



# **pork** **checkoff** *Swine Welfare*

## *Assurance Program*<sup>SM</sup>

### *A Program of America's Pork Producers*

2003 EDITION

To maintain and promote  
the pork industry tradition of  
responsible animal care  
through the application of  
scientifically sound  
animal care practices.



SM



Swine Welfare Assurance Program<sup>SM</sup> (SWAP<sup>SM</sup>)

## Program Elements

### To prepare for and conduct a SWAP<sup>SM</sup> assessment of your operation:

- ✓ Prior to meeting with your Swine Welfare Assurance Program<sup>SM</sup> (SWAP<sup>SM</sup>) Educator, you can review the educational program either by accessing it on-line at [www.porkboard.org](http://www.porkboard.org) or by using printed booklets or a CD-ROM supplied by the National Pork Board.
- ✓ Contact a SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Educator if you have questions about SWAP<sup>SM</sup> implementation in your operation or to have a discussion about SWAP<sup>SM</sup> components.
- ✓ Ask a SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Educator to assess the implementation of the SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Care and Well-being Principles (CWPs) in your operation.
- ✓ Keep a record of the assessment with your Educator, including the:
  - ✓ Educator's name and contact information.
  - ✓ The Assessment Table as completed by the Educator.
  - ✓ Any CWPs that needs improvement, with the justification for that concern.
- ✓ As advised by your SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Educator, address any CWPs that are found to be in need of improvement.
  - ✓ Keep a record of how you addressed the CWPs and the results so you can discuss it with your Educator at your next SWAP<sup>SM</sup> assessment.
- ✓ With your SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Educator, register your operation with the National Pork Board as a SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Assessed Site.
- ✓ Your SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Educator will provide you with your SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Assessed Site Certificate.
- ✓ To get maximum benefit from your SWAP<sup>SM</sup> assessment, talk with your SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Educator about an appropriate time interval to repeat your SWAP<sup>SM</sup> assessment and track the results.
- ✓ To maintain your SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Assessed Site status, repeat the process every three years.

You may copy  
blank forms from the  
National Pork Board's  
website:  
[www.porkboard.org](http://www.porkboard.org)

# Swine Welfare Assurance Program<sup>SM</sup>

SWAP<sup>SM</sup> consists of nine Care and Well-being Principles (CWPs). You will find explanations of each principle and suggestions for its implementation. At the end of this book you will find an example of how to track daily observations on farm and an Assessment Table that can be used for an internal self assessment.

## *Record Keeping:*

CWP #1	Herd Health and Nutrition
CWP #2	Caretaker Training

## *Animal Observations:*

CWP #3	Animal Observation
CWP #4	Body Condition Score
CWP #5	Euthanasia
CWP #6	Handling and Movement

## *Facilities:*

CWP #7	Facilities
CWP #8	Emergency Support
CWP #9	Continuing Assessment and Education

## *CWPs, Assessment Table and Calculations*

Care and Well-Being Principles that address important indicators of welfare on the farm are in each SWAP<sup>SM</sup> chapter. Each chapter then provides additional details on implementation of the CWPs.

At the end of SWAP<sup>SM</sup> are a Gilts, Sows, Boars and Neonatal Piglets Assessment Table and a Nursery and Finisher Pigs Assessment Table. These tables have been designed to help you benchmark current welfare criteria and to identify areas that may need improvement. Some of the assessments in the tables will have an “Acceptable” or “Needs Improvement” answer. Other assessments will have a numeric measure. For example, mortality for neonatal piglets will be written as a percentage. Other assessments will need to be calculated. An example is the percentage of lame animals. Once the benchmark has been completed, you and your Educator will need to refer back to the corresponding chapter of SWAP<sup>SM</sup> to see if the measure suggests that:

- No action is needed,
- The criteria warrants attention (the benchmark is within an acceptable range but it deserves additional discussion with your Educator), or
- It deserves immediate attention.

Recording the benchmarking will enable you to track your welfare assessments over time. To help compute some of the measures, a calculation sheet has been provided on pages 40 and 42.

It will be useful to use one Assessment Table for each site that you assess. Copy the Tables and calculation sheets as many times as is required.



## Site Definition

A site is a geographically definable area that includes pork production facilities and ancillary structures (a site map showing the location of the buildings on the facilities can be drawn) that are under common ownership and/or management systems where a person is responsible for and directly working with the animals, and the surrounding space within a 100-foot perimeter of the swine feeding areas.

- Using this definition, one location with three barns or buildings of any size but with each facility having a different person responsible for its animals would be defined as three sites.
- Likewise, one or more locations that includes three barns or buildings of any size but with all three being managed by the same person would be defined as one site.

## Number of Animals to Observe per Site

Pigs may be housed according to the stage of production. It is important that the assessment include pigs across all stages of production on the site. Professional judgement might need to be used to ensure all stages and ages are evaluated during the assessment of each farm. Picking a time when the pigs in the barn, pen or pasture are quiet will facilitate conducting the assessment. Generally this is a period of a few hours post-feeding when pigs are resting and there is no other activity by caretaker personnel.

The tables on page IV, give the minimum number of breeding animals and pigs to be assessed per site. Random selection of the animals to assess will give the most complete welfare evaluation. If a welfare concern is found in animals that are not part of the random selection of animals to be assessed, those animals should not be included in the assessment calculations. However, it should be noted in the Comments on the Assessment Table that these animals were observed.

## Educators

Experts such as veterinarians, Extension specialists and agricultural educators that have a working knowledge and familiarity with pork production and have passed the examination given at a SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Educator training session may serve as a Certified SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Educator.

*Table 1 can be used for sites that have individually housed or large-group housed pigs. This table can be used to decide how many animals to assess in breeding, weaned or finishing herds of approximately 20 or more pigs per pen.*

*Table 2 can be used for sites that house smaller groups - approximately 20 or fewer animals per pen but there may be any number of pens. In this situation each pig within the recommended number of pens should be assessed.*

**Table 1. Number of individually housed or large-group housed pigs to be assessed per site.**

Average number of pigs per site	SITE SIZE Minimum number of individually housed or large group housed pigs for assessment <sup>1</sup>	Approximately every ___ pig or sow
50	All	All
90	46	2nd
150	53	3rd
250	63	4th
350	70	5th
450	76	6th
550	82	7th
700	89	8th
850	95	9th
1000	100	10th
2000	126	16th
3000	144	21st
4000	158	25th
5000	170	29th

<sup>1</sup>The number of individually housed or large-group housed pigs to be assessed per site has been calculated to be statistically significant. An “average number of pigs per site” can be defined as the average number of individual animals on the site during one production year. (Round numbers up when needed.)

**Table 2. Number of pens to be assessed per site.**

Average number of pens per site	SITE SIZE Minimum number of pens for assessment (all animals within each pen) <sup>1</sup>	Approximately every ___ pen
10	10	All
20	10	2nd
30	10	3rd
40	13	3rd
50	17	3rd
60	20	3rd
70	23	3rd
80	27	3rd
90 or more	test 30% or 30, whichever is less	

<sup>1</sup>The number of pens to be assessed per site has been calculated to be statistically significant. An “average number of pens per site” can be defined as the average number of pens on the site during one production year. (Round numbers up when needed.)



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## Introduction

***As a pork producer, your livelihood depends on the welfare and performance of your livestock. If an animal is mistreated or under stress, it will need to eat more feed to grow, will be more susceptible to disease and will generally not thrive.***

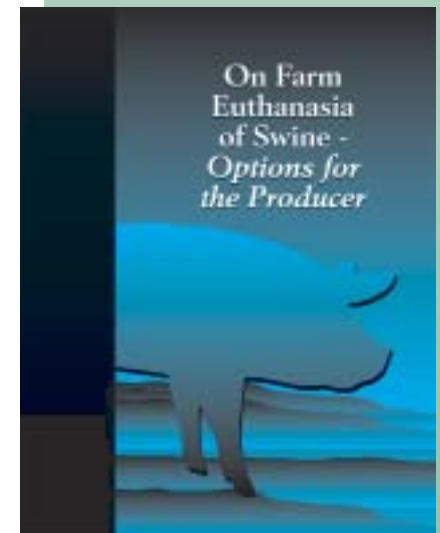
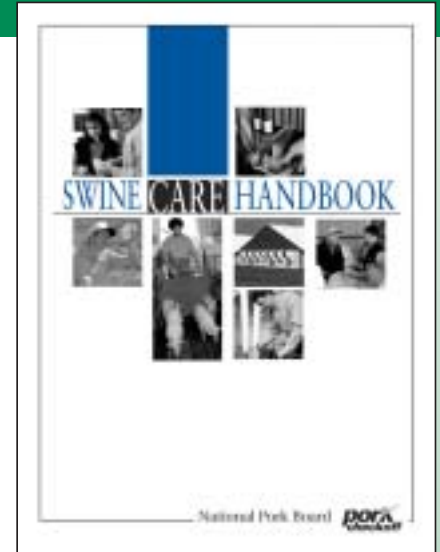
***To do anything short of providing the best, humane care possible to help your animals realize their full productive potential is self-defeating.***

There is no scientific consensus about the 'ideal' tool to measure animal welfare. It is generally accepted that there are three indications of welfare that should be measured together. These are:

- 1. Performance and Health**
- 2. Behavior**
- 3. Physiology (for example, immune function and hormonal status or response).**

For an accurate picture of welfare, all three indicators must be assessed. There is strong scientific consensus that using any one as a sole indication of welfare can be misleading.

