

# Healthy Herds for Healthy Breeds

## A practical health checklist for rare breed pig farmers

Think your farm is too small to matter? **With rare breeds, even the smallest farm can have an outsized impact on breed conservation.** Every healthy pig you raise makes your breed stronger.

Check out the health tips below and consider your current strategies. Add just one new step to help protect your herd - and the future of your breed. It really does matter.

### Top Tips for Healthy Herds

- ✓ **Don't buy (or borrow) trouble.** Get new stock and leased boars from health-tested herds. Cheap pigs aren't usually cheap in the long run.
- ✓ **Quarantine** your new stock for 30 days.
- ✓ **Practice this daily order of care:** tend your young pigs first > then mature pigs > then quarantined or isolated pigs. Then clean your boots.
- ✓ **Boost immunity with a low stress environment:** offer a clean, dry place to sleep, a nutritionally complete feed, and fresh water.
- ✓ **Get to know your pigs.** Learn what's normal so you can catch problems early.
- ✓ **Find a good pig veterinarian** while your pigs are healthy. Use preventive care as recommended.
- ✓ **Use dedicated shoes** for animal chores and "town shoes" anywhere farmers can cross paths, like the feed store.
- ✓ **Don't wait to isolate sick pigs** from your healthy animals.
- ✓ **Avoid feeding raw meat scraps or products.** Serious swine diseases can be transmitted this way.
- ✓ **Disinfect shared equipment**, like trailers, buckets, and stalls at fairs.
- ✓ **Quarantine pigs** after you've taken them to a show or fair.
- ✓ **Rotate pastures or pens** to interrupt parasite life cycles.
- ✓ **Limit visitors** to your farm and trips to other pig farms.
- ✓ **Feral pigs can carry deadly diseases.** Double-fence areas where they could come near your pigs. Clean up spilled feed or trash that might attract them.
- ✓ **Pay attention** to news of swine disease outbreaks and have a plan to step up your safety measures.



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## Health information from trusted sources

- [Smart Tips for Healthy Pigs](#)
- [Health Strategies for All Ages of Pigs](#)
- [Clean Boots Can Save Your Herd!](#)
- Multiple Resources for [Serious Swine Diseases, Health Protection Strategies, and Feral Swine Information](#)
- *Keeping Livestock Healthy: A Comprehensive Veterinary Guide to Preventing and Identifying Disease in Horses, Cattle, Swine, Goats & Sheep, 4th Edition.* N. Bruce Haynes, DVM. Available from libraries and bookstores.

