



# NEWS RELEASE

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## SWINE HERD, PORK UNAFFECTED BY HYBRID INFLUENZA

OAKLAND, CA – Pork is safe to eat and the hybrid influenza outbreak has not affected the U.S. swine herd. That’s the consistent message from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

The fact is the current flu outbreak is not linked to pigs in any way. The OIE has gone so far as to officially propose “to refer to this new virus as ‘North American influenza’, using the same approach to nomenclature as used with the Asian influenza and Spanish influenza outbreaks that have occurred in the past” in order to reduce confusion caused by the current nomenclature.

Investigations have determined that none of the people infected with the hybrid flu had contact with hogs, that contact with swine is not the source of this outbreak, and that U.S. pigs have not been infected.

“Given there is no case of infection in animals confirmed in the zones where cases of human infection have been detected, *it is not necessary to introduce specific measures for international trade in swine or their products nor to consider that consumers of pork products are at risk of infection,*” the OIE statement asserts (emphasis added).

People cannot get the hybrid influenza from eating pork or pork products. Hybrid influenza is a respiratory disease and is not transmitted through food. Pork is safe to eat.

So what can you do to protect yourself? CDC has recommended that, as with any flu outbreak, you avoid close contact with people who are sick, you wash your hands often to help protect from germs and you practice other personal health and sanitary habits.

NMA has put together an influenza update page online at <http://nmaonline.org/htmlresources/flu>.

National Meat Association is a non-profit trade association. Since 1946, NMA has represented meat packers and processors, equipment manufacturers and food suppliers who provide services to the meat industry. The association has members throughout the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia and Mexico.