In addition, addressing animal welfare in isolation – without consideration of animal health, food safety and the environment – is unwise and most probably will lead to unintended consequences. Each of these other areas must be addressed simultaneously in a way that ensures an effective balance.



As a pork producer, you have an Animal Welfare Committee that is charged with using producer Checkoff funds to review the science of animal welfare, to relate that science to production practices and to inform producers about the latest, scientifically sound swine husbandry practices that can be implemented on the farm.

The committee has authored the *Swine Care Handbook* (2003), which is the guideline for producers regarding animal care. Those guidelines are based on the current scientific research and extension literature for animal science, veterinary medicine and agricultural engineering. The Swine Welfare Assurance Program<sup>SM</sup> (SWAP<sup>SM</sup>) is designed to help producers assess their operation's compliance with the guidelines given in the *Swine Care Handbook*.

SWAP<sup>SM</sup> covers the stages of production in two sections – (1) Gilts, Sows, Boars, and Neonatal Piglets and (2) Nursery and Finisher Pigs. Either or both may be applicable to your operation.

SWAP<sup>SM</sup> is a voluntary, educational tool for all pork producers. Implementing SWAP<sup>SM</sup> in your operation will help you:

- Objectively assess and track your animals' welfare,
- Show packers, retailers and consumers that your pigs' welfare is important to you, and
- Open new marketing opportunities.

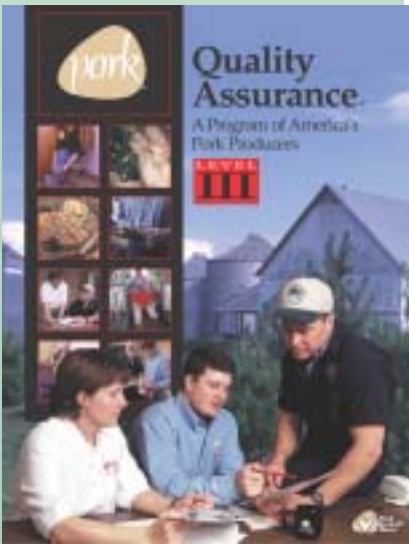
All producers and staff who work with pigs should be thoroughly familiar with the Checkoff-funded *Swine Care Handbook*, Pork Quality Assurance<sup>TM</sup> (PQA<sup>TM</sup>) Program (2001), and the *On-Farm Euthanasia of Swine - Options for the Producer* (2001). These provide details about animal care, animal handling, facilities, medication withdrawal times and euthanasia.

SWAP<sup>SM</sup> has been designed as an educational and assessment tool for producers to track the welfare of their animals on farm. This program could also be used as the basis for a third-party audit if it is needed to show markets and consumers that you are raising pigs according to accepted welfare standards.

Pork producers are fully supportive of adding to the scientific knowledge about animal welfare in all phases of pork production. In January 2002, the National Pork Board adopted a position statement on animal welfare guidelines for pork producers:

**“Animal welfare guidelines developed without a sound scientific basis puts the welfare of the animal and the sustainability of the producer's operation at risk. Therefore, the National Pork Board continues to support sound science as the only basis for animal welfare guideline decision-making.”**

**National Pork Board, 2002**





## Regulatory Aspects of Animal Welfare

All pork producers have a proud history of self-regulation regarding the welfare of their animals. The July 1999 Animal Well-Being Issue Report by the United States Department of Agriculture Interagency Working Group on Farm Animal Well-Being includes this group's support for producer self-regulation of farm animal welfare standards. There are currently no national laws or regulations that dictate animal production conditions on the farm. There are, however, local and state laws that address animal cruelty. Everyone, including producers raising food-producing animals, is subject to the conditions set forth by these animal cruelty laws.

## U.S. Pork Producer Code of Practice

Producers take pride in providing proper care for swine on their farms. The Pork Checkoff Animal Welfare Committee has adopted the following U.S. Pork Producer Code of Practice as the standard for the care of their animals. It is the guide for the content of the *Swine Care Handbook* and SWAP<sup>SM</sup>.

### **Pork producers consider management and husbandry practices for good swine care to include the following:**

- Providing facilities to protect and shelter pigs from weather extremes while protecting air and water quality in the natural environment.
- Providing well-kept facilities to allow safe, humane and efficient movement of pigs.
- Providing personnel with training to properly care for and handle each stage of production for which they are responsible with zero tolerance for mistreatment of swine in their care.
- Providing access to good quality water and nutritionally balanced diets appropriate for each class of swine.
- Observing pigs to make sure basic needs for food and water are being met and to detect illness or injury.
- Developing herd-health programs with veterinary advice.
- Providing prompt veterinary medical care when required.
- Using humane methods to euthanize sick or injured swine not responding or not likely to respond to care and treatment in a timely manner.
- Maintaining appropriate biosecurity to protect the health of the herd.
- Providing transportation that avoids undue stress caused by overcrowding, excess time in transit, or improper handling during loading and unloading.

Producers must stay current on advancements and changes in the industry and make decisions based on sound production practices and consideration of the welfare of their pigs. Producers are committed to adhering to this code and the swine care practices provided in the *Swine Care Handbook*.

**There must be  
zero tolerance for  
any animal abuse.**



# **pork** **checkoff** *Swine Welfare*

## *Assurance Program<sup>SM</sup>*

### *CWP #1 Herd Health and Nutrition*



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## *CWP #1 Herd Health and Nutrition*

Maintaining medication and treatment records can be an indication of having a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR), a written herd-health program and an adequate nutritional program. Records can be kept in a central location or on an individual site. Copies of the appropriate records, the operation's Standard Operating Procedures, feed information, etc., might be kept in a SWAP<sup>SM</sup> folder for easy access. Bringing all these records together on the day the Educator visits the site or knowing where the information is so that it can be viewed while observing the animals and facilities will facilitate the assessment process.

- 1.1 Valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship**
- 1.2 Herd Health Program**
- 1.3 Medication and Treatment Records**
- 1.4 Mortality**
- 1.5 Pigs Euthanized**
- 1.6 Nutritional Program**



### **1.1 Valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship**

Criteria for a valid VCPR can be found in the PQA<sup>TM</sup> Good Production Practice (GPP) #4, "Use a Valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship as the Basis for Medication Decision-Making." The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) makes the following statement about a valid VCPR:

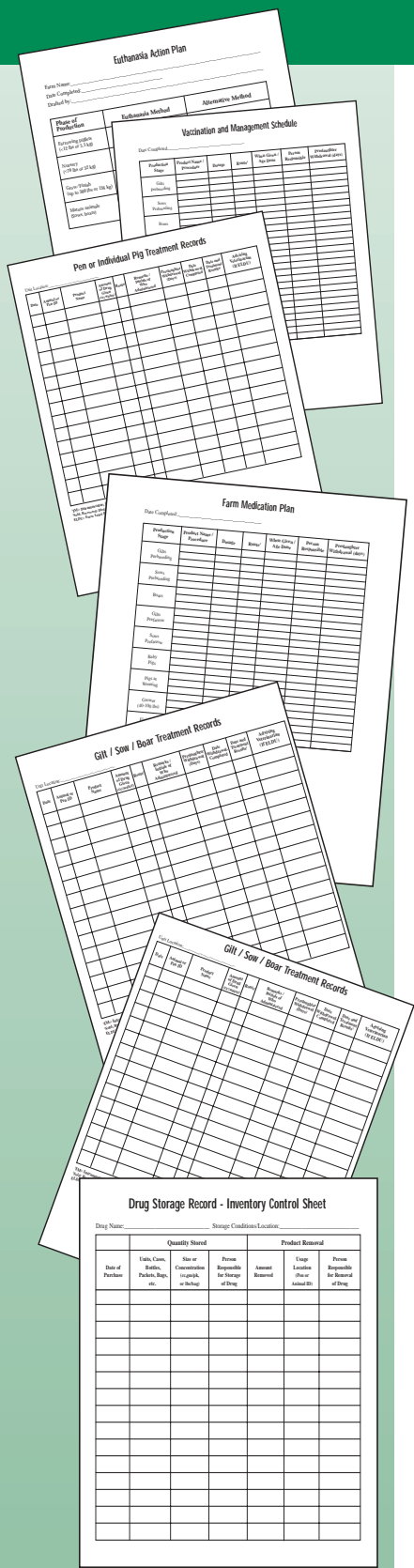
"An appropriate veterinarian/client/patient relationship will exist when:

- a) The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animal(s) and the need for medical treatment, and the client (owner or other caretaker) has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian; and when
- b) There is sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) by the veterinarian to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s). This means that the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s), and/or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal(s) are kept; and when
- c) The practicing veterinarian is readily available for follow-up in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of therapy."

