

# Menangle

## What is Menangle and what causes it?

Menangle is a newly discovered viral disease of swine that has only occurred once in Menangle, New South Wales, Australia in 1997. It causes reproductive problems in pigs such as mummified and stillborn piglets, decreased farrowing rates, reduced litter number and size, and abortions. Pigs may get this disease from fruit bats; however, the way a pig passes the disease to another pig is currently unknown.

## What animals get Menangle?

The Menangle virus has only been found in pigs. Although fruit bats (also called “flying foxes”) may be the source of the virus (a carrier), they do not appear to become ill.

## How can my animal get Menangle?

It is suspected that pigs get the virus through ingestion (**oral**) of things contaminated by the urine or feces of infected fruit bats.

## How does Menangle affect my animal?

The virus that causes Menangle crosses the placenta of a pregnant sow and affects the developing piglets. Affected litters may have a mixture of mummified, decomposed or fresh stillborn piglets, and a few normal live piglets. Many of the infected piglets born have bone or nervous system deformities. Although disease is not seen in older pigs, sows may have reduced farrowing rates, smaller litter sizes, and possibly abort.

## Can I get Menangle?

Yes. Humans can possibly get Menangle from **direct contact** with infected pigs. In the Australian outbreak, only two people out of over 250 workers became ill after working with the sick pigs. They had flu-like signs (fever, body aches) and developed a skin rash. Both recovered after two weeks.

## Who should I contact, if I suspect Menangle?

### In Animals –

Contact your veterinarian.

### In Humans –

Contact your physician.

## How can I protect my animal from Menangle?

The risk of Menangle virus in the United States is low. In areas with “flying fox” (fruit bat) populations, prevention of contact between bats and pigs is essential. Segregate pigs by age or production status. Use an all-in, all-out management scheme may help to prevent the spread of the disease from pig to pig.

## How can I protect myself from Menangle?

When handling tissue during birth assistance of sows, wear personal protective equipment (gloves, mask). Be sure to change gloves between pigs. Change soiled clothing before attending to other swine. Always wash your hands after touching animals.

## For More Information

CFSPH Technical Fact Sheets. Menangle at <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/>

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization. Menangle virus at <http://www.csiro.au/index.asp?type=faq&id=Menangle>

**Menangle**  
a newly discovered virus that affects pigs, is maintained in nature by “flying fox” fruit bats.




Photos from Rutgers University and Nancy Sefton.