FACTA
Animal Welfare Assurance, Certification & Training

FACTA Humane Certified- Animal Welfare Audit Program - Swine

FACTA

Animal Welfare Assurance, Certification & Training

Standards And Instructions

FACTA Swine Audit Tool

General Information

Overview

The FACTA Quality audit includes the following general features. First, central records, SOPs, training programs and HR records are assessed; these items are listed below under the "Company Records and SOPs" section. If available, the veterinary staff and nutritionists are interviewed. Having an internal animal welfare audit collected annually at each site by a farm employee with follow-up corrective actions is required. At least quarterly production data must be reviewed internally and available for review. When the well-being of a pig is compromised, the performance of that pig may also become compromised and decrease. Performance measures to include are; average daily gain, feed efficiency, average total born, and average weaned. We do not specify targets for these performance measures but expect continual improvement over time. These production items are not part of the animal welfare audit and are used solely for reference use of our FACTA review panel. Next, farm sites are visited. Ten % of the sites are visited. FACTA auditor selects the specific sites to be visited, being sure to include multiple geographies, but randomly, having no specific pattern, purpose, or objective, selected sites are visited within a geography (ex., the farm may have sites in 2 states). Within each site, at least 1/3 of buildings must be entered. The auditor will choose which buildings/rooms to enter. If records are inconsistent or absent, more buildings within the site are assessed. By evaluating more buildings on site and additional sites within the system we can evaluate if the deficiency is isolated within the designated building or if the problem is throughout the whole site and/or system. It is the goal of the audit to not only identify the deficiency but to have in depth knowledge of the deficiency. A sample of animals at each site and within each facility are directly observed. This sample will vary but must exceed PQA standards and must include animals in each stage of production (ex, boars, sows in early, mid and late gestation & lactation; or all animals in a nursery or grow-finish site). The third-party assessment is at least annually. For larger systems, animals should be assessed in at least 2 seasons. Finally, the FACTA Quality report and internal audit information is sent to at least 2 peer reviewers for comments, recommendations and commendations. Peer reviewers will be one DVM with animal welfare experience and one PhD animal welfare scientist. Peer reviewers will be selected from the FACTA advisory panel. If a conflict of interest arises we will chose a qualified individual outside of the FACTA panel. The peer reviewers are free to comment at will and to request clarifications. The final report to the client includes: (1) a 1 page audit report stating the process, the findings, and our opinion, and (2) a detailed, multi-page spreadsheet with tabs containing information about sows, nursery pigs, grow-finishing, transport & handling, general records, FACTA recommendations and commendations and peer reviewer recommendations and

commendations. The peer review portion of the FACTA audit is an option available to clients but is not a part of the audit program itself.

Passing/Failing the FACTA audit

The FACTA audit is not based on a scoring system. We prefer that each farm make continuous improvement in animal welfare regardless of the current level of each audit measurement. We require remedial plans for four specific criteria on our audits; animal abuse, timely euthanasia failure, more than 1% of pigs having a BCS 1 and/or >1% of pigs in general population found ill and are not treated. If any of these issues are observed the auditor will require a remedial plan to be created and for a follow up to be conducted with the auditor and a member of management of that system to be conducted. A FACTA audit report will not be completed until these items have been completed and reviewed by the auditor.

Pass/fail audits are only generated if the farm wishes them. When this request is made a scoring system will be created, reviewed by the company, and agreed upon before any audits are completed. A specific site will fail an audit if the score is less than 80% and a re-audit will be required. Automatic failures for pass/fail scores, no matter the agreed upon scoring system, will always be; observed animal abuse, timely euthanasia failure, more than 1% of the animals in general population having a BCS of 1, and more than 1% of animals ill in general population not found/treated. These sites that automatically fail will be required to complete remedial plans and will be eligible for re-audit once the remedial plan has been completed and enacted.

Details

In preparation for an animal welfare audit FACTA will hold an on-site preaudit meeting and will receive all records stated below. Four areas of animal care and well-being will be investigated during the audit; Records/SOPs, Facilities, Animal condition, and Personnel. During the preaudit meeting concerns regarding health and mortality will be discussed as well as recent welfare issues if any. The FACTA audit will be random and unannounced, where possible, to the people working on the site (management will know we will be in that region, but they are not to tell the site workers). For smaller farms, the audits cannot be unannounced since we will have to let them know we are coming. For larger systems it will be known by upper management that will be in the region but site workers and upper management will not know which farm sites we will sample until after the fact. If multiple regions are being evaluated, farms from each region should be audited to accurately assess the system as a whole. If possible, audits will be conducted during more than one season over the course of the year in order to account for seasonal variation. The auditor will have access to all sites and records. All bio-security protocols dictated by said company will be maintained at all times. Random interviews

related to animal welfare will be conducted with managers and hourly workers at sites visited. The handling of animals, loading and receiving of animals will also be audited. If the hourly worker is onsite at the time of the audited a “daily handling” audit will be conducted. At least 90% of the sites audited must have a “daily handling” audit conducted and must have an interview conducted with an hourly worker or the site manager. The loading and receiving of animals must be observed and audited at least once per geographical region. Plant audits will be conducted when permissible. A predetermined percentage of the total number of sites will be evaluated. At nursery, wean to finish, and grow- finish sites a subsample of at least 1/3 of the barns/rooms per site will be audited; but for these, 100% of the animals in each room will be observed. All buildings on a sow farm will be entered and viewed but not all buildings will be audited. At sow farms, at least 100 animals from each stage of gestation and lactation will be observed. 100 animals per stage is the minimum. 100% of the teaser boars and replacement boars located on the sow farm must also be included in the audit.

- Boars
- Replacement Gilts
- Breeding - bred within the last week
- Mid-Gestation – around D60 of gestation
- Late-Gestation – within one week of moving into farrowing
- 3 different phase of Lactation
    - Day 1-3
    - Day 7-10
    - Day 17 -19

Sampling Method in Detail

Prior to engaging in an audit FACTA must evaluate number of sites, geographical locations and various stages of production of the company being audited. FACTA's base line of auditing must begin at 10% of the total sites, and when divided into phases of production must audited 10% of each stage of production. This percentage could significantly increase for companies of smaller sizes, 4 total sites compared to 400 total sites of larger companies. This percentage will be discussed and agreed upon between our qualified auditors and agreed upon between FACTA and the company being audited.

Nursery/wean-finish site

Before entering site identify how many animals are kept on site and how many rooms/buildings are on site. The auditor must audit at least 1/3 of the building/rooms on site. The rooms/buildings selected to audit must be chosen before entering any barn. If there are empty buildings on site these should not be included in the equation. The auditor should always round the calculated number up.

(Number of rooms x 1/3) = number of rooms to audit

Example: 10 (rooms/buildings) x 1/3 = 3.333 4 rooms/buildings out of 10 must be audited.

Sow Sites

At sow sites, before entering the barn, details of layout and current inventory must be obtained.
In order to determine which animals to view the auditor must gather this information.

Gestation

Step 1

If in crates

- How many gestation/farrowing buildings does the site contain

- Are all phases of gestation available for auditing in each building
    - If yes, then the auditor must random decide which building to audit
    - If no, the auditor must randomly audit animals but the buildings cannot be randomly selected and the auditor must make note of this
- How many rows of crates per phase of gestation and how many animals per row
    - Replacement Gilts
    - Breeding - bred within the last week
    - Mid-Gestation – around D60 of gestation
    - Late-Gestation – within one week of moving into farrowing

If in pens

- Total number of pigs kept in pens
- Stages of gestation kept in pens
- Total number of pens used per stage of gestation
- Number of pigs per pen

Step 2

As stated before <u>at least</u> 100 sows per stage must be audited. An auditor will take the information above and must calculate how many full rows of sows to evaluate. For example; it a row contains 120 animals than only one row of sows per phase needs to be evaluated. This row must be decided before entering the area. If a row only contains 70 sows, then a full 2nd row of sows must be audited, equaling 140 sows viewed. 100 sows per stage is a minimum. Evaluating a whole second row eliminates the auditor's potential bias on which 30 additional sows in the second row to audit.