Producers who record medication use and treatments using the PQA<sup>TM</sup>-provided forms or a modified version of these forms can show that they have a valid VCPR. It would be helpful to record your veterinarian's name and contact details. A blackboard can serve as a short-term record-keeping tool but you are encouraged to take this information and put it onto paper or in a computer worksheet so the Educator will be able to see the records of the previous 12 months.

### **1.2 Herd Health Program**

Maintaining and improving herd health are key issues in economical pork production and indicators of an animal's welfare. Because many health problems can be controlled by good management practices, paying attention to the welfare signals of your animals is one factor that results in healthy herds.



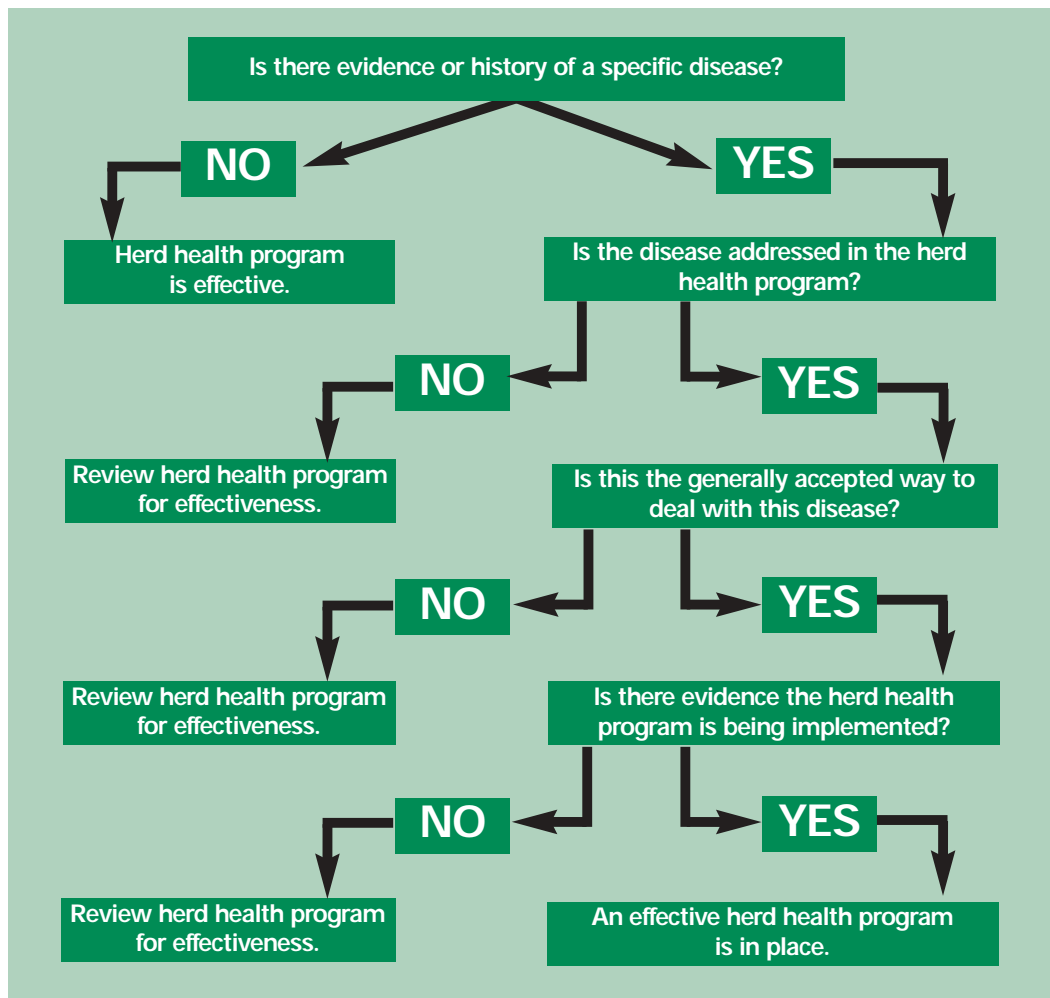
For complete information about developing and implementing a herd health program for your operation, refer to PQA™ GPP #7, “Establish and Implement an Efficient and Effective Herd Health Management Plan.” The plan for basic disease prevention and care should be written and evidence of implementation should be able to be shown. The effectiveness of a health program can be assessed by the:

- Overall incidence of injury or illness,
- Degree to which sick or injured animals are treated,
- Effectiveness of the treatment as shown by an improving health status, and
- Appropriate culling or euthanization of animals that fail to improve.

**Examples of things that you can do to develop an effective herd health program are:**

- Working through the biosecurity checklist found in PQA™ GPP #7.
- Talking with your Educator about developing a record system for causes of production losses in your operation and how you address them. For example, percent mortality in the nursery, actions taken to address it if appropriate and overall outcome may be included.
- Working through the following chart to evaluate the effectiveness of your herd health program.

**Diagram 1. Evaluating the effectiveness of a herd health program**





### 1.3 Medication and Treatment Records

For a complete explanation of medication and treatment records, refer to the PQA™ GPP #2, “Maintain Medication and Treatment Records.” To ensure a method of identification to help promote the delivery of care, refer to the PQA™ Program GPP #1, “Identify and Track All Treated Animals.”

All food-animal producers are required to keep medication and diagnostic records according to the FDA Compliance Policy Guide, “Proper Drug Use and Residue Avoidance by Non-veterinarians” (CPG 7125.37). The PQA™ Farm Medication Plan contains information that the FDA would use to evaluate the safe use of animal health products. This form is provided in the Appendix of the PQA™ booklet. It will help you organize your system and provide a useful tool for discussion with your Educator.

#### The minimum standards for your medication and treatment records are:

- Identify the animal(s) treated.
- Specify the date(s) of treatment.
- Name the drug(s) administered.
- Include who administered the drug(s).
- Give the amount of drug(s) administered.
- Show the withdrawal time(s) prior to slaughter.
- Identify the veterinarian directing medication use.

Some medication given to animals may not need to be recorded to avoid violative residues. An example of this would be oxytocin occasionally given to sows during farrowing. All use of medication that requires a withdrawal time should be noted on the records.

### 1.4 Mortality

The number of pigs dying or being euthanized can give some indication of welfare concerns for the herd. PQA™ GPP #7, “Establish and Implement an Efficient and Effective Herd Health Management Plan,” also uses percent mortality as an indicator of production.

<b>Gilts, Sows and Boars</b>	
Less than 9% mortality	no action needed
9 to 15% mortality	warrants attention
Greater than 15% mortality	needs immediate attention
<b>Neonatal Piglets</b>	
Less than 5% mortality	no action needed
5 to 15% mortality	warrants attention
Greater than 15% mortality	needs immediate attention
<b>Nursery Pigs</b>	
Less than 4% mortality	no action needed
4 to 6% mortality	warrants attention
Greater than 6% mortality	needs immediate attention
<b>Finisher Pigs</b>	
Less than 2% mortality	no action needed
2 to 4% mortality	warrants attention
Greater than 4% mortality	needs immediate attention

## 1.5 Pigs Euthanized

Every operation will at some time have injured or disadvantaged pigs. Timely euthanization of pigs that wouldn't otherwise recover is an important welfare consideration. You should review your record keeping in regards to recording the number of pigs that are euthanized. They should be noted separately from total herd mortality in order to assess the prevention of suffering.

### Gilts, Sows and Boars

Greater than 20% of the total deaths are euthanized	no action needed
5 to 20% of the total deaths are euthanized	warrants attention
Less than 5% of the total deaths are euthanized	needs immediate action

### Neonatal Piglets, Nursery and Finisher Pigs

Greater than 20% of the total deaths are euthanized	no action needed
5 to 20% of the total deaths are euthanized	warrants attention
Less than 5% of the total deaths are euthanized	needs immediate action



## 1.6 Nutritional Program

The importance of quality feed cannot be over emphasized. A set of guidelines for processing feed (current Good Manufacturing Practices) is designed to prevent feed contamination and provide reasonable assurance that the feed is manufactured accurately. It is advisable to analyze feeds periodically for both their nutritive and drug content, or to ask your feed supplier for this information. The goal of feed manufacturing is to produce feed that:

- Meets specifications for nutritional composition.
- Meets the desired medication level, if appropriate.
- Is free of contaminants.

