
- Continue this process for 2-3 minutes depending upon the size of group, before returning with the new mixture of candies to their seat.
- Have participants who started with skittles raise their hands.
- Share with them that those skittles represent a contagious disease like ringworm, warts, sore mouth, etc.
- Determine who ended up with skittles in their cup. Once hands are raised, share with participants that they have been exposed to the contagious disease and will likely be bringing it their farm.

Reflection

- Besides animal to animal, how might these same diseases spread?
- How can we reduce the spread of disease?