This method must also be followed when evaluating gestation sows in pens. The auditor must evaluate enough pens to reach at least 100 sows per phase and must pick the pens at random before entering the area.

Lactation

Before entering any rooms the auditor must know the number of rooms per phase of lactation (listed below) and the number of sows per room. The auditor must take this information and calculate how many rooms per phase must be audited in order to view at least 100 sows per phase. For example; if each room contains 45 farrowing crates/sows, than 3 rooms per phase must be audited equaling 135 sows audited.

- Day 1-3
- Day 7-10
- Day 17 -19

Company Records and SOPs

The auditor is to confirm that the company has policies and documentation of the items listed below. This is normally conducted at a central office but can be conducted on site for smaller farms which are usually do not have an office off site.

1. **Animal Health Program**
    a. The swine operation must retain 12 months of medication and treatment records
        i. Note where are these files stored and for how long
    b. Confirm that the company has a Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship (VCPR). This can be verified by a phone call or direct conversation with the herd veterinarian, veterinarian bills, and veterinarian contact information on an "emergency action plan" or by a letter confirming the relationship. This verification must be dated within the past 12 months.
    c. The animal health program must include an antibiotic and vaccination program.
        i. For antibiotic free programs the animal health program must specify no antibiotics
    d. What are the current diagnosed disease concerns and current health programs?
        i. Include in the note section if company is experiencing a diagnosed active disease outbreak and what current health program is in place to combat the disease.
2. **HR records**
    a. Obtain all records pertaining to disciplinary actions regarding to animal welfare in the last year. Names of individuals must be blocked out for confidentiality concerns. The objective of the auditor is to verify that steps were taken (disciplinary actions and retraining) regarding animal welfare.

Company Records and SOPs continued

*The auditor must verify that the farm workers have received this education/training and that it is documented and dated. This will be confirmed at the main office through documentation and will be confirmed on site via direct observations or via interviews with site workers/managers.

3. **Transportation training/education records and materials**
    a. Transportation Animal Well-Being Policy
        - This policy should address these areas during transport
            - Animal handling
            - Space and Environmental Requirements
            - Extreme Weather Action Plan
            - Euthanasia Plan
    b. Obtain information regarding the orientation and on-going training for live animal transport drivers.
        - It is recommended that live animal transport drivers go through training related to hauling and animal handling at least once every year
        - All truck drivers must go through orientation and animal handling training before having contact with animals
        - All truck drivers must be TQA certified
            - All truck drivers must be TQA certified before transporting animals
4. **Educational/Training material and records**
        a. Orientation training for all personnel
            i. All personnel must complete orientation before working on-farm. The information included in the orientation program will be dictated by the company but the animal abuse policy must be included.
        b. On-farm caretaker training
        c. Outside workers – maintenance personnel
        d. Specialized training, specialized crews; vaccination/loading crews

Company Records and SOPs continued

5. **Animal Well-being SOP's**

   These SOPs must be available on-farm at all times; these documents must be verified on-farm by the auditor.

   a. Care and Treatment of Sick or Injured Animals
   b. Handling of Animals

      SOPs should address the movement of animals on a daily basis throughout the facility as well as procedures and equipment recommended/required during the unloading and loading process for each stage of production.

      1. Piglets
      2. Growing Pigs
      3. Finishing Pigs
      4. Sows/Replacement Gilts
      5. Boars
      6. Unloading/loading process including equipment

   c. Processing of Litters
   d. Weaning Process
   e. Euthanasia Standards and Methods
      i. Piglets
      ii. Growing Pigs
      iii. Finishing Pigs
      iv. Adults
         1. Replacement Gilts
         2. Sows
         3. Boars

   f. Non-Ambulatory pigs
   g. Animal Abuse Policy

6. **Bio-security**

Confirm a bio-security program with defined procedures is in place at all times to minimize the potential threat of exposure to disease agents.

   a. Any visits by non-farm personnel must be documented and dated.
   b. The bio-security plan should include the maintenance of pest control methods by
      i. Denying them cover and places to live by keeping grass along the perimeter of the building short and weeded

ii. Removal of feed sources in and around the building and grain bin pad
iii. Denying entrance to facilities by boarding up holes in walls and making sure doors shut completely without gaps
iv. Baiting and trapping to reduce rodent populations.

c. A waste disposal plan must be in place which details protocols for the safe and proper disposal of medical waste, sharps, carcasses and other waste that are a potential threat to animal and human health and safety.
d. A program should be in place to deal the addition and isolation of new pigs

On-Site Audit

Records/SOPs

7. Emergency Plan

A written emergency plan including contacts must be prominently posted on site. This should include information and telephone number for police and fire department, and local utilities. In addition, telephone numbers of key individuals for the farm site should be reached in the event of an emergency; site manager and veterinarian. The address of the farm should also be included.

8. Emergency Backup Systems

Each site must have procedures or equipment to prevent death of animals in the event of an emergency. These might include: (1) an automatic curtain drop system or a generator in a power failure, (2) heaters for extreme cold weather, and (3) additional cooling systems in extreme heat, such as water sprinklers or misters. Generators must either be on site or available for use. Records must be kept showing that the test of the generator is done regularly (at least monthly, preferable weekly). Alarm systems for controlled environment barns must be installed for giving notifications in the event of an emergency. A system that causes the curtains to drop with power failure is an acceptable alarm system (though technically not an alarm, it is an emergency response system). Outdoor systems can vary in the equipment used but they must provide relief from extreme periods of cold and hot weather. For summer conditions, some types of heat stress prevention include; wallows, shade, cooling mats, misters, and fans. For winter months, supplemental heat and/or bedding should be provided as well as properly equipped buildings. Other types of equipment can be used as long as the pigs in that environment are provided relief from extreme temperatures.

9. PQA PLUS Verification

All sites must be PQA PLUS certified. All individuals on site must be PQA PLUS certified. Audit must confirm proof of site and individual worker certification and expiration date at each site visited.

Facilities

10. Ammonia

High ammonia concentrations can directly hinder the well-being of a pig through irritation of the respiratory tract. During the audit the auditor is too look for symptoms indicating that pigs may be exposed to poor air quality. These include; watery and mattery eyes, bloodshot eyes and difficulty breathing. The auditor must also be aware of symptoms he/she may experience when ammonia levels are too high. These include; immediate burning of the eyes, nose, throat, and respiratory tract.

When any of these symptoms, human and/or animal, are present, the auditor must measure the ammonia level at 3 different locations, the front, middle, and back of the barn. The sample must be taken at pig height and with a Draeger Accuro Tube system and report the level in the report to the nearest ppm. This type of Draeger systems takes in 100mL of air and within a few minutes gives the concentration of ammonia in that specific area. Where swine are housed, ammonia levels, measure by the auditor at the height of the animals at multiple locations on the barn, must not exceed 25 parts per million. Other suitable ammonia testers can be used but they must first be preapproved.

11. Temperature

As stated in the **Emergency Backup System** section whether pigs are kept indoors or outdoors it is necessary to provide supplemental heating and cooling for pigs when temperature are outside the pigs' critical temperatures ranges. These ranges are provided in the National Pork Boards PQA PLUS 2.0 manual. The auditor should walk through the facility without disturbing the pigs to observe the pig's behavior. Pictures provided by the National Pork Board below.