For information about proper feed manufacturing, refer to PQA™ GPP #9, “Follow Appropriate On-Farm Feed and Commercial Feed Processor Procedures.”

### Purchased Feed

Ask your feed company or nutrition supplier to give you a letter of assurance saying that the feed will meet or exceed the nutrient requirements of pigs as determined by a professional nutritionist or the National Research Council's Nutrient Requirements of Swine for the appropriate stage of production. A feed delivery label may not contain adequate information to give this assurance or show the diet formulation.

### On Farm Feed Processing

If you manufacture your own feed, you should have a record of the main ingredients that are used and the appropriate concentrations for the ration. Information to record includes crude protein, energy level and the amounts of lysine, vitamins and minerals.





# **pork** **checkoff** *Swine Welfare*



## *Assurance Program<sup>SM</sup>*

### *CWP #2 Caretaker Training*



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## CWP #2 Caretaker Training

The most important factor in animal welfare is the husbandry skills of the people caring for the animals. That means the knowledge and training of the people working with the animals and the attitude of the caretaker is the foundation upon which animal welfare is built.

### 2.1 Training Programs

### 2.2 Career Development

#### 2.1 Training Programs

Different production systems have different training program needs. Producers that own and work in the operation every day have different training needs than employees that may not be as familiar with pig husbandry. The training program should be customized to match the needs of the operation. The *Swine Care Handbook* addresses appropriate training for a variety of welfare considerations.

**There are at least three areas common to all production systems that should have a training program with detail appropriate for the operation. They are:**

#### a) Euthanasia

The booklet *On-Farm Euthanasia of Swine – Options for the Producer* outlines the methods and practical considerations for euthanasia of pigs and can serve as a training resource.

#### b) Handling

The Checkoff's Trucker Quality Assurance<sup>SM</sup> (TQA<sup>SM</sup>) Program (2001), the *Swine Care Handbook* and videos and other materials available from the National Pork Board give guidance for proper handling of pigs.

#### c) Husbandry

Chapter 1 of the *Swine Care Handbook*, "Management Practices and Animal Husbandry," contains information about husbandry skills. Additional information on specific husbandry skills and needs may be available from university Extension Services or from area community colleges.

In addition, PQA<sup>TM</sup> GPP #8, "Provide Proper Swine Care," and the *Swine Care Handbook* give information about each of these areas. Ask your Educator about the level of training that is needed for your operation.

### 2.2 Career Development

Job satisfaction will help you or your employees to do a better job in providing animal husbandry and daily care. One factor in job satisfaction is a plan for increasing or refining skills or job advancement. The details of a career development plan are specific to the operation and the people working in it. For example, one operation might offer continuing education in some manner, another might provide job advancement opportunities, and a third might simply have the goal of maintaining a career as a professional pork producer. Producers are encouraged to attend producer meetings, but as a minimum a career development plan should include the certification of the owner and/or employees in the PQA<sup>TM</sup> program.





# **pork** **checkoff** *Swine Welfare*

## *Assurance Program<sup>SM</sup>*

### *CWP #3 Animal Observation*



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## *CWP #3 Animal Observation*

Animal observation will help verify that the other aspects of the welfare program have been successfully extended to the animals themselves.

### **3.1 Daily Observation**

### **3.2 Animal Evaluation**

### **3.3 Swine Behavior**

### **3.4 Social Contact**

### **3.1 Daily Observation**

#### **Records of Daily Observation**

Daily observation and prompt delivery of care are critical in addressing individual animals' health and in detecting facility or management issues. In addition, daily pig observation helps to assess the effectiveness of health and nutrition programs, the suitability of facilities, and the quality of stockmanship. Recording animal, facility or management concerns as you walk through the facilities will also promote corrective actions.

One way to show that someone has observed the animals every day is by keeping a log or record. An example of this record might be the posting of a calendar, paper or poster inside the door of the facility, building or near the pigs. Minimum information about someone being in the building would include the person's name or initials, the date and the location or building. An example daily observation log is on page 38. Talk with your Educator about an appropriate method of documenting daily observation of the animals for your operation.

#### **Seriously Ill, Non-Ambulatory (Downers), or Dead Animals**

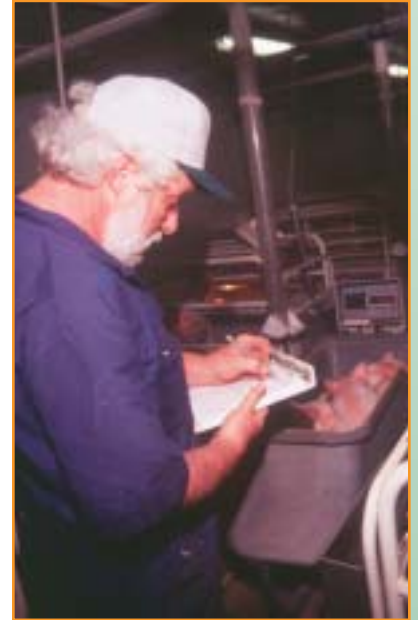
When the trained caretaker's ability to evaluate an animal's condition is combined with daily observation it is unlikely seriously ill, non-ambulatory or dead animals will not be detected. However, pigs that are seriously ill, in some way disadvantaged or dead can give valuable information about the animals' conditions and the productivity of the herd and the skills of the caretakers.

An animal should be considered non-ambulatory if it refuses to get up or if it can stand with support but refuses to bear weight on two of its legs. For animals under veterinary care, unless there are special circumstances, no more than two days of intensive care with no improvement or prospect for improvement should be necessary before a decision about euthanasia is made.

Your operation should have a treatment or notification plan if animals with health conditions or concerns are found. If your Educator notices them during a walk through and they had not already been found, be sure to review your training and observation programs with your Educator.

### **3.2 Animal Evaluation**

With careful observation, your animals can give clues to how well they are being managed. Look at their skin and their extremities. Do they have scratches or cuts that indicate fighting? How about scratches that could come from injury while eating at the feeder? Do they walk with equal weight on all four legs? Watch how they react to people being around. Are they inquisitive? Are they fearful? These things will be noted under Animal Evaluation.



### Lameness

Observe your pigs while they are standing or walking on a flat surface. A lame pig is one that cannot bear full weight on one or more limbs, including shifting weight from leg to leg because of pain. Count the number of lame pigs and calculate the percent of observed pigs that are lame.

#### Calculation

- |                                     |   |        |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------|
| 1. Number of pigs lame              | = | _____  |
| 2. Total number of animals observed | = | _____  |
| $(\#1 \div \#2) \times 100\%$       | = | _____% |

#### Gilts, Sows and Boars

Less than 0.1% lame	no action needed
0.1 to 2% lame	warrants attention
Greater than 2% lame	needs immediate attention

#### Neonatal Piglets, Nursery and Finisher Pigs

Less than 1% lame	no action needed
1 to 5% lame	warrants attention
Greater than 5% lame	needs immediate attention

### Skin lesions

If skin lesions such as abscesses, wounds or scratches are present, count how often they occur and note their location which can give some important clues about their sources and ways to prevent them.

Look for and note skin lesions on:

- Main part of the body – on the shoulder, belly, back, flank and limbs (both front and back legs)
- Hoofs
- Head and ears – to include the cheek, ears, snout, mouth and chin
- Tail and genital areas

**Abscesses** are fluid filled pockets in or under the skin that may cause the skin to be raised. They can be observed after a deep bruise or a penetrating injury such as an injection. Pay attention to how many pigs have abscesses and if one location is more common than others.

#### Calculation

- |                                     |   |        |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------|
| 1. Number of pigs with abscesses    | = | _____  |
| 2. Total number of animals observed | = | _____  |
| $(\#1 \div \#2) \times 100\%$       | = | _____% |

#### Gilts, Sows and Boars

Less than 1% abscesses	no action needed
1 to 2% abscesses	warrants attention
Greater than 2% abscesses	needs immediate attention

#### Neonatal Piglets, Nursery and Finisher Pigs

Less than 1% with abscesses	no action needed
1 to 5% with abscesses	warrants attention
Greater than 5% with abscesses	needs immediate attention



**Wounds** are defined as a break that completely penetrates the skin, for example from bites or other lesions. Count the wounds and note their location, for example on the shoulder, vulva or other parts of the body. A wound should be included in the count if a scab that is tightly adhered to the wound covers it. If the scab is ready to fall off, it does not need to be included.

