



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner
The Capitol · Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800

Please Respond To:
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September 30, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: 4-H Agents and Fair Board Members

FROM: Thomas J. Holt, D.V.M. *Thomas J. Holt*
State Veterinarian/Director
Division of Animal Industry

RE: 2009 (Novel) H1N1 Virus

I appreciate the opportunity to provide continuing education to our 4H partners regarding the 2009 (also termed Novel H1N1) H1N1 Influenza that is currently circulating in the U.S. Fortunately, we have not had any cases of 2009 H1N1 flu in swine populations in Florida or anywhere in the U.S. However, recently symptoms of respiratory illness were observed in a swine herd overseen by Future Farmers of America (FFA) students. While test results were negative for any influenza, we recognize the need for you and your chapters to have accurate information on this virus and on the need for heightened biosecurity when dealing with all of your animals. The 4H program participants should be reminded to take some precautions to protect both human and animal health.

The current 2009 H1N1 outbreak only involves people and we are seeing human cases around the state. While the cases all involve human to human transmission, we believe the virus could be transmitted from sick people to swine and then possibly from sick swine to other swine or people. The key is to avoid close contact between sick people and swine to prevent the spread of the virus and, should swine show signs of respiratory disease, to limit their contact with people. We are also asking that signs of respiratory disease in swine be reported to the farm veterinarian and to our Division for evaluation. Enclosed are some questions and answers on the 2009 H1N1 flu and information we are providing to fairs and exhibitors in the state regarding swine exhibition and the 2009 H1N1 flu.

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We would appreciate your distributing the enclosed information to 4H chapters that may be raising swine. While swine are not a risk to people at this time, we want to protect our people and our swine from the spread of this disease in Florida. Again, if children are sick, they should stay away from other people and from swine; if swine show any signs of respiratory illness symptoms, isolate them and avoid contact with the animals.

Should you have any questions, please contact our office.

TJH/ph

cc: Dr. William C. Jeter