A. If air temperature is too cold, pigs will huddle together, shiver and pile onto each other to stay warm.
B. In a neutral comfort zone, pigs tend to have body contact with each other but will not pile. Commonly, you might see a few pigs separated and spread out from the majority of the other pigs in the pen. This is normal and does not indicate that the air is too hot.
C. If the air temperature is too hot, pigs will try to avoid body contact with other pigs and will have increased respiration rates.

The auditor is to also verify that the temperature was checked by hourly workers by viewing the barn sheet and to verify that the temperature in the barn is set correctly accordingly to the company's SOPs. Due to controllers varying between companies/sites and complications arising while using them the auditor should ask the manager to verify settings on the controller instead of touching the controller themselves.

12. Equipment/Ventilation

Inspection of equipment and ventilation should be daily. Equipment such as feeders, waterers, and environmental controls should always be in working order. If a defect is found it should be rectified immediately. The site should contain equipment to deal with extreme weather typical for the climate; such as, heaters for extreme cold and misters/curtain drop systems for extreme heat. Note any equipment or ventilation concerns that you encounter during the audit that can cause harm to animals, such as, broken piece of metal, ventilation fans out of service, etc. Make sure your 'guide' is aware of these concerns before the end of the audit and conduct a follow up interview at the end of the audit process in order to confirm that these concerns will be dealt with in a timely manner.

13. Space Allowance

When pigs are housed in a pen, they must be provided with a sufficient amount of area to accommodate all pigs lying together on their side. Adult animals in group housing must have space to easily lie down fully on their side without having to lie on another pig and be able to easily stand back up. The percentage of sows not able to achieve full lateral recumbency will be reported. Likewise, the percentage of sows that are longer than the space provided will be reported. Adult animals in an individual stall must have adequate space to lie down fully on their side without their head having to rest on a raised feeder and the rear quarters coming in contact with the back of the stall at the same time. If there is a top on the stall, they can fully stand without their back coming in contact with the top of the stall. Some sows may voluntarily lie down with their head on the raised feeder even though there is adequate room behind them. This animal is not counted as having inadequate space.

If farms request that we report the % of sows that do not meet some criteria, we can do that (say, 95% of sows can lie down in full lateral recumbency). In order to calculate this percentage we would use the subsample of animals observed on that specific site as a population average of the whole site of pigs. However, we encourage our clients to report the actual % of each measure and improve the value no matter the starting point.

For finishing pigs, we encourage clients to use the method outlined by Gonyou et al. to determine space allowance (Gonyou, H. W., M. C. Brumm, E. Bush, P. Davies, J. Deen, S. A. Edwards, T. Fangman, J. J. McGlone, M. Meunier-Salaun, R. B. Morrison, H. Spoolder, P. L. Sundberg and A. K. Johnson. 2006. Application of broken line analysis to assess floor space

requirements of nursery and grow/finish pigs expressed on an allometric basis. J. Anim. Sci. 84:229-235) . In this paper, an allometric equation of space = k * weight $^{0.667}$, where space is in m^2 and body weight in kg. We ask the client to tell us their k value and we audit against that value. (k can be 0.028 to 0.038, generally, with a suggested value over 0.030 for k). If the client is not aware on how to calculate the k value, FACTA auditors will calculate this value for the client and audit against it.

Space Allowance Details

The Gonyou et al, (2006) paper's first sentence confirms that space allowance is important to animal welfare. We acknowledge that there are multiple applicable measures of animal welfare including growth rate. The Performance Axiom put forth by Stan Curtis suggests (Curtis, 2007) that in the absence of other measures, animal performance (including growth) is the single best measure(s) of an animal's state of being. In the case of floor space, we have insufficient data from measures other than growth to perform a meta-analysis. When other measures were included in a meta-analysis, they did not disagree with the critical points defined by pig growth, although other measures lacked sufficient sample size (numbers of papers) to be sound. Finally, the National Pork Board commissioned the Gonyou review explicitly to define the space allowance for growing pigs for its Swine Care Handbook and related documents and programs.

FACTA asks its clients to define their target k-value using the concepts in Gonyou et al (2006). We then observe if the company policy is confirmed through our audit. Then, one can say if the farm's values are consistent with or not consistent with the literature. We must assess what that value is so that we can say that farm policies are consistently followed. Other bodies may argue for a different k-value. The decision about a set required space needs is up to organizations and companies other than FACTA. We simply report the facts using an objective method.

Animal Observation

14. Health Status

Obtain information about the current health status on the site audited. Is the site experiencing problems thought to be associated with health status? i.e., higher mortality rate in piglets because of scours in farrowing. Health status is important to document. If ill animals are present, the auditor will record the number and percentage of ill and injured animals not detected by farm site caretakers (this number should approach zero). The health status is reported for peer reviewers as well. This can be important when assessing mortality levels. A key is that the farm site understands why mortality is rising and implements a program to manage and treat the disease.

15. Daily Observation

A log or record book should be kept that shows that someone has observed the animals every day. The minimum information recorded would be person's initials, date, and location/building. Examples of these could be log, calendar, water usage record, high/low temperature recordings, treatment records in each barn, or sow cards. In a controlled environment barn temperature readings should be recorded on a daily basis.

16. Access to water

Pigs must have access to clean water at flow rates that pigs can easily meet their intake requirements. The amount of water necessary per pig is determined by the weight and stage of production for that animal. Water availability must be checked daily and all waterers must be in working order. If present, nipple waterers must be at the proper height so that animals can drink freely and so that shortest animal in a pen can reach water. Functionality and access to water must be a part of the daily chore sheet and included in the daily animal care SOP. If the water is available ad libitum (all day or in certain periods) according to the SOPs and auditors observations, and there are no physical signs of dehydration, then this standard is met.

17. Access to Feed/Feeder Space

Swine must have daily access to food, except prior to transport or as required by the swine veterinarian. All swine must be fed so that their body condition is likely to sustain full health and normal reproductive capacity. The number of feeding spaces must allow for all pigs to consume feed without unnecessary fighting and competition. Rather than specifying the numbers of feeder spaces per pen, the auditor will use a performance standard; if pigs are fighting (biting and aggressive pushing) to eat feed during any observation, then the report will include a note that feeder space should be evaluated by the farm site manager. Where swine are not fed on the ground or floor, the feeders must be kept clean and dry. Food must be fresh and

not left in a contaminated (i.e. moldy, wet, soiled with rodent feces etc.) state that could cause health problems. If pigs (usually sows and boars) are floor fed a meal (not ad libitum), then the feed must be placed in a dry area and eaten in a prescribed period (such as a 30-minute feeding period that can be observed).

18. Litter Processing

Litter processing should be set using the guidelines of the National Pork Board's Swine Care Handbook. The standards below are industry standards not requirements. It is important to consult with a vet on all litter processing procedures, especially when deviating from the industry standard. These industry standards are based on years of science and applied research.

New born piglets are born with a low reserve of iron. Piglets that do not have contact with iron rich soil should be given an iron supplement by injection or orally.

A new born piglet has sharp teeth at birth that can cut other piglets when fighting and can also lacerate the sow's udder. If these teeth are clipped, this procedure should be completed within 24 hours after birth. If the sow is milking adequately, piglets are not injuring each other or causing injuring to the sows udder than teeth clipping may not be necessary.

If tail docking is to be done it should be shortly after birth while the pig is easy to hold and the procedure is less stressful. Good hygiene practices are extremely important to minimize the risk of infection.

If ear notching, ear tattoos or any other types of identification is to be done, it should be completed within the first week of life to avoid stress to the litter and the risk of infection.

Castration of male pigs for market should be completed within 7 days after birth or at least one week before weaning. Castration should be performed quickly with clean instruments. When weaned pigs need to be castrated, a local anesthetic is recommended under the direction of a veterinarian.