**Calculation – Wounds on Shoulder**

- 1. Number of gilts, sows and boars with wounds on the shoulder = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of gilts, sows and boars observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- $(\#1 \div \#2) \times 100\%$  = \_\_\_\_\_%

**Calculation – Wounds on Vulva**

- 1. Number of gilts and sows with wounds on the vulva = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of gilts and sows observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- $(\#1 \div \#2) \times 100\%$  = \_\_\_\_\_%

**Calculation – Wounds on Other Parts of the Body**

- 1. Number of gilts, sows and boars with wounds on other parts of their bodies = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of gilts, sows and boars observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- $(\#1 \div \#2) \times 100\%$  = \_\_\_\_\_%

**Calculation – Wounds on Neonatal Piglets, Nursery and Finisher Pigs**

- 1a. Number of neonatal piglets with wounds on any part of their bodies = \_\_\_\_\_
- 1b. Number of nursery and finisher pigs with wounds on any part of their bodies = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2a. Total number of neonatal piglets observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2b. Total number of nursery and finisher pigs observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- $(\#1a \div \#2a) \times 100\%$  = \_\_\_\_\_%
- $(\#1b \div \#2b) \times 100\%$  = \_\_\_\_\_%

<b>Gilts, Sows and Boars</b>	
Less than 5% with wounds	no action needed
5 to 15% with wounds	warrants attention
Greater than 15% with wounds	needs immediate attention
<b>Neonatal Piglets, Nursery and Finisher Pigs</b>	
Less than 5% with wounds	no action needed
5 to 15% with wounds	warrants attention
Greater than 15% with wounds	needs immediate attention

A rectal prolapse is an eversion outside of the body of the rectal lining. Common causes are coughing and pigs piling to stay warm. Docking tails too close to the body and genetics can contribute to their occurrence. It is important to isolate or treat these animals as quickly as possible to prevent further injury and to enhance the chances of full recovery. Your Educator can help you with a treatment plan but finding and addressing the contributing cause are also very important.

A **scratch** is an injury to the skin that goes into the skin but does not go all the way through. Fresh scratches will still have redness and inflammation. Common causes are fighting and sharp objects around feeders, waterers or other places of movement. Again, noting the frequency and location might be helpful to you and your Educator as you work on a plan for prevention.

### Calculation

1. Number of pigs with scratches	=	_____
2. Total number of animals observed	=	_____
$(\#1 \div \#2) \times 100\%$	=	_____%

### Gilts, Sows and Boars

Less than 15% with scratches	no action needed
15 to 40% with scratches	warrants attention
Greater than 40% with scratches	needs immediate attention

### Neonatal Piglets, Nursery and Finisher Pigs

Less than 15% with scratches	no action needed
15 to 40% with scratches	warrants attention
Greater than 40% with scratches	needs immediate attention

## 3.3 Swine Behavior

Swine behavior will reflect the quality of care received and suitability of the facilities. Swine that are repeatedly exposed to unpleasant handling and abuse will show evidence of fear in the presence of humans. Pigs that are relaxed around people will generally be easier to move and have better meat quality.

Watching how your animals react to you or someone else can give an important indication of how they are being handled. Pigs are naturally inquisitive. However, they are also cautious. Normally, a pig may initially act fearful or excitable as a protective mechanism but then relax and maybe even explore your presence by nosing you or biting at your legs or feet.

Pick a time when the pigs are usually quiet – an hour or so after feeding. While standing outside the stall / pen or while kneeling down in the middle of the pen, reach out and try to touch a pig on the snout. If the pig is fearful and tries to avoid you, count how many seconds it takes for the pig to either come back to you or to obviously relax even though it might not return. At least 50% of the pigs should return to your hand, make some approach back to you, or show a relaxed posture within 15 seconds. Of course, this measurement is also affected by recent vaccinations, blood collection for herd or individual sera profiling, etc. If there is any question about the intensity of the fear response in your pigs, talk with your Educator about ways to maintain biosecurity but also increase interaction with your pigs so they are more relaxed when people are present.





### **Gilts, Sows and Boars**

Greater than 50% return back to hand or show a relaxed posture within 15 seconds	no action needed
20 to 50% return back to hand or show a relaxed posture within 15 seconds	warrants attention
Less than 20% return back to hand or show a relaxed posture within 15 seconds	needs immediate attention

### **Nursery and Finisher Pigs**

Greater than 50% return back to hand or show a relaxed posture within 15 seconds	no action needed
20 to 50% return back to hand or show a relaxed posture within 15 seconds	warrants attention
Less than 20% return back to hand or show a relaxed posture within 15 seconds	needs immediate attention

## **3.4 Social Contact**

Pigs are social animals and being maintained in isolation from other pigs can be stressful. Social contact is defined as being able to touch or see another pig in the same or an adjoining stall or pen. An individual gilt, sow or boar in a pen or stall with empty pens or stalls immediately adjacent on both sides does not have social contact. Talk with your Educator about these definitions and the social contact of your pigs. Reasonable exceptions to this social requirement are pigs that have been separated from other pigs because of health concerns.



# **pork** **checkoff** *Swine Welfare*

## *Assurance Program<sup>SM</sup>*

### *CWP #4 Body Condition Score*



SM

## CWP #4 Body Condition Score

Body condition scores are useful to assess the adequacy of the nutrition program and the effectiveness of the heating and cooling strategies in the facilities management plan.

Body conditioning score has been adopted from the industry standard that is based on a 1 (emaciated) to 5 (obese) system. Any animal thinner than body condition score 2 could be in a condition that their welfare is being compromised.

While emaciated (body condition score 1) is an indicator of animal welfare, an obese animal also has increased risks to health. Either extreme could be an indication of a management need and a cause for discussion with your Educator.

Body condition scoring of sows is an on-going process. Particular attention needs to be paid to sows 14 days before farrowing – an indicator of how the sow might be able to handle the stresses of nursing; and within 14 days after weaning – to start adjusting daily feed availability and body condition score.

### Calculation

$$\begin{aligned}
 &1. \text{ Number of pigs with body condition score of less than 2} &= & \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\
 &2. \text{ Total number of animals observed} &= & \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\
 &(\#1 \div \#2) \times 100\% &= & \underline{\hspace{2cm}}\%
 \end{aligned}$$

### Gilts, Sows and Boars

Less than 0.1% body condition score less than 2	no action needed
0.1 to 2% body condition score less than 2	warrants attention
Greater than 2% body condition score less than 2	needs immediate attention

### Nursery and Finisher Pigs

Less than 0.1% body condition score less than 2	no action needed
0.1 to 2% body condition score less than 2	warrants attention
Greater than 2% body condition score less than 2	needs immediate attention

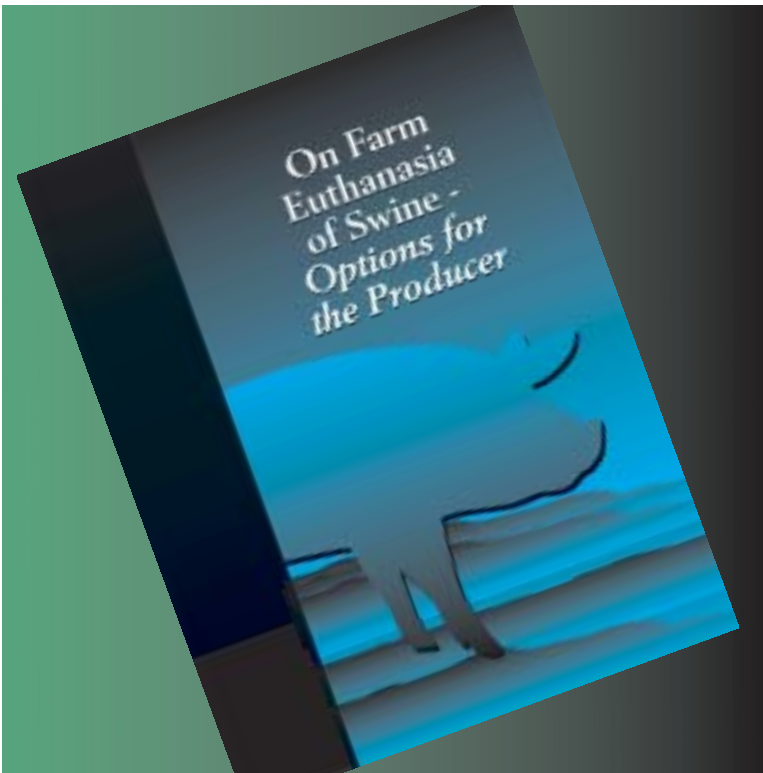




# **pork** **checkoff** *Swine Welfare*

## *Assurance Program<sup>SM</sup>*

### *CWP #5 Euthanasia*



SM



## CWP #5 Euthanasia

**Euthanasia is defined as a humane death occurring without pain or distress.** Pigs that are not responding to care or unlikely to recover must be euthanized humanely. Timely euthanasia using the appropriate methods and equipment, is critical to the welfare of these pigs.

### 5.1 Timeliness

### 5.2 Methods

### 5.3 Functional Equipment

The National Pork Board and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) have published the booklet, *On Farm Euthanasia of Swine - Options for the Producer*. It contains explanations and guidelines on humane methods of euthanasia for various sizes and production stages of pigs. It also contains a “Euthanasia Action Plan” for recording the farm’s plan for humane euthanasia. Refer to the booklet for detailed information about implementing a humane, safe euthanasia plan in your operation.

