

# Youth Pork Quality Assurance® Plus

Guide and Learning Disc



# Youth Pork Quality Assurance® Plus (Youth PQA Plus®) - Building a Stronger Industry

## Introduction Objectives

- Understand each segment's role in the food supply.
- Identify biological, chemical and physical risks.
- Introduce the 10 Good Production Practices.

Did you know that regardless of how many pigs you care for, whether it's a single show pig or thousands of pigs, you are part of the pork industry? And just as you are responsible for keeping your pig(s) healthy, you share the responsibility in delivering a quality pork product!

There are a number of challenges facing the pork industry, as the general public and pork customers want to know how their food is produced. Youth PQA Plus® is one part of the We Care<sup>SM</sup> initiative and is a clear representation of the industry's and youth's commitment to responsible farming and continuous improvement. The Youth PQA Plus® program comprises two main elements:

**Food Safety** – The practices that minimize physical, chemical and biological hazards that might be injurious to consumers.

**Animal Well-Being** – Producer responsibilities for all aspects of animal care; including proper housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, humane handling, and when necessary, humane and timely euthanasia.

The PQA Plus® and Youth PQA Plus® programs use 10 Good Production Practices (GPPs). When implemented, GPPs will help ensure pork is free from chemical and physical hazards; that pigs are raised in a caring, humane manner; that our natural resources are protected by pork producers; and that all producers work in a safe environment.



# Use an Appropriate Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship (VCPR) as the Basis for Medication Decision-Making.

GPP #1



## Lesson Objectives

- Identify the requirements of an appropriate VCPR.
- Explain and understand the use of approved animal drugs.
- Understand the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) requirement that prohibits extra-label use of drugs in medicated feeds.

A VCPR is the working relationship with you and your veterinarian, where he or she advises and guides you in creating a plan for the best health for your pigs, including decision making on which medications are appropriate and when to use them as part of your pig project. You as the producer, are the client, and your pig is the patient.

What does having a VCPR mean for you? If you have a VCPR established, then the veterinarian has working knowledge of what animals are under your care and can advise you to the proper use of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved animal drugs and other products such as vaccines. The establishment of the VCPR allows the veterinarian to timely and accurately diagnose health issues with your pigs and assess the need for those drug(s). The medical decisions for your swine project should be in the control of the veterinarian and the caretaker. For the VCPR to remain valid, any instructions for treatment must be followed by the caretaker. It is important that caretakers understand as well as get advice and instructions from their veterinarian when using any approved animal drug. The producer (caretaker) should keep records that show any kind of medical decision and veterinary instructions for any approved animal drug. More information can be found in the Youth PQA Plus® handbook.





## Establish and Implement an Efficient and Effective Health Management Plan.

### Lesson Objectives

- Describe the components of herd health plan.
- Name and describe appropriate internal and external biosecurity procedures.
- Understand the relationship between human, animal and diseases.

Herd health is a key to food safety. Healthier animals grow more quickly and efficiently. Healthier animals generally require less medical care, reducing risk of residues and costs associated with the treatment of sick animals. The development and implementation of a health management plan can have beneficial impacts on animals' health through the use of measures such as vaccination plans, biosecurity (internal and external) protocols and emergency preparedness.



# Use Antibiotics Responsibly.

GPP #3



## Lesson Objectives

- Explain the importance of proper antibiotic use to protect animal health and optimize effectiveness.
- Explain the importance of minimizing the risk of antibiotic resistance, thereby protecting public health.

Pork producers use antibiotics for three purposes:

- **Treatment of Illness** – The administration of antibiotics to combat a clinical illness.
- **Control or Prevention of Disease** – The administration of antibiotics in animals that have been, or are being, exposed to a bacterial infection, or are in operations that have historically experienced clinical outbreaks of disease at certain production stages.
- **Improve Nutritional Efficiency** – Antibiotics administered to enhance the efficiency of pigs in converting feed to muscle.

The producer (caretaker) should look at ways to minimizing the use of antibiotics through the five principles outlined in the Youth PQA Plus® handbook as well as the guidelines for responsible antibiotic use.



## GPP #4



# Properly Store and Administer Animal Health Products.

### Lesson Objectives

- Explain and understand medication labels.
- Understand the importance of correctly storing and handling animal health products.
- Identify proper techniques for administering medications.

A primary responsibility of all pork producers is to produce safe food. This involves knowing where the information can be found about withdrawal times, how to calculate when the withdrawal is complete and when it is safe to market an animal. All animal caretakers must: read and understand label directions, understand how to properly administer the approved animal drug, identify treated animals, record treated animals, and properly store animal drugs. All caretakers are responsible for following label directions or directions provided by a veterinarian medicating the animal(s).



## GPP #5



# Follow Proper Feed Processing Protocols.

### Lesson Objectives

- Know the proper feed processing protocols.

Although most youth are not mixing their feed, it is important to have an awareness of proper hygiene when handling feed, techniques for applying both medicated and non-medicated feeds, proper labeling, and record keeping practices.