The auditor must observe at least 10 piglets being processed. It must be confirmed that farm employees are following company litter processing SOPs and are handling pigs in a humane manner (handling details in FACTA's "Handling Audit Standards". If piglets are not being processed during the audit the auditor must interview employees responsible for processing pigets. Add questions asked and to the notes section.

19. Hospital pen

A system should be in place to isolate sick or injured animals from general population in order to properly treat. The treatment of sick animals in general population and in the hospital pen must be detailed in a company SOP. The auditor should confirm while on-farm that the hospital pen does not contain animals needing euthanasia. Timely euthanasia is explained below.

20. Euthanasia

Only properly trained farm personnel or the swine veterinarian are permitted to perform euthanasia. Training records of those trained to perform these duties must be retained for

confirmation. All euthanasia equipment must be stored securely, maintained per the manufacturer's recommendations, and in clean and working order. Euthanasia methods for each age group of animals must be approved by a state licensed veterinarian. Written Standards and Protocols must be present that state criteria for euthanasia and verification of a proper euthanized animal. In the case that an animal is in severe, uncontrollable pain, it must be immediately and humanely euthanized. These standards must also include written instructions detailing humane euthanasia techniques and standards of timely euthanasia. An excellent guideline is the American Association of Swine Veterinarians and National Pork Board publication titled, On-Farm Euthanasia of Swine: Recommendations for the Producer. Confirmation of death must be performed after euthanasia.
Signs of life may include:

- Rhythmic breathing
- Constricted pupils
- Attempts to raise the head (righting reflex)
- Vocalization
- Palpebral reflex (run finger along the eyelash and if the pig blinks or moves
- its eye, the pig is sensible)
- Response to a painful stimulus (such as a nose prick with a needle)

21. Timely Euthanasia

As stated above it is the company's responsibility to train employees on proper techniques and criteria for euthanasia. It is important to euthanize an animal that has a low chance of survival. Timely euthanasia allows the ability to decrease the amount of pain potentially experience by that animal. The criteria for euthanasia listed below are based on the Pork Quality Assurance Plus 2.0 guidelines:

- Severely injured (broken leg) or non-ambulatory pigs with the inability to recover
- Any animal that is not able to reach food or water due to immobilization.
- Any animal with a body condition score of 1 that has shown no improvement after 48hrs of intensive care
- Any animal with a large hernia that touches the ground or causes difficulty walking

22. Willful acts of abuse

Throughout any welfare audit if willful acts of abuse are observed, immediately confer with your 'guide' about the act observed. Willful acts of abuse are outside of the normally accepted practices that intentionally cause pain and suffering. Some examples include but are not limited to:

- Caretaker fighting with a sow to force her to stop or turn around.
- Violently striking a pig with your closed fist or foot.
- Striking a pig with a gate rod or any other object not meant for the use of moving pigs. Using a driving device, rattle paddle or sorting gate to hit an animal too hard (for example: Raising the arm above the shoulder during a strike with an object (gate rod or club), slamming a swinging gate against an animal, either into the rear to make it move or into the path of the animal to stop its movement.
- Violent use of an electric prod
- Tossing or throwing baby pigs
- Dragging a down animal
- Using an electric prod or a moving device on a sensitive area (ex., vulva)

Individual animal evaluation

Lameness - A pig that cannot bear full weight on all four legs, including shifting weight from leg to leg because of pain

Shoulder Lesions – a scratch that breaks the skin and has a recent (light red) scab or is open

Scratches on Feet/Legs, Udder, Back, Sides

Abscesses – Fluid filled pockets in or under the skin. Result from a deep bruise, an injury or an injection.

Open wounds – a break that completely penetrates the skin

Healed wounds – wound that has scabbed over

Sick not found – pigs found in general population that need to be treated

Need to be euthanized – pigs found that should be euthanized

- Severely injured (broken leg) or non-ambulatory pigs with the inability to recover
- Any animal that is not able to reach food or water due to immobilization.
- Any animal with a body condition score of 1 that has shown no improvement after 48hrs of intensive care

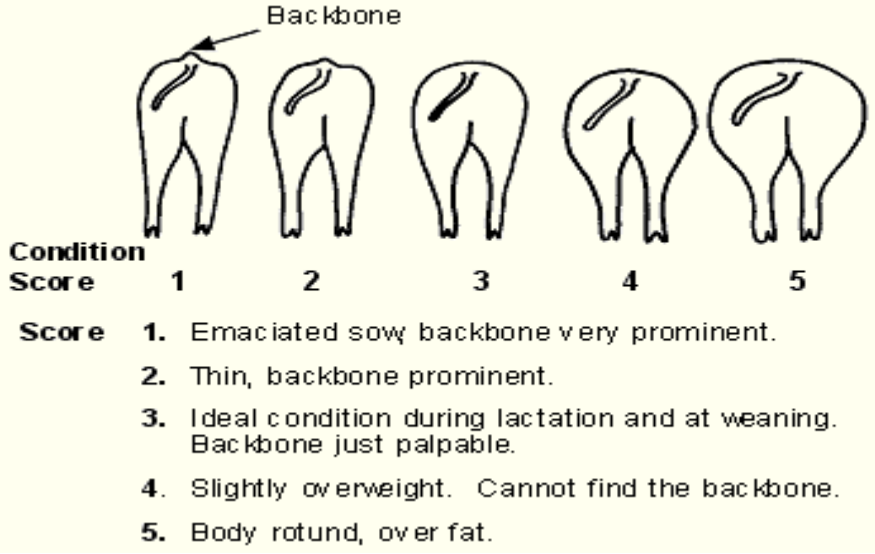
Prolapses – an eversion or the turning inside out of the rectal lining

Vaginal Prolapses – the protrusion of the vaginal wall and cervix

Tail/Ear Bite – A wound on a tail or ear that is open with fresh blood, also known as an active tail/ear bite, usually caused by biting by another pig. When active tail biting is observed, it will be reported. If will also be recorded whether the farm is aware of the problem and taking action to correct it (although we acknowledge that many treatments are ineffective).

Body Condition Score

Body condition scores are useful to assess the adequacy of the nutrition program and the effectiveness of the site management. Body condition scoring is based on a 1 (emaciated) to 5 (obese) system. Body condition score is an indication of a pig's well-being and each extreme could be an indication of a site management or system wide program. The main objective of the auditor is to find the compromised sows with a BCS of 1. Less than 1% of the population should have a body condition score of 1.



The body condition score is adapted from "Assessing Sow Body Condition by R. D. Coffey, G.R. Parker, and K.M. Laurent (ASC-158; 1999).

Fear Response (wean/finish pigs)

After stepping into a pen, pigs may act fearful initially but shortly after the pigs should relax and even become inquisitive by nosing or biting the area in front of auditor or nosing and biting at auditor's boots/legs if available. If animals in the pen move back in fear and do not move back forward to explore you within 60 seconds the pig has failed the fear test.

Fear Response (sows/boar)

Watch how the pigs react to people being around. Swine behavior is reflective of the quality of care received by caretakers. Pigs that have repeated exposure to pleasant handling are relaxed and will be easier to move. Initially a pig may act fearful but shortly after the pig should relax and even being inquisitive by nosing or biting the area in front of auditor or nosing and biting at auditor's legs if available. In order to conduct a fear test with sows in gestation and farrowing crates, place your hand at the front of the stall while walking the alley ways. If an animal has a relaxed/not narrative response to your hand the sow will either not react at all to the presence of your hand or may jump back in surprise but then shortly after move forward towards you and explore your hand. If the sow moves back in fear of your hand and does not move back forward within 60 seconds this sow has failed the fear response test. If a sow has been vaccinated the previous day, which may cause a "false fail" of the fear test, she will be excluded from the fear test.