### 5.1 Timeliness

Timely euthanasia will prevent animal suffering. Because the definition of “timely” is more subjective than objective, that definition for your operation should be a subject of discussion with your Educator.

Accidents that call for quick euthanization can happen any day of the week. Personnel trained in euthanasia should be available to respond if called – including nights, weekends and holidays. Unless there are special circumstances for animals under veterinary care, no more than two days of intensive care with no pig improvement or prospect for improvement should be needed before a decision about euthanasia is made.

### 5.2 Methods

When humane euthanasia is the most appropriate option, the following considerations must be made when choosing the appropriate method:

- a) **Human safety:** The method must not put producers or their employees at unnecessary risk.
- b) **Pig welfare:** The method should minimize pain or distress on the animal.
- c) **Practicality/technical skill requirements:** The method should be easily learned and repeatable with the same expected outcome.
- d) **Cost:** The method should be economical for the producer to ensure it is used when needed.
- e) **Aesthetics:** The method should not be objectionable to the person administering the procedure.
- f) **Limitations:** Some methods are only suitable for certain sizes of pigs or certain locations.

Specific guidelines are given in *On Farm Euthanasia – Options for the Producer*

There can be nothing but zero tolerance for mistreatment of animals during euthanasia procedures.

### 5.3 Functional Equipment

Any equipment that you use for euthanasia of pigs in your operation must be kept in proper repair and must be functional. A maintenance record can help to demonstrate that the condition of the equipment is being addressed.

Talk through these points and review the booklet, *On Farm Euthanasia of Swine - Options for the Producer* with your Educator. Be sure to complete the “Euthanasia Action Plan” at the end of the booklet for each stage of production in your operation. Then post the Euthanasia Action Plan in a prominent place in your facility. Talk with your Educator about humane methods to move downer animals prior to euthanasia, if needed.

Euthanasia equipment may be centrally located for its use on multiple sites. Trained employees in euthanasia methods need to have access to this equipment.

As shown in the *On Farm Euthanasia of Swine - Option for the Producer* Table 1, there are various methods of humane euthanasia in pigs. The first step is to consider which methods might be considered in each phase of production for each particular farm.

**Table 1: Size-related Appropriateness of Various Euthanasia Methods in Swine**

	<b>Farrowing pig</b> less than 3 weeks (12# or 5.5 kg)	<b>Nursery pig</b> less than 10 weeks (70# or 32 kg)	<b>Grower pig</b> (less than 150# or 68 kg)	<b>Finisher pig</b> (greater than 150# or 68 kg)	<b>Mature</b> animal, sows or boars
<b>Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)*</b>	yes	yes	not practical	not practical	not practical
<b>Gunshot</b>	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
<b>Captive Bolt</b>	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
<b>Electrocution</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
<b>Anesthetic overdose</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
<b>Blunt trauma</b>	yes	no	no	no	no

\* CO<sub>2</sub> means Carbon Dioxide, NOT Carbon Monoxide (CO). Carbon Monoxide is a method of euthanasia but is not currently recommended because of its high potential as a human health hazard.





# **pork** **checkoff** *Swine Welfare*

## *Assurance Program<sup>SM</sup>*

### *CWP #6 Handling and Movement*



SM



## CWP#6 Handling and Movement

### 6.1 Proper Handling

### 6.2 Facility Considerations

### 6.3 Equipment

#### 6.1 Proper Handling

CWP #2, “Caretaker Training,” referred to the need for a training program for those people that handle or move pigs in your operation. Complying with CWP #6, “Handling and Movement,” will show that the training program is being implemented.

Details about properly handling and moving pigs can be found in PQA™ GPP #8, “Provide Proper Swine Care,” and the *Swine Care Handbook*. The handling and movement of swine involves many unfamiliar experiences for pigs – for example mixing with strange animals and fluctuating environmental temperature and humidity. To help you move animals quickly and efficiently, it is critical for you to understand how to prepare your facilities to help move pigs, how many pigs to move and the correct equipment to reduce stress and improve pig welfare.

These details should be the focus of caretaker training and should be implemented in your operation. Your handling and moving procedures should be consistent with your operation’s training program. Your Educator will help to ensure that this is the case by either interviewing the people responsible for handling and moving your pigs, or by observing them as they do so.

Examples of questions that could be asked:

1. How many people are used to move pigs and what are their tasks?
2. When moving pigs from pens to trucks for market, how many animals are usually moved at a time?
3. Are you tracking the number and percentage of pigs that fall down during moving?

As you observe your animals every day, get them accustomed to human contact. This will help make movement and loading easier on them and on you. Also when sorting in the barn, keep in mind that pigs don’t understand the objective of your work. Remain calm, quiet, patient and organized. Use the proper equipment for your safety and move pigs in groups of six or less.

#### 6.2 Facility Considerations

Provide non-slip flooring for pigs and sows in all housing and loading facilities. Remove sharp and rough edges, corners or points on alleyways and loading chutes, which may cause bruising.

#### 6.3 Equipment

A panel is the most effective tool for moving a pig because it blocks the pig’s path and vision while protecting the person holding the panel. Rattles, shakers, flags and similar tools are quite effective in moving pigs.

**The use of electric prods is a stressful event and should be avoided or absolutely minimized. Pigs should never be prodded in sensitive areas such as the eyes, nose, anus, testicles, etc. If regular use of an electric prod is needed, reevaluate your handling procedures and facilities with your Educator. There may be ways that you can increase your pigs' familiarity with people.**



The position of the National Pork Board is that any pig that is unable to walk or that is ill and will not recover should be humanely euthanized on the farm and not transported to market channels. Veterinary assistance should be sought to determine protocols for treatment or euthanasia for sick or injured pigs. Where the likelihood of recovery is low, even with treatment, the pig should be euthanized. When the likelihood is high, the pig should be removed to a pen where competition for feed and water is lower and where the pig can be monitored and treated regularly.

For information about handling pigs during transport, the Checkoff has developed the TQA<sup>SM</sup> Program that includes welfare and meat quality aspects of trucking and transporting pigs.







# **pork** **checkoff** *Swine Welfare Assurance Program*<sup>SM</sup>

## *Assurance Program*<sup>SM</sup>

### *CWP #7 Facilities*



SM



## CWP #7 Facilities

### 7.1 Ventilation

### 7.2 Heating and Cooling

### 7.3 Physical Space to Accommodate the Body

### 7.4 Pen Maintenance

### 7.5 Feeder Space

### 7.6 Water Availability

### 7.7 Hospital Pen

Good animal care depends on the quality of the facility and the management skills of the workers. Its efficiency, economy and smooth functioning are influenced greatly by the design, maintenance and operation of the structure and its equipment. Production facilities should conform to applicable building codes unless deviations and variances are justified and, if necessary, approved.

Management and quality of the facilities in each system will determine the pigs' comfort. Every type of housing system must provide conditions that are conducive to comfort, good health, growth and performance appropriate for that stage of the pig's life.

Chapter 2, "Environmental Management," and Chapter 3, "Facilities and Equipment," of the *Swine Care Handbook* give detailed information about the welfare considerations for the wide variety of production facilities used to raise pigs today. You and your Educator can also use other resources, such as the Midwest Plan Service and various Extension publications, as you review your facility and its management.

### 7.1 Ventilation

In animal houses, both environmental temperature and air quality depend on a ventilation system that is in working order and that can operate without interruption. This is true whether the ventilation system uses the natural flow of air or mechanical assistance.

Because it can be costly to continually monitor air quality and the mechanics of a ventilation system, there are other ways to evaluate the adequacy of the ventilation system. One indicator could be the amount of ammonia in the air of the facility. As a general rule, a time-weighted average for ammonia in enclosed facilities should not exceed 50 parts per million (ppm). Your Educator can talk with you about ways to measure the ammonia level in your facility.

#### **Gilts, Sows and Boars**

Less than 25 ppm ammonia	no action needed
25 to 50 ppm ammonia	warrants attention
Greater than 50 ppm ammonia	needs immediate attention

#### **Neonatal Piglets, Nursery and Finisher Pigs**

Less than 25 ppm ammonia	no action needed
25 to 50 ppm ammonia	warrants attention
Greater than 50 ppm ammonia	needs immediate attention

### 7.2 Heating and Cooling

Some provision for heating or cooling should be present and in working order during extremes in weather. Your operation should provide for moderating temperatures





enough to prevent extreme thermoregulatory behaviors such as excessive panting in hot weather or excessive piling in cold weather. Table 2 in the *Swine Care Handbook* gives recommended temperature ranges for pigs in various stages of production. In addition, you may want to discuss with your Educator if there is a need for written operating instructions for heating or cooling systems that employees should understand and have access to.