# Establish Effective Swine Identification, Medication Records and Withdrawal Times.

GPP #6



## Lesson Objectives

- Identify tools and methods for identification of all animals.
- Understand the importance of premises identification and traceability.
- Explain the importance of identifying and tracking all treated animals.
- Explain the minimum standard of medication and treatment records.
- Identify the recommended length of time to maintain written medication and treatment.
- Define, calculate and follow withdrawal times.

The pork industry has developed some program standards of improving pre-harvest traceability and disease surveillance. Youth producers can be part of this by developing their own Swine ID Plan to help protect animal health. The program standards are consistent with federal and state codes of regulations and there are three key components – premises identification, animal identification (individually or as a group) and animal tracing. Other ways that youth producers assist in food safety is keeping accurate medication records on all approved animal drugs administered for the minimal standards and making sure the withdrawal times have elapsed before marketing animal(s).





## GPP #7



# Practice Good Environmental Stewardship.

### Lesson Objectives

- Use management practices to protect our natural resources (water, air and land).

Environmental stewardship is to protect our natural resources (water, air and land). All of our production practices require constant attention, commitment and follow-through regarding good environmental management practices. These management practices help all producers, including youth producers, be good stewards of the environment and good neighbors in our communities.



## GPP #8



# Maintain Proper Workplace Safety.

### Lesson Objectives

- Use practices that promote health and safety of all caretakers.

For a safety program to work, it has to be everyone's responsibility – exhibitor, family members, friends, etc. If any person does not take personal responsibility for working in and maintaining a safe work area, that person puts himself/herself and others at risk.





# Provide Proper Swine Care to Improve Swine Well-Being.

GPP #9



## Lesson Objectives

- Understand the role of daily observation and animal evaluation.
- Provide feed, water and an environment that promotes pig well-being.
- Provide proper care, handling and transportation for pigs.
- Protect pig health and provide appropriate treatment when needed.
- Understand why intentional acts of neglect or abuse are unacceptable.
- Understand the importance of euthanasia in a timely manner of sick or injured pigs that fail to respond to treatment.

Every caretaker has an ethical responsibility to protect and promote the well-being of the pigs in his or her care. Many factors within a pig's environment influence its overall well-being. Within the Youth PQA Plus® Handbook, Good Production Practices #9, will explain in more detail these factors and provide strategies on how to implement each.



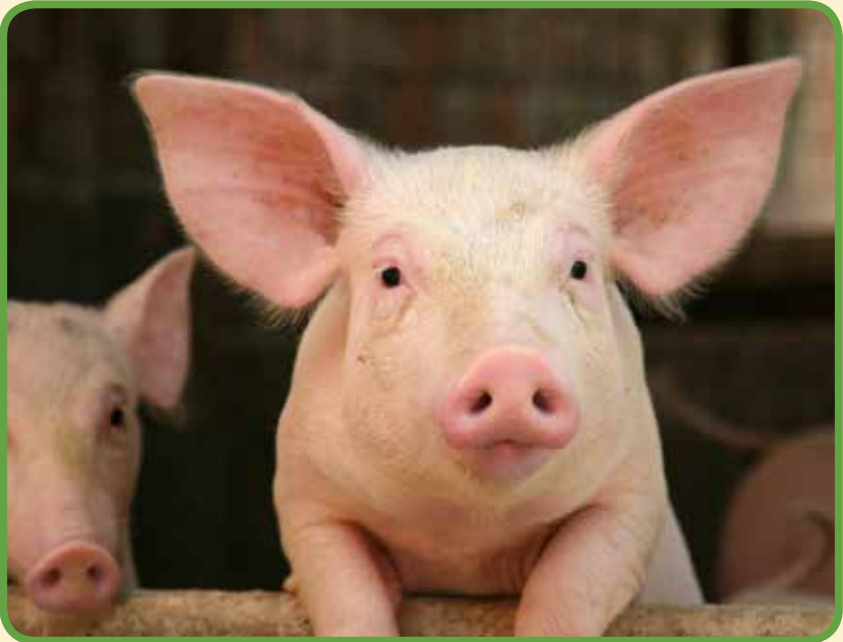


## Utilize Tools for Continuous Improvement.

### Lesson Objectives

- Understand the importance of educating all animal caretakers.
- Use appropriate resources to evaluate your records, facilities and pig observations.

The cornerstone of the Youth PQA Plus® program is continuous improvement. All new animal caretakers must be trained in their duties. It is important that youth producers evaluate the well-being of the pig(s) within their operation annually. Youth need to look at their records, facilities and pig observations. Using only one of these alone to evaluate well-being of their pigs can be misleading.



The CD contains more detailed information, resources and materials for the Youth PQA Plus® program. Enclosed on the CD:

- Youth PQA Plus® handbook
- Youth PQA Plus® powerpoint presentation



For more information, please contact  
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