Housing system

What type of housing system are pigs kept in; farrowing crates, breeding and gestation stalls or pens.

The Sow site -Animal Observation audit is separated into 4 areas: Crate fullness, Body Condition, Fear Test, and Scratch/Injuries. These four areas are evaluated in all stages of reproduction except for Crate fullness numbers 1-4 in farrowing.

Crate fullness

Crate fullness is only evaluated for sows housed in standard stalls, except for the category "too long" which will be evaluated for all sows audited.

1. Contained – in lateral recumbency the sows body is completely contained such that the sow's teats or udder do not extend past the border of the crate
2. Teats extend – in lateral recumbency sow teats extend past the border of the crate
3. Udder extend – in lateral recumbency the sow's udder extends past the border of the crate
4. No lateral recumbency – the sow is not physically able to lay in lateral recumbency
5. Too long – when in lateral recumbency, a sow is not able to lie without her head resting on a raised feeder OR the head come into contact with the front of the stall and the rear come in contact with the back of the stall at the same time.

For a pig space to be considered adequate for a sow, the pig must be able to;

- Easily lie down fully in lateral recumbency without having to lie on another pig and easily stand back up
- Lie down without having to rest its head on a raised feeder
- Lie down in lateral recumbency without their head having to rest on a raised feeder and their rear coming into contact with the back of the stall at the same time.

FACTA

Animal Welfare Assurance, Certification & Training

Humane Certified - Swine Audit Tools

Company Polices/Protocols

Auditor: _____
Company: _____ Site Name: _____
Phone: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____
Accompanied by: _____
Title _____

This information is to be gathered at the office (corporate office or farm office). The auditor is verifying the documentation of these audit criteria. On-Farm implementation of these items will be confirmed in a separate portion of the audit.

1A	Does the company retain daily observations and medication and treatment records for 12 months?	Y	N	Notes/Documentation:
1B	Can the company provide confirmation of a Veterinarian/Client Patient Relationship (VCPR)?			
1C	Does the company animal health program include an "Antibiotic and Vaccination Program"? • If antibiotic free, is it stated in the health program that antibiotics are NOT used?			

1D	Are there any active diagnosed diseases? Please describe in notes; • Disease name • What phases of production are infected • Has there been an increase in morbidity or mortality during the infection • How long has the infection been active • What health programs are in place to combat morbidity, mortality, and the spread of the disease	Y	N	
3A	Does the company have a complete Transportation Animal Well-being Policy?			
3B	Does the company require orientation and on-going training for live animal drivers? • Describe orientation training for new drivers • What is the time span between training for current drivers?			
3B	Does the company have policies regarding TQA certification for its drivers?			

4A	Does the company have policies regarding employee orientation and training that is required before working on-farm?	Y	N	
4B	Does the company have policies regarding required employee “on-farm caretaker training”?			
	Does the company have an annual caretaker training specific to their daily duties?			
	Are all caretakers currently PQA PLUS certified or in the process of being certified?			
4C	Does the company have policies regarding the training of outside workers (maintenance personnel etc.) who may come into contact with animals?			
4D	Does the company have special crews for vaccination and loading market pigs?			

4D	If Yes, Does the company have policies regarding the training of these crews?	Y	N	
5A	Does the company have SOPs related to care and treatment of sick animals? Including; - Daily Observation - Feed and Water Protocols - Sick Pig Care - Treatment Management - Timely Euthanasia			
5B	Does the company have SOPs related to the handling of			
	Piglets?			
	Grow – Finish Pigs?			
	Sows/Replacement Gilts?			
	Boars?			
	Does the company have SOPs related to the loading and unloading process of animals?			
5C	Does the company have an SOP on the processing of litters?			

	Does the company have an SOP on the castration of piglets post-weaning?	Y	N	
5D	Does the company have an SOP detailing the weaning process?			
	Does the company have an SOP stating the approved standards and methods of Euthanasia that is consistent with current AASV guidelines for: *American Association of Swine Veterinarians			
	Piglets?			
5E	Growing Pigs?			
	Finish Pigs?			
	Adult Sows and Boars?			

5F	Does the company have an SOP on non-ambulatory pigs?	Y	N	
5G	Does the company have a policy regarding gross animal neglect or abuse? Have all company personnel signed off on the company animal abuse policy?			
	Does the Company have a reporting mechanism in place for caretakers to report animal abuse?			
6A	Does the company's bio-security program contain defined procedures to minimize the potential threat of exposure to disease agents by;			
	The regulation and documentation of visits from non-farm personnel?			
	Maintenance of pest control?			
	Waste Disposal system for medical waste (medication/vaccination), sharps, carcasses and other waste that are a potential threat to animal and human health and safety?			
	Isolation of new pigs?			

Additional Notes:

Sow Audit

Auditor: _____
Company: _____ Site Name: _____
Phone: _____ Date: _____ Time:_____

Accompanied by: _____

Title _____

(14) Current Health Status on site: _____
*If loading/unloading is observed, attach a "Loading/Unloading Audit" form

		Y	N	Notes/Documentation:
	Signature of site manager that insures immediate action is taken when a pig's well-being is being jeopardized by sickness or injury. >>>>>>>			
	Is the site PQA PLUS certified? If yes, What is the expiration date?			
	Records and SOPs			
5A	Is a SOP related to care and treatment of sick or injured animal available on-site? Including; - Daily Observation - Feed and Water Protocols - Sick Pig Care - Treatment Management - Timely Euthanasia			
	Have you directly observed the implementation of this SOP? *If No, you must interview an on-site worker/manager			
5A	Is a SOP related to the specific training of caretakers on site? Interview a farm worker about the training received specific to their job duties.			

5B	Is a SOP related to the handling of animals available on-site?	Y	N	
	Did you conduct a “General Handling” audit at this specific site?			
	Did you conduct a “Loading/Unloading” audit at this specific site?			
5C	Is a SOP related to processing of litters available on-site? **Observation of processing (see below)**			
	Are piglets processed (iron shot, needle teeth clipped, castration, etc.) at an appropriate age?			
5D	Is a SOP related to the weaning process available on-site			
	Have you directly observed the implementation of this SOP? *If No, you must interview an on-site worker/manager			
5E	Is a SOP related to euthanasia available on-site?			
	Have you directly observed the implementation of this SOP? *If No, you must interview an on-site worker/manager			
5F	Is a SOP related to non-ambulatory pigs available on-site?			
	Have you directly observed the implementation of this SOP? *If No, you must interview an on-site worker/manager			
5G	Is a SOP related to animal abuse available on-site?			
	Have you directly observed the implementation of this SOP? *If No, you must interview an on-site worker/manager			
6A	What steps are taken when non-farm personnel comes on-site?			

	Does the site have a log for visitors?			
6B	Does the site show the evidence of maintenance of pest control methods?	Y	N	
6B	Is there evidence of rodent infestation; direct observation of rodents or feces?			
6C	Does the site have a waste disposal plan in place to deal with medical waste (medication/vaccines), sharps, carcasses Is this specific site following the company wide policies for usage and disposal in the above areas?			
6D	Are medications/vaccines stored according to label and are not kept passed the expiration date?			
7	Are emergency contacts and an emergency plan posted on site for emergencies such as fire, weather, and power outages?			
8	Does the site have procedures and/or equipment to prevent death of animals in the event of extreme weather or a mechanical ventilation failure? -Describe			
	If the pigs are kept outdoors, is there a system in place that protects those animals from extreme cold/heat? -Describe			

	Is there a generator or alarm system on site?	Y	N	
	Are generators in working order? How often are they tested? Does the site have medication/treatment records of animals?			
	Does the site have daily observation records of animals?			
	Does the site have Treatment records of animals?			
	Does the site have mortality records of animals?			
	Facilities			
10	Are there symptoms present in the pigs you are viewing that indicate exposure to poor air quality? -If yes, test ammonia concentration, report concentrations in the notes	Y	N	
	When walking through the barn do you (the auditor) experience symptoms indicative of poor air quality? -If yes, test ammonia concentration, report concentrations in the notes			
11	Do pigs show typical behavior patterns of cold or heat stress?			
	Are daily room temperatures recorded?			