### 7.3 Physical Space to Accommodate the Body

In the *Swine Care Handbook*, recommended space allowances for pigs in total confinement, pigs in pens with outside concrete aprons and pigs in pastures or pens are given in Tables 3, 4 and 5, respectively. For pig space to be considered adequate there should be enough floor space for each pig to completely lay down on its side without having to lay on another pig. For sow space to be considered adequate, sows, whether housed in groups or in stalls, must be able to:

- Lie down without the head having to rest on a raised feeder;
- Lie down without the rear quarters having to be in contact with the back of the stall, and
- Easily lie down in full lateral recumbancy and stand back up.

More than 90% of the space available to animals in your stalls or pens should be in compliance with the recommended space given in these tables or you should discuss with your Educator how other factors in your operation might affect this rate.

Close observation and professional judgment in modern facilities may allow higher stocking densities without interfering with the pigs' welfare. Production practices, such as group size, ventilation equipment and rate, and type of floors (partial versus total slats), have an effect on proper stocking densities. Discuss with your Educator the stocking density that meets the needs of your animals given the specifics of your production facility.

#### Calculation – Space for Gilts, Sows and Boars

1. Number of gilts, sows or boars not meeting space requirements = \_\_\_\_\_
2. Total number of animals observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ #2) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%

#### Calculation – Space for Nursery or Finisher Pigs

1. Number of nursery or finisher pigs per pen = \_\_\_\_\_
2. Area (square feet) of pens observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ #2) = \_\_\_\_\_ square feet per pig

#### Gilts, Sows and Boars

Less than 1% not meeting space requirements	no action needed
1 to 10% not meeting space requirements	warrants attention
Greater than 10% not meeting space requirements	needs immediate attention

#### Nursery and Finisher Pigs

Less than 1% not meeting space requirements	no action needed
1 to 10% not meeting space requirements	warrants attention
Greater than 10% not meeting space requirements	needs immediate attention

## 7.4 Pen Maintenance

The condition of the pens can directly affect other indicators of your pigs' welfare. For example, objects protruding from fences could affect the number and type of skin lesions that might be found on your pigs. Pens with broken slats could contribute to lameness or other leg injuries.

For inside facilities, 98% or more of the floors for all phases of production should be rough enough to give traction but not so rough as to injure the pad of the hoof. If slatted, the slats should be in good repair. There should be no protruding objects that can cause injury.

For all stages of production 98% or more of the fencing should also be in good repair without protrusions that can injure your pigs.

Also check the feeding and watering equipment. For all phases of production, 98% or more of the feeders and waterers should be maintained in good repair so that there are not objects that cause injury or prevent your pigs from accessing the feed or water.

### Calculation – Flooring

- |   |   |        |
|---|---|--------|
| 1. Number of pens with damaged flooring that could injure animals | = | _____  |
| 2. Total number of pens observed                                  | = | _____  |
| (#1 ÷ #2) x 100%  | = | _____% |

### Calculation – Fencing

- |  |   |        |
|--|---|--------|
| 1. Number of pens with damaged fencing that could injure animals | = | _____  |
| 2. Total number of pens observed                                 | = | _____  |
| (#1 ÷ #2) x 100%   | = | _____% |

### Calculation – Equipment

- |  |   |        |
|--|---|--------|
| 1. Number of pens with damaged equipment that could injure animals | = | _____  |
| 2. Total number of pens observed                                   | = | _____  |
| (#1 ÷ #2) x 100%   | = | _____% |

### Gilts, Sows and Boars

Less than 1% of pens needing maintenance	no action needed
1 to 2% of pens needing maintenance	warrants attention
Greater than 2% of pens needing maintenance	needs immediate attention

### Nursery and Finisher Pigs

Less than 1% of pens needing maintenance	no action needed
1 to 2% of pens needing maintenance	warrants attention
Greater than 2% of pens needing maintenance	needs immediate attention

## 7.5 Feeder Space

There is a wide variety of feeders and feeding equipment available today. Whatever the type you use in your operation, the number of feeding spaces and their size should allow your pigs to consume their daily ration without undue fighting and competition.

Adequate feeder space and easy access to water is important, especially in the period immediately after weaning because newly weaned pigs tend to eat at the same time. For these pigs, use feeders that provide space for at least half of the newly weaned pigs to eat at any one time. Additional information can be found in the *Swine Care Handbook*, Chapter 3, "Facilities and Equipment."



### Calculation

1. Number of pens without appropriate feeder space = \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Total number of pens observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- $$(\#1 \div \#2) \times 100\% = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}\%$$

#### Gilts, Sows and Boars

Less than 1% of pens without appropriate feeder space	no action needed
1 to 2% of pens without appropriate feeder space	warrants attention
Greater than 2% of pens without appropriate feeder space	needs immediate attention

#### Nursery and Finisher Pigs

Less than 1% of pens without appropriate feeder space	no action needed
1 to 2% of pens without appropriate feeder space	warrants attention
Greater than 2% of pens without appropriate feeder space	needs immediate attention



## 7.6 Water Availability

Water must be available at least twice daily and in a quantity sufficient to fully satisfy the pigs. Waterers should be designed so animals can drink freely and have flow rates that easily meet the pigs' water intake requirements. Specific information about appropriate water requirements per day can be found in Table 1 of the *Swine Care Handbook* and in Midwest Plan Service publications. Appropriate flow rates can be found in GPP #8 of the PQA™ book.

### Calculation

1. Number of pens without appropriate water availability = \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Total number of pens observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- $$(\#1 \div \#2) \times 100\% = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}\%$$

#### Gilts, Sows and Boars

Less than 0.1% of pens without appropriate availability	no action needed
0.1 to 0.2% of pens without appropriate availability	warrants attention
Greater than 0.2 % of pens without appropriate availability	needs immediate attention

#### Nursery and Finisher Pigs

Less than 0.1% of pens without appropriate availability	no action needed
0.1 to 0.2% of pens without appropriate availability	warrants attention
Greater than 0.2 % of pens without appropriate availability	needs immediate attention

## 7.7 Hospital Pen

Isolating injured or sick animals can affect their health and welfare and may impact the biosecurity of your operation. Hospital pens can also aid recovery and provide easier follow-up treatment.

There should be an area, at each stage of production, designated for recuperating or injured pigs. This area might be a separate pen or enclosure or it might also be an individual stall. The important consideration is providing for adequate treatment and recuperating needs of the animal.

Professional judgement is needed as there are times when it could be in the pig's best interest to not move it to a hospital pen. Talk with your Educator to form a plan for appropriate isolation and/or care for each stage of production in your operation.



**Some thoughts to consider when evaluating the hospital pen:**

- Are additional heating or cooling devices available to help keep sick pigs within an acceptable temperature range?
- If needed, are mats or bedding available?
- Does the pig have ready access to feed and water, as recommended by a veterinarian?



# **pork** **checkoff** *Swine Welfare*

## *Assurance Program<sup>SM</sup>*

### *CWP #8 Emergency Support*



SM



## *CWP #8 Emergency Support*

### **8.1 Emergency Support System**

### **8.2 Written Action Plan**

#### **8.1 Emergency Support System**

Suitable alarm systems should warn of power failures or temperature changes as needed but judgement may need to be used to assess the adequacy of the emergency detection system, taking into account the site of the facility. For example, if a barn is sited next to the house, visual detection of a fire or power outage is possible. If a barn is located away from the house, some method of alarm – notification to a person or an automatic intervention – should be available as appropriate if the mechanical system fails or if there is a fire.

Do your facilities and procedures have some way to provide automated intervention to prevent death to your animals (for example back up generator, drop curtains, automated alarm/notification system, etc.) and notify you if there is a mechanical failure?

#### **8.2. Written Action Plan**

In case of an emergency, quick communication is important. The facility should have a written emergency action plan for a variety of emergencies that might be encountered. This might be as simple as the names and telephone numbers of the owner, veterinarian, equipment suppliers and/or the fire and police departments being posted near telephones.

You, your family and your employees should review and be familiar with emergency procedures for your operation. With your Educator, develop a written emergency action plan for your operation.



# **pork** **checkoff** *Swine Welfare*

## *Assurance Program<sup>SM</sup>*

### *CWP #9 Continuing Assessment and Education*



SM



## *CWP #9 Continuing Assessment and Education*

### **9.1 Assessment Schedule**

Your animals' welfare is something that you should be aware of every day. The success of your operation is dependent upon the welfare and productivity of your animals. To do anything less than maintain that welfare and productivity just doesn't make sense.

A variety of options for continuing education are available. Talk with your Educator, your veterinarian, your Extension person or your fellow pork producers about meetings, materials and other opportunities to learn more about how you can successfully address the welfare needs of your animals.

Just as PQA™ keeps you abreast of new developments, equipment, production practices and research that can affect the welfare of your animals, it is important and part of the commitment to being a professional pork producer that you do the same regarding welfare.

