Biosecurity Unit Lesson #1

**Title Of Lesson: *Swine Production***

**Subject/Course/Grade: Ag Science**

Learning objectives:

* Students will be able to identify ear notching on pigs
* Students will be able to recall what the right and the left ear are in terms of identification
* Students will be able to understand the importance of identification of pigs

Main Concept:

* Students will learn more about the swine industry, the importance of animal identification and ear notching on swine.

Students will understand/know…

* **Vocabulary**
  + **consumption**- act of eating or drinking
  + **exhibition –** refers to people who show swine at shows at the local, state, and national level.
  + **herd health –** refers to the health of the whole farm and not focusing on just one animal.
  + **ear-notching –** the process of notching the ear of a pig for identification to know what litter they are in and when they were born.
  + **litter –** a group of young animals born to an animal at one time.

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| Show introduction video “swine production.”  **Background:**  “As we saw in the video the swine industry is a very large industry that contributes a lot to our food supply. One important thing that we use in the swine industry and other animal production systems is identification. Pigs have a unique identification system called ear notching. This is a permanent identification for the pigs that can indicate to the farm workers what litter they were in and what number in the litter they were born with.”  “Another reason why we use these unique identifiers is so that we are better able to treat animals when they are sick. By using these identification system then we are able to write down animals who are sick and make sure they get the correct treatment recommended by the veterinarian. In pig operations pigs can all start to look the same, by having these proper identifications then we can make sure that no animals are mixed up in the process.”  “Now we can practice this identification system and see how much you remember about the numbering system from the video. ”  **Activity**  Materials Needed  Scissors  Pig ear cut outs  Safety Procedures   * Use scissors cautiously   Before students arrive:   1. Make sure you have enough pig ear cut outs for everyone in the class to have a pair. Make sure there are enough scissors that you can set out that can be passed around the class.   2. Student will be in groups and will need to be placed in ‘litters’ you can make groups before class, have litter numbers written down so students can draw them, or allow students to pick groups during class. |

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| Activity  After going over the video and background get students into groups or ‘litters’. You are able to put them into random groups or already assigned groups. Once students are in the groups pass out the pig ears to all the students in the class. While passing out the ears you can give each group a ‘litter’ number and have them write it down so that won’t forget the number.  Students can then number themselves in birth order to find what their left ear number will be. Go over with students the correct side for litter and birth number and then instruct them with the scissor to put the proper notches into their ears.  Student can keep their ears throughout the day.  **Following Through**  Have students go around the room and see if the other groups can read their litter and birth order number. This way students can correct each other and test their skills at reading ear notches.  Asks students if they understand the importance of ear notching and why we use this method in pigs rather than another one.  If there is still time in the class you can also pair this lecture with the state veterinarian outbreak investigation and use their notches to write down the identification number and find the sick pig during the outbreak. |
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| Monitoring and Feedback:   * Students will be able to read and put in proper ear notches on pigs. |
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| Learning Activities:  Introductory Swine video (3:47 minutes)  Introduce vocabulary, give background (10 minutes)  Ear notching activity (10 minutes)  Post activity discussion and questions (20 minutes) |

# RESOURCES

Visit the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH) agritourism website: <http://umash.umn.edu/agritourism/>