	Are room temperatures set correctly according to the National Pork Boards PQA PLUS 2.0 manual?	Y	N	
12	Does the site require maintenance? broken gate rods, malfunctioning ventilation			
12	Does the penning, flooring or alleyway condition pose a threat to pig safety?			
	Is the chute in a good state of repair and not potentially causing harm to the pigs?			
	Is handling equipment in good condition and not potentially causing harm to the pigs?			
13	If sows are housed in pens, do sows have sufficient space allowance?			
	Animal Condition			
16	Are waterers in a good state of repair to allow pigs to drink freely and have flow rates that can meet the pigs' water intake requirements?	Y	N	
	If nipple waters are used, are they at proper height so that the shortest animal in the pen can easily reach the nipple?			
17	Are feeders in a good state of repair to allow unobstructed feed delivery and not causing injury to the animal?			
	Do sows have access to feed and adequate feeding space if housed in pens?			

18	Observe at least 10 piglets processed. Are piglets processed (iron shot, needle teeth clipped, identification, castration, etc.) at an appropriate age according to the National Pork Board's Swine Care Handbook?	Y	N	Iron shot: Needle teeth clipped: Identification: Castration:
	Is the processing schedule on farm consistent with the company SOP on "Litter Processing"? i.e. are pigs the correct age according to company policies? *If baby pigs are not being processed during the audit; interview employees responsible (add to notes)			
18	Are piglets properly handled by employees? i.e. picked up and put down properly			
19	Is there a system in place to isolate sick animals from general population?			
20	Are adequate euthanasia methods used on piglets?			
	Are adequate euthanasia methods used on sows?			

	Are adequate euthanasia methods used on boars?	Y	N	
	Is euthanasia equipment clean and in working order? Is it available for use at all times? If not always stored on-site please describe process to obtain equipment.			
	Are on-site caretakers trained to euthanize animals? Were proper euthanasia procedures of a pig personally observed and confirmed for insensibility?			
21	Are there pigs sick or injured that have passed the time point of "timely euthanasia"? ***If yes, a remedial plan must be filled out**			
22	Interview farm worker/manager to explain the company animal abuse policy Are there willful acts of abuse found? ***If yes, a remedial plan must be filled out**			

Sow - Animal Observations

	Boars	Replacement Gilts	Breeding	Mid - Gestation	Late Gestation	Early Lactation	Mid - Lactation	Late Lactation
Crate Fullness (# of animals)								
1.Contained								
2.Teats ext.								
3.Udder ext.								
4.No lateral Recumbence								
Too Long								
Body Condition (# of animals)								
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
Fear Test (# of animals)								
Relaxed/not Narrative								
Scratch/Injuries (# of animals)								
Udder								
Feet/Legs								
Back								
Sides								
Shoulder Lesions								
Abscesses								
Open Wounds								
Healed Wounds								

Prolapse								
Hernia								
Tail/Ear Bite								
Lame								
Sick not found								

Additional Notes:

Do sows housed in pens have sufficient space allowance?

Calculate the percentage of animals in general population:

1. **With a body condition score (BCS) of 1**

2. **Animal sick/injured that have not been identified**

If either is greater than 1% then a remedial plan must be filled out.

What are the current outside weather conditions?

What type of housing system are pigs kept in?

Additional Production Information:

Company / Farm Name		**Site**		**Week**	**Date**
Performance (last 52 weeks)		**Performance (last 52 weeks)**		**Facilities/Animals**	
Genotype		Ave. Tot. Born		Inventory Sows	
Ave. Parity		Ave. Born Alive		Listed capacity	
Repl. Rate %		Ave. Stillborn %		**Cull Pen**	
Farr. Rate %		Ave. Weaned		Teaser Boars	
Sow Mort. %		Piglet Mort. %		Br. Grp Size	
Weaning Age		Piglets Euth. %		Farr. Grp Size	
A.I. or natural		Processing Age		% Capacity	

Add in any additional notes from interviews with farm workers/managers:

Are VFD records retained according to FDA guidelines?

Is the site using appropriate needle sizes per PQA Plus recommendations?

Are there signs preventing access for biosecurity reasons?

Nursery-Finisher Audit

Auditor: _____
Company: _____ Site Name: _____
Phone: _____ Date: _____
Accompanied by: _____
Current Health Status on site: _____
*If loading/unloading is observed, attach a "Loading/Unloading Audit" form

		Y	N	Notes/Documentation:
	Signature of site manager that insures immediate action is taken when a pig's well-being is being jeopardized by sickness or injury. >>>>>>>			
	Is the site PQA PLUS certified? If yes, What is the expiration date?			
	Records and SOPs			
5A	Is a SOP related to care and treatment of sick or injured animal available on-site? Including; - Daily Observation - Feed and Water Protocols - Sick Pig Care - Treatment Management - Timely Euthanasia	Y	N	
	Have you directly observed the implementation of this SOP? *If No, you must interview an on-site worker/manager			
5A	Is a SOP related to the specific training of caretakers on site? Interview a farm worker about the training received specific to their job duties.			
5B	Is a SOP related to the handling of animals available on-site?			
	Did you conduct a "General Handling" audit at this specific site?			

	Did you conduct a “Loading/Unloading” audit at this specific site?	Y	N	
5D	Is a SOP related to castration available on-site?			
	Have you directly observed the implementation of this SOP? *If No, you must interview an on-site worker/manager			
5E	Is a SOP related to euthanasia available on site?			
	Have you directly observed the implementation of this SOP? *If No, you must interview an on-site worker/manager			
5F	Is a SOP related to non-ambulatory pigs available on-site?			
	Have you directly observed the implementation of this SOP? *If No, you must interview an on-site worker/manager			
5G	Is a SOP related to animal abuse available on-site?			
	Have you directly observed the implementation of this SOP? *If No, you must interview an on-site worker/manager			
6A	What steps are taken when non-farm personnel comes on site?			
	Does the site have a visitor’s log?			
6B	Does the site show the evidence of maintenance of pest control methods?			
6B	Is there evidence of rodent infestation; direct observation of rodents or feces?			

6C	Does the site have a waste disposal plan in place to deal with medical waste (medication/vaccines), sharps, carcasses Is this specific site following the company wide policies for usage and disposal in the above areas?	Y	N	
6D	Are medications/vaccines stored according to label and are not kept passed the expiration date?			
7	Are emergency contacts and an emergency plan posted on site for emergencies such as fire, weather, and power outages?			
8	Does the site have procedures and/or equipment to prevent death of animals in the event of extreme weather or a mechanical ventilation failure?			
	If the pigs are kept outdoors, is there a system in place that protects those animals from extreme cold/heat? -Describe			
	Is there a generator or alarm system on site?			

	Are generators in working order? How often are they tested?	Y	N	
9	Does the site have daily observation records of animals?			
	Does the site have treatment records of animals?			
	Does the site have mortality records of animals?			
	Facilities			
10	Are there symptoms present in the pigs you are viewing that indicate exposure to poor air quality? -If yes, test ammonia concentration, report concentrations in the notes	Y	N	
	When walking through the barn do you (the auditor) experience symptoms indicative of poor air quality? -If yes, test ammonia concentration, report concentrations in the notes			
11	Do pigs show typical behavior patterns of cold or heat stress?			
	Are daily room temperatures recorded?			
	Are room temperatures set correctly according to the National Pork Boards PQA PLUS 2.0 manual?			

