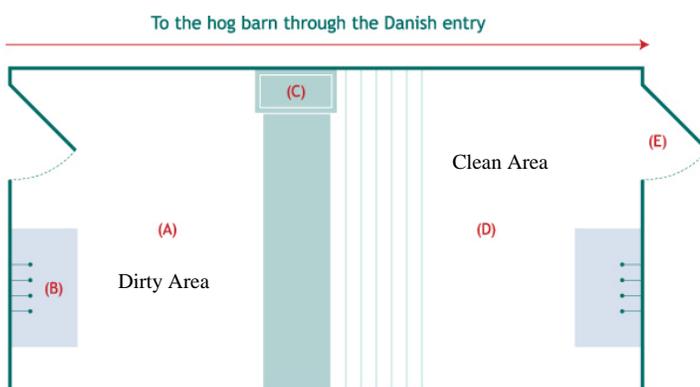# Danish Entry – The Hog Barn's Physical Line of Defense

What is a Danish Entry?

A Danish entry is the minimum requirement for controlling the entrance and exit of pathogens to and from a hog barn. It is part of an effective biosecurity plan and can be built at a relatively low cost.

A Danish entry is the primary entrance room attached to the production area of the hog barn. It has two sides, "dirty" and "clean", which are divided by a solid barrier. A place to store clothing and footwear is located on both sides and there are facilities and/or supplies for people to clean their hands. The Danish entry should be the only entrance to the production area that people use.

When coming from outside, it is the dirty side that is entered. Outer clothing and footwear are removed and stored on the dirty side. Hands are cleaned using soap and water if available or using hand sanitizer. The person steps over the barrier in their sock feet on to the slatted floor area on the clean side. Coveralls and barn boots are put on and they can then enter the production area. The process is reversed when leaving the production area.

The diagram below shows a layout of a typical Danish entry with dirty and clean sides, a barrier between them, and a place to clean hands. A Danish entry can be made with a plywood barrier, coat hooks, a few sets of coveralls and barn boots, and a bottle of hand sanitizer.

To the hog barn through the Danish entry

Clean Area

(A)

(B) Dirty Area

(C)

(D)

(E)

Why Use a Danish Entry?

- Research – Danish entries have been proven to significantly reduce the risk of transferring PRRSV and other diseases into and out of hog barns.
- Save money – PRRS is estimated to cost $92 - $110 per litter for farrowing operations, a further $7.51 - $9.40 per animal for nursery pigs, and a further $9.50 - $11.98 per animal for grower/finisher pigs. Converting an existing entrance room to the Danish style may cost as little as a few hundred dollars and reduce the risk of bringing PRRSV into your barn.
- Sick pigs don't produce – PRRS in sows and piglets can cause: premature farrowing, stillborns, weak PRRSV positive piglets with elevated mortality rates, and delayed return to service.
- Protect your family – Using a Danish entry will help protect your health and the health of your family, staff, and visitors by reducing the risk of bringing disease agents into or out of your barn.
- Industry leader – Building a Danish entry shows neighbours and service providers that you are serious about biosecurity, care about the health of the hog industry, and are a leader in the industry.
- It's simple – If you already have an entrance room, all that may be required is a sheet of plywood, a few 2"x4", a bottle of hand sanitizer, coat hooks, a couple extra pairs of barn boots and coveralls, and an afternoon. If you have to build an entrance room, the costs will be higher but, it is still a good investment compared to the cost of disease.

Using a Danish Entry

When building a Danish entry stock it with the required supplies; different sized coveralls, boots, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant. Keeping a set of regularly used tools and equipment in the barn permanently will reduce the need to enter and exit the barn more than required.

When you have finished building the Danish entry, it is important to train all staff, family members, and visitors on the proper use of the Danish entry. This includes training on how to enter and exit the barn but also why following the protocols is important. Commit yourself: entry and exit protocols are mandatory at all times. Learn them, teach them to your family and staff, and post them at the entry of each of your barns.

Danish Entry Biosecurity Protocols

Clean Areas	The clean side of the Danish entry and the hog production area are considered "clean" areas.
Dirty Areas	Outside of the barn including the road, driveway, and dirty side of the Danish entry are "dirty" areas.

Step 1: Authorized Personnel Entering the Barn

Minimum Standard
- Limit access to the Danish entry to only those people who need to enter the production area.
- Always adhere to the farm's biosecurity protocols.
- Always enter the barn through the Danish entry.
- Teach all visitors the procedures for using the Danish entry and explain the importance of biosecurity to your farm operation.
- Ensure tools and equipment were properly cleaned and stored prior to bringing them into the Danish entry.
- Do not set tools and equipment on the floor.
- Remove outer clothing and hang it on hooks on the dirty side of the Danish entry.
- Remove outside shoes and store on the dirty side of the Danish entry.

- Disinfect hands with hand sanitizer or wash them thoroughly with soap and water if available.
- Step over the barrier in sock feet onto the slatted floor on the clean side.
- Put on barn coveralls and barn boots.
- Enter the production area.

Recommended Improvements
- Keep a set of tools, equipment, and supplies that are regularly required in the barn at all times.
- Keep a recommended disinfectant in the Danish entry to disinfect equipment as required.

Step 2: Exiting the Production Area

Minimum Standard
- Exit the production area into the clean side of the Danish entry.
- Remove barn boots and step onto the slatted floor. Store barn boots on the clean side.
- Remove barn clothing and hang it on hooks on the clean side of the Danish entry.
- Disinfect hands with hand sanitizer or wash them thoroughly with soap and water if available.
- Step over the barrier to the dirty side in sock feet.
- Put on outside clothing and outside shoes.
- Exit the Danish entry.

Visitors Entering the Barn Area

Visitors must follow the same Danish entrance and exit procedures as authorized personnel as well as:
- Locate the farmer before entering the barn area.
- Ask the farmer about biosecurity practices required before entering the barn area.
- Tell the farmer if you have been at any other hog farms in the past 48 hours or have signs of illness yourself.

Always enter and leave the barn only through the Danish entry. The system only works if you follow these steps each and every time!