SWAP<sup>SM</sup> has provided you with information for tracking and benchmarking welfare on your farm. To remain a SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Assessed Site, complete an assessment and register your site at least every three years.

It is highly recommended that you review the nine Care and Well-being Principles at least annually with your Educator. To do welfare assessments more often than yearly will give you an even better tool to track changes in your production practices and operation that could affect the welfare and the productivity of your animals. Discuss with your SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Educator an appropriate schedule of internal SWAP<sup>SM</sup> assessments of your site.





*It is suggested that the Educators copy this sheet and have this with them as they assess the site. It will help them complete the necessary Assessment Table.*

**CWP #3 Animal Observation**

**Calculation – Lameness**

- 1. Number of pigs lame = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of animals observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ #2) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%

**Calculation – Abscesses**

- 1. Number of pigs with abscesses = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of animals observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ # 2) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%

**Calculation – Wounds on Shoulder**

- 1. Number of gilts, sows and boars with wounds on the shoulder = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of gilts, sows and boars observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ #2) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%

**Calculation – Wounds on Vulva**

- 1. Number of gilts and sows with wounds on the vulva = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of gilts and sows observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ #2) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%

**Calculation – Wounds on Other Parts of the Body**

- 1. Number of gilts, sows and boars with wounds on other parts of their bodies = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of gilts, sows and boars observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ #2) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%

**Calculation – Wounds on Neonatal Piglets, Nursery and Finisher Pigs**

- 1a. Number of neonatal piglets with wounds on any part of their bodies = \_\_\_\_\_
- 1b. Number of nursery and finisher pigs with wounds on any part of their bodies = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2a. Total number of neonatal piglets observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2b. Total number of nusery and finisher pigs observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1a ÷ #2a) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%
- (#1b ÷ #2b) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%

**Calculation – Scratches**

- 1. Number of pigs with scratches = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of animals observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ #2) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%

**CWP #4 Body Condition Score**

**Calculation – Body Condition**

- 1. Number of pigs with body condition score of less than 2 = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of animals observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ #2) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%



**CWP**

*It is suggested that the Educators copy this sheet and have this with them as they assess the site. It will help them complete the necessary Assessment Table.*

**Calculation – Space for Gilts, Sows and Boars**

- 1. Number of gilts, sows or boars not meeting space requirements = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of pens observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ #2) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%

**Calculation – Space for Nursery or Finisher Pigs**

- 1. Number of Nursery or Finisher Pigs per pen = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Area (square feet) of pens observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ #2) = \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft. per pig

**Calculation – Flooring**

- 1. Number of pens with damaged flooring that could injure animals = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of pens observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ #2) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%

**Calculation – Fencing**

- 1. Number of pens with damaged fencing that could injure animals = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of pens observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ #2) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%

**Calculation – Equipment**

- 1. Number of pens with damaged equipment that could injure animals = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of pens observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ #2) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%

**Calculation – Feeder Space**

- 1. Number of pens without appropriate feeder space = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of pens observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ #2) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%

**Calculation – Water Availability**

- 1. Number of pens without appropriate water availability = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Total number of pens observed = \_\_\_\_\_
- (#1 ÷ #2) x 100% = \_\_\_\_\_%





# SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Gilts, Sows, Boars and Neonatal Piglets Assessment Table

Site Identification: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Description: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Animals on this Site: \_\_\_\_\_ Producer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Animals Assessed: \_\_\_\_\_ Educator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Care and Well-being Principles (CWPs)		Measure	Acceptable	Gilts, Sows, Boars and Neonatal Piglets Needs Improvement	Comments
Record Keeping					
<b>CWP #1 Herd Health and Nutrition</b>					
1.1	Valid VCPR				
1.2	Herd Health Program				
1.3	Medication and Treatment Records				
1.4	Mortality				
	Gilts, Sows and Boars	%			
	Neonatal Piglets	%			
1.5	Pigs Euthanized				
	Gilts, Sows and Boars	%			
	Neonatal Piglets	%			
1.6	Nutritional Program				
<b>CWP #2 Caretaker Training</b>					
2.1	Training Programs				
2.2	Career Development				
Animal Observations					
<b>CWP #3 Animal Observation</b>					
3.1	Daily Observation				
	Records of Daily Observation				
	Seriously Ill, Non-ambulatory or Dead Animals	No. observed _____			
3.2	Animal Evaluation				
	Lameness	No. observed _____	%		
	Abscesses	No. observed _____	%		
	Shoulder Wounds	No. observed _____	%		
	Vulva Wounds	No. observed _____	%		
	Other Wounds	No. observed _____	%		
	Scratches	No. observed _____	%		
3.3	Swine Behavior				
3.4	Social Contact				





# SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Gilts, Sows, Boars and Neonatal Piglets Assessment Table

Site Identification: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Description: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Animals on this Site: \_\_\_\_\_ Producer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Animals Assessed: \_\_\_\_\_ Educator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Care and Well-being Principles (CWP's)		Measure	Acceptable	Needs Improvement	Comments
<b>Animal Observations</b>					
<b>CWP #4 Body Condition Score</b>					
4.1 Body Condition	No. observed _____	%			
<b>CWP #5 Euthanasia</b>					
5.1 Timeliness					
5.2 Methods					
5.3 Functional Equipment					
<b>CWP #6 Handling and Movement</b>					
6.1 Proper Handling					
6.2 Facility Considerations					
6.3 Equipment					
<b>Facilities</b>					
<b>CWP #7 Facilities</b>					
7.1 Ventilation - Ammonia		ppm			
7.2 Heating and Cooling					
7.3 Physical Space to Accommodate the Body					
Percent not meeting space requirements		%			
7.4 Pen Maintenance					
Flooring		%			
Fencing		%			
Equipment		%			
7.5 Feeder Space		%			
7.6 Water Availability		%			
Water Flow - seconds / pint					
7.7 Hospital Pen					
<b>CWP #8 Emergency Support</b>					
8.1 Emergency Support System					
8.2 Written Action Plan					
<b>CWP #9 Continuing Assessment and Education</b>					
9.1 Assessment Schedule					





# SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Nursery and Finisher Pigs Assessment Table

Site Identification: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Description: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Animals on this Site: \_\_\_\_\_ Producer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Animals Assessed: \_\_\_\_\_ Educator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Care and Well-being Principles (CWPs)		Record Keeping			Nursery and Finisher Pigs	Comments
		Measure	Acceptable	Needs Improvement		
<b>CWP #1 Herd Health and Nutrition</b>						
1.1 Valid VCPR						
1.2 Herd Health Program						
1.3 Medication and Treatment Records						
1.4 Mortality						
Nursery	%					
Finisher	%					
1.5 Piga Euthanized						
Nursery	%					
Finisher	%					
1.6 Nutritional Program						
<b>CWP #2 Caretaker Training</b>						
2.1 Training Programs						
2.2 Career Development						
<b>Animal Observations</b>						
<b>CWP #3 Animal Observation</b>						
3.1 Daily Observation						
Records of Daily Observation						
Seriously Ill, Non-ambulatory or Dead Animals	No. observed _____					
3.2 Animal Evaluation						
Lameness	No. observed _____	%				
Abscesses	No. observed _____	%				
Wounds	No. observed _____	%				
Scratches	No. observed _____	%				
3.3 Swine Behavior						
3.4 Social Contact						





# SWAP<sup>SM</sup> Nursery and Finisher Pigs Assessment Table

Site Identification: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Description: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Animals on this Site: \_\_\_\_\_ Producer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Animals Assessed: \_\_\_\_\_ Educator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Care and Well-being Principles (CWP's)		Nursery and Finisher Pigs			Comments
		Measure	Acceptable	Needs Improvement	
<b>Animal Observations</b>					
<b>CWP #4 Body Condition Score</b>					
4.1	Body Condition	No. observed _____			%
<b>CWP #5 Euthanasia</b>					
5.1	Timeliness				
5.2	Methods				
5.3	Functional Equipment				
<b>CWP #6 Handling and Movement</b>					
6.1	Proper Handling				
6.2	Facility Considerations				
6.3	Equipment				
<b>Facilities</b>					
<b>CWP #7 Facilities</b>					
7.1	Ventilation - Ammonia				ppm
7.2	Heating and Cooling				
7.3	Physical Space to Accommodate the Body Nursery or Finisher - Sq. ft/pig				
7.4	Pen Maintenance				
	Flooring				%
	Fencing				%
	Equipment				%
7.5	Feeder Space				%
7.6	Water Availability				%
	Water Flow - seconds / pint				
7.7	Hospital Pen				
<b>CWP #8 Emergency Support</b>					
8.1	Emergency Support System				
8.2	Written Action Plan				
<b>CWP #9 Continuing Assessment and Education</b>					
9.1	Assessment Schedule				







*Swine Welfare  
Assurance Program*<sup>SM</sup>  
*A Program of America's  
Pork Producers*



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