12	Does the site require maintenance? broken gate rods, malfunctioning ventilation	Y	N	
	Does the penning, flooring or alleyway condition pose a threat to pig safety?			
	Is the chute in a good state of repair and not potentially causing harm to the pigs?			
	Is handling equipment in good condition and not potentially causing harm to the pigs?			
13	If housed in pens, do pigs have sufficient space allowance?			
	Animal Condition			
16	Are waterers in a good state of repair to allow pigs to drink freely and have flow rates that can meet the pigs' water intake requirements?	Y	N	
	If nipple waters are used, are they at proper height so that the shortest animal in the pen can easily reach the nipple?			
17	Are feeders in a good state of repair to allow unobstructed feed delivery and not causing injury to the animal?			
	Do pigs have access to feed and adequate feeding space if housed in pens?			
18	Are piglets processed (iron shot, needle teeth clipped, castration, etc.) according to company SOPs? *put N/A in site if processing is not done on site			
19	Is there a system in place to isolate sick animals from general population?			

20	Are adequate euthanasia methods used on wean piglets?	Y	N	
	Are adequate euthanasia methods used on grower/market pigs?			
	Is euthanasia equipment clean and in working order? Is it available for use at all times? If not always stored on-site please describe process to obtain equipment.			
	Are on-site caretakers trained to euthanize animals? Were proper euthanasia procedures of a pig personally observed and confirmed for insensibility?			
21	Are there pigs sick or injured that have passed the time point of "timely euthanasia"? ***If yes, a remedial plan must be filled out**			
22	Interview farm worker/manager to explain the company animal abuse policy Are there willful acts of abuse found? ***If yes, a remedial plan must be filled out**			

Nursery-Finish Animal Observation

Company: **Auditor:**			**Site Id :** **Total barns on site:**		**Date:** **# of Barns Audited :**	
Site Capacity # **Site Inventory at initial fill #**						
Room/Barn Id						
Date In						
Starting Inventory at initial fill #						
Weight Range						
Pigs treated with in the last 3 days						
Total Deaths						
# Euthanized of Dead						
# in Sick pen						
To be Euthanized						
Sick not found						
Lame/Injury						
BCS #1						
Wound						
Scratch						
Tail/Ear bite						
Abscess						
Hernia						
Prolapse						
Belly Rupture						

Additional Notes:

Do pigs have sufficient space allowance? What type of housing system are pigs kept in?

Calculate the percentage of animals in general population:
***If either is greater than 1% then a remedial plan must be filled out.**

1. **With a body condition score (BCS) of 1**

2. **Animal sick/injured that have not been identified**

What are the current weather conditions outside?

Are VFD records retained according to FDA guidelines?

Is the site using appropriate needle sizes per PQA Plus recommendations?

Are there signs preventing access for biosecurity reasons?

Humane Certified – Swine Handling Audit Standards and Tool

Handling of Animals

Caretakers must know the behavior characteristics of swine and how to handing animals during loading, unloading, and during general daily movement. All caretakers should be trained before being put into a position that is responsible for the handling of animals. Protocol and standards for the movement of animals must be in place to prevent unnecessary pain or distress to the animals and to ensure the overall welfare of animals and handlers. The company must also require that all truck drivers are TQA certified. The company must have training records that which prove TQA training and expiration of all truck drivers company/contracted. It is the company's responsibility to assure that TQA training is up to date.

Walking pens slowly on a daily basis will help pigs become accustom to positive interactions with people. This will train the pigs to quietly get up and calmly move away from the handler. Handlers should act calmly and avoid sudden movement, loud noises and other actions that may frighten or excite pigs. Calm pigs are easier to handle than excited agitated pigs. Frightened pigs bunch together and will be more difficult to sort and move. Improperly handled pigs result in negative consequences that reduce swine well-being, food product quality and worker safety.

Handler Attitude

The daily handling and loading/unloading of pigs can be a very exhausting process. It is of the upmost importance of a handler to have patience when dealing with pigs. Pigs do not always understand the handler's intentions. Handlers should work in a calm manner, are not to yell or aggressively hit a pig and should avoid sudden movements or loud noises. Pigs should always be moved at a walking pace.

It is important to have the correct amount of workers moving the correct amount of pigs during handling. For loading, there should be a minimum of 3 workers, 2 people to sort and remove pigs from pens and 1 person to move pigs up the alley and onto the loading shoot. Pigs should be moved in groups large enough to be efficient for the production system, but small enough to be safe for the pigs and the handler(s). <u>This amount is regulated by the companies SOPs and the auditor will base their assessment on these policies</u>**.** Groups should be small enough so that the handler can always maintain control of the lead pig.

The number of animals to be moved at one time, recommended by the National Pork Board Certification Manual (2013; Page 75), is as follows.

Weaned Pigs _ 20

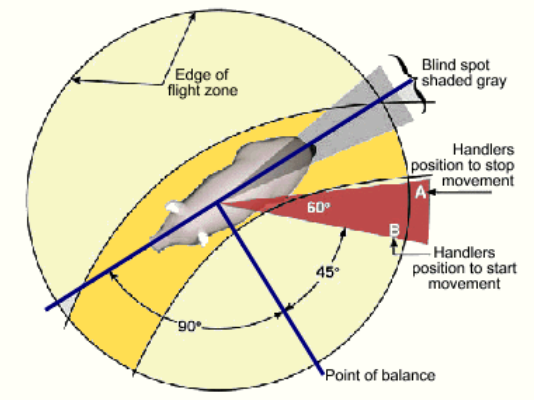
Nursery Pigs_ 20

Finished/Market Pigs_3-5

Sows/Gilts/Boars_1-5

A Pig's natural instincts

Pigs have a natural tendency to follow each other and maintain visual or body contact. Pigs can be easily frightened during the loading process. A handler must watch out for and remove; dangling chains, slippery floors, loose ramps, loud noises and extremely bright lights and darkness. Pigs have a natural flight zone and point of balance as well as a natural blind spot. The blind spot of a pig is directly behind the rear of the animal. The natural flight zone will vary dependent on the tameness of that animal. To drive a pig forward stand at an angle behind the animal, behind the animals point of balance, not directly behind the animal.



Equipment/Facilities

Pigs will typically slow, stop or change direction when they encounter something unfamiliar. It is recommended to use some sort of boarding along alleyways to prevent pigs from seeing other pigs in pens while loading. When moving pigs, handlers should rely on sorting boards instead of their body weight in order to move or stop the movement of pigs, especially large finishing pigs. If an animal appears aggressive it may be safer for the handler to move out of the way than to risk injury.

The use of sorting boards, rattle paddles, noise makers, plastic paddle, and flags are recommended tools for moving pigs. An electric prod should only be a last resort and is not recommended for regular use when handling animals. Electric Prods should never be used on young animals and should never be used on animals in pens. If it is necessary to use a prod, it should be applied to the back of the pig behind the shoulder, and the duration of the shock should

not exceed one second. The pig should be allowed time to respond before another shock is given. While loading electric prod use should be used on 25% of the pigs loaded or less. 25% is the maximum. The excessive or aggressive use of these tools is not acceptable. A handler should never prod an animal in sensitive areas such as eyes, nose, anus, and testes or use excessive force to cause intentional harm while striking an animal with these objects.

