



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



PROTECT OUR PIGS YOUTH TOOLKIT

PURPOSE

The Protect Our Pigs toolkit is designed for 4-H communicators, program staff, volunteers, and youth leaders. It provides ready-to-use materials that make it simple for your club to promote awareness about biosecurity best practices and African swine fever (ASF). You'll find resources that can be shared with members, families, and your broader community.

TOOLKIT OVERVIEW

The materials in the toolkit are ready to use or can be adapted to meet your club's specific needs. In it, you will find:

- **Email Content:** Messages you can send to members, families, and community partners.
- **Oral Presentation Ideas:** Topics to help members prepare engaging talks for fairs, shows, or meetings.
- **Posters and Flyers:** Biosecurity posters to post in barns at fairs, shows, and auctions.
- **Activity Book:** Fun and educational activities designed to teach youth about ASF.
- **Protect Our Pigs Badge:** A recognition piece for staff or youth who take part in ASF education and biosecurity efforts.

BACKGROUND

Showing and raising swine takes hard work and dedication every day. The steps you take to keep your pigs healthy are important not only for a successful project year but also for protecting pigs nationwide.

Even if you only raise one pig, you are an important part of keeping swine diseases like ASF from spreading.

ASF is a deadly pig disease that spreads among pigs and affects both domestic and wild pigs. While it does not harm humans, if ASF were to reach the United States, it would devastate our swine herd, pork industry, and food supply.

EMAIL BLURB

How to Use This Email: This ready-to-use email is designed for 4-H club leaders and members to share within their networks. You can include it in club newsletters, e-blasts, or other communications to reach members and families. It encourages readers to visit the Protect Our Pigs Youth Center to learn about biosecurity and how to protect pigs from swine diseases.

Subject line: Keep Pigs Healthy: Explore the Protect Our Pigs Youth Center

Email Body:

Whether you're at home on the farm or traveling to a show, biosecurity matters - every step of the way. Protecting pigs from diseases like African swine fever (ASF) isn't just important for your own herd; it helps safeguard pigs across the country.

The [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Protect Our Pigs Youth Center](#) is designed with 4-H members in mind. On the site, you'll find:

- **General information** about ASF and how it spreads
- **Guides and resources** with practical tips for keeping pigs safe
- **Youth-focused activities and ideas** to help you do your part in protecting pigs

By learning and sharing biosecurity practices, you can make a difference in keeping America's pigs healthy - from barn to show and back again.

ORAL PRESENTATION TOPIC IDEAS

4-H SWINE ORAL PRESENTATION TOPIC SUGGESTIONS

From Barn to Show and Back Again: Biosecurity at Every Step

Preparing an engaging oral presentation for your swine projects is an important part of your success in the program. Choosing the right topic can showcase your knowledge, highlight your care for animals, and educate your audience. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) encourages youth to learn about ASF and the importance of biosecurity. When participating in shows and events, think about how biosecurity plays a role at every stage of raising and showing pigs, from barn to show and back again.

Here are some suggested topics to inspire your presentation:



Spot the signs of ASF

Learn how to recognize ASF signs and what to do if you suspect a pig might be sick.

» Resource: [Know the Signs](#)



Keeping Your Farm Biosecure

What simple steps can you take at home to keep your pigs healthy and prevent diseases from spreading?

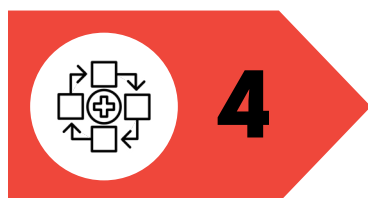
» Resource: [Stay Smart Tips](#)



Show Day Safety

Explore biosecurity practices you can use when traveling to shows, during the event, and when you return home.

» Resource: [Pig Safety Tips](#)



Safe in Six

Discover the six most important prevention steps that can help protect pigs if ASF were to enter the country.

» Resource: [6 Key Prevention Steps](#)

Whatever topic you choose, remember that your passion and creativity can make a big difference in raising awareness about pig health and biosecurity practices. Stay curious, share what you learn, and make the presentation your own. For more ideas, resources, and inspiration, visit the [Protect Our Pigs Youth Center](#).

RESOURCES

Please help us spread the word to save the herd. These helpful ASF resources are available to everyone with an interest in protecting our pigs. Great for classrooms, clubs, or home learning.

POSTERS

Download our posters and hang them around your farm, facility, show barn, or worksite so everyone on your team knows how to stay vigilant and stay safe against ASF.



Can You Spot the Signs of African Swine Fever? Poster – 18x24in

- [English](#) (7.24 MB)
- [En español](#) (8.15 MB)



Know the Signs of African Swine Fever Poster – 18x24in

- [English](#) (6.34 MB)
- [En español](#) (7.8 MB)

FLYERS

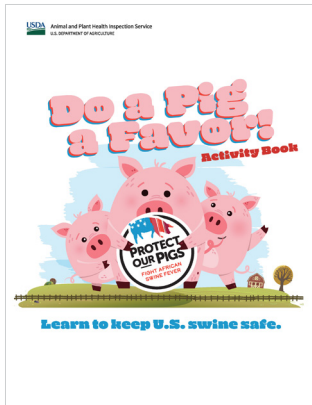


Youth: 8 Ways to Protect Pigs from African Swine Fever Flyer

- [8.5x11in](#) (293.44 KB)

ACTIVITY BOOK

Print out, puzzle through, and pass around this fun activity book to learn more about ASF and help defend U.S. pigs. Ideal for ages 8 and up.



ASF Activity Book — 8.5x11in (8 pages)

- [English](#) (7.22 MB)

PROTECT OUR PIGS BADGE

Spread the word about the Protect Our Pigs campaign by displaying, posting, and sharing this eye-catching campaign badge, available in multiple formats.



Protect Our Pig Badge

- [JPG](#)
- [PNG](#)

Together, we can keep America's pigs safe. Whether it's hanging up a poster, sharing an email, or giving a presentation, every action helps.

Thank you for being a leader in your community and for supporting the health of pigs across the nation.

For more tools, updates, and resources, visit the [Protect Our Pigs Youth Center](#).