Chutes, ramps and alleyways and transportation vehicles should all be in good repair before moving pigs. Wet floors should have drying agents applied and all sharp edges, visible gaps, trash, uneven flooring, that can distract of harm the pig should be dealt with. A pig instinctively wants to go from dark to light areas. It is important that proper lighting is used in alley ways and shoots to entice pigs to walk forward towards a slightly brighter area. Lights in alleyways and shoots should never shine into the pigs eyes. While transporting pigs caretakers and truck drivers should follow industry best practices (TQA Guidelines) regarding bedding, stocking density, and additional measures to prevent cold or heat stress occurring during transport to market.

Handling Piglets

Pigs should not be picked up by the ears, front legs or tails. When putting a piglet down, it is recommended that at least one of the pig's feet is in contact with a solid surface before it is released.

Non-Ambulatory Pigs

A pig may become non-ambulatory due to injury, illness or fatigue. When due to illness or injury the animal should be moved to a pen where it can be monitored and treated. When a pig is non-ambulatory due to fatigue, the pig should be moved into a separate area, a pen or ally way, where it has access to feed and water, and must be allowed to recover before attempting to move them again. Non-ambulatory pigs must be moved in such a way to minimize the risk of causing more stress and harm. It is recommended to use such an object as a sled that the animal can be carefully placed upon and easily moved. The company must have a policy in place explaining how non-ambulatory pigs are to be handled. It is ultimately the responsibility of the company to dictate and train how to move non-ambulatory pigs. Fatigued pigs can be characterized by open-mouth breathing, vocalization (squealing), blotchy skin, stiffness and muscle tremors. The best way to prevent the occurrence of fatigued pigs is to minimize stress by utilizing good animal handling practices. The position of FACTA is that any pig that is unable to walk or that is ill and will not or has a low probability to recover with treatment should be humanely euthanized on the farm and not transported to market.

Willful acts of abuse

Throughout any welfare audit if willful acts of abuse are observed, immediately confer with your 'guide' about the act observed. Willful acts of abuse are outside of the normally accepted practices that intentionally cause pain and suffering. Some examples include but are not limited to:

- Caretaker fighting with a sow to force her to stop or turn around.
- Violently striking a pig with your closed fist or foot.
- Striking a pig with a gate rod or any other object not meant for the use of moving pigs. Using a driving device, rattle paddle or sorting gate to hit an animal too hard (for example: Raising the arm above the shoulder during a strike with an object (gate rod or club), slamming a swinging gate against an animal, either into the rear to make it move or into the path of the animal to stop its movement.
- Violent use of an electric prod
- Tossing or throwing baby pigs
- Dragging a down animal
- Using an electric prod or a moving device on a sensitive area (ex., vulva)

Handling Definitions

Pigs

Calm: Not showing or feeling nervousness, anger, or other emotions.

Active: Engaging or ready to engage in physically energetic pursuits, being in physical motion.

Excitable: Responding rather too readily to something new or stimulating; too easily excited, irritable.

Fearful: showing fear or anxiety; having an extreme response to a foreign stimulus. An animal will try to avoid this stimulus (ex: handler/raddle paddle) at all cost. Vocalization would commonly be present in fearful pigs. Pigs may also try to escape there soundings by turning around to return where they came from or by jumping fences etc.

Loader Attitudes

Calm / Unhurried: Not showing or feeling nervousness, anger, or other emotions. Moving, acting, or taking place without haste or urgency.

Impatient: Having or showing a tendency to be quickly irritated or provoked; intolerant.

Rushed: Move with urgent haste, swiftly. To surge forward rapidly.

Angry/Frustrated: Feeling or expressing distress and annoyance. Having a strong feeling of or showing annoyance, displeasure, or hostility.

Indifferent: Having no particular interest or sympathy; unconcerned: "indifferent to foreign affairs". Neither good nor bad; mediocre.

FACTA

Animal Welfare Assurance, Certification & Training

Swine Handling Audit Tool

Loading/Unloading Audit

Auditor: _____ Company: _____

Site ID: _____ Phone: _____ Date: _____

Time: _____ Accompanied by: _____

Building ID			**Load ID**		**Trucker TQA #**	
Barn Type;	Wean to finish, Grow to finish				Pen Wd.	Gilts
Floor type:	total slats	partial slats	solid floors	other	Pen Ln.	Barrows
Barn walls:	Enclosed	curtains	partial	other		Mixed
Penning:	Gates:	open wire	solid			Est. Wt
	Pen Dividers:	open wire	solid			
Aisle width		Floor of aisle	solid	slatted	Other	
Is the aisle wider, narrower or the same width as the exit door?						
Are pigs loaded directly out from the room & into the chute or other? Describe						
Chute:	Width	Length	Slope	Good repair?		
Solid sides	Open sides	Partial	Lighted for night		Air flow at exit door: IN OUT ACROSS	
Portable	Stationery	Roof	Floor cleats			
Trailer:	Length		Are trailer sides covered?		% open	
Straight	pot		Good repair?		Do pigs show sign of overcrowding?	
Does the trucker handle pigs during loading/unloading?			Is the trailer properly lined up with loading chute?			
Bedding:	Type of bedding		Quantity/Deck		Is bedding used on/in the chute?	

Loading Preparation	Describe the pre-loading preparation (lower curtains, boards to cover pen gates, etc)
Loading Aids / Tools	Describe: (electric prods, drive boards, paddles, rattles)

Pigs:	How often do caretakers enter the pens during production (pen walking)?			
Prior to loading, are the pigs:	**calm**	**active**	**excitable**	**fearful**
During loading, are the pigs:	**calm**	**active**	**excitable**	**fearful**
Has feed been withdrawn from the pigs?	How many hours?			
Loaders: (People)	Farm Staff?	Special Loaders?	How many?	
Loader Attitudes:	**Calm/Unhurried**	**Impatient**	**Rushed**	**Angry/Frustrated**	**Indifferent**
Describe each Loader's job below.				

Noise. During loading. Do the Loaders:	**make no noise?**	**talk quietly?**	**yell?**	**whistle?**	**bang on gates?**
Are pigs loaded in small groups?	How many at a time?				

	Top Deck		**Bottom Deck**		**3rd Deck**		
	In Barn	At Truck	In Barn	At Truck	In Barn	At Truck	
Electric Prod Use							
Vocalizations							
Slip or Fall							

Loading/Unloading Audit: Additional Notes

Are the workers following the correct handling practices as stated in the companies SOP's

Has any inappropriate handling (rough handling) or gross animal abuse been observed during the animal movement?

What is the total amount of pigs that fall during loading/unloading?

What percentages of animals receive an electric shock while loading?

Describe each loader's job:

General Handling Observation

Handling Preparation	Describe the pre-handling preparation (boards to cover pen gates, etc)					
Handling Aids / Tools	Describe: (electric prods, drive boards, paddles, rattles)					
Prior to handling, are the pigs:			**calm**	**active**	**excitable**	**fearful**
During handling, are the pigs:			**calm**	**active**	**excitable**	**fearful**
Loader Attitudes:	**Calm/Unhurried**	**Impatient**	**Rushed**	**Angry/Frustrated**	**Indifferent**	
Describe task at hand (below)						
During pig movement; Does the handler:		**make no noise?**	**talk quietly?**	**yell?**	**whistle?**	**bang on gates?**
Are pigs moved in small groups?			How many at a time?			
Can the handler reach the lead pig (front of group of pigs) easily with a raddle paddle?						

	Tally the number of occurrences during the observation	
	In Pen	In Alleyway
Electric Prod Use		
Vocalizations		
Slip or Fall		

Daily Handling Audit continued

What sex/stage of production of pigs are being observed?

Describe for what reason and where the farm worker is moving the animal(s) being observed?
(General population to hospital pen/weaning of sows and piglets)

Is the worker following the correct handling practices as stated in the companies SOP’s

Has any inappropriate handling (rough handling) or gross animal abuse been observed during the animal movement?