PREVENTING BROKEN NEEDLES IN MARKET SOWS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

Develop Standard Operating Procedures to prevent broken needles in sows considering the following points:

1. **Use the RIGHT NEEDLE.**
   - Consider:
     a. Needle strength
     b. Detectability
     c. Needle length and gauge
     d. Animal’s size
     e. Injection site
     f. Medication’s characteristics

2. **Use the NEEDLE RIGHT.**
   - a. Ensure proper animal restraint
   - b. Identify the proper site for injection
   - c. Change the needle:
     - If it is bent or damaged
     - **NEVER STRAIGHTEN A BENT NEEDLE**
     - To maintain its cleanliness and sharpness
     - Between pens or animals, as recommended by your veterinarian for that type of needle, animal or medication
   - d. Monitor needle usage and account for all needles after use
     - Consider a needle inventory management system
     - Retrieve dropped needles
     - If a needle breaks in an animal, identify the animal immediately and attempt to recover the needle
     - Store new needles and dispose of used needles in the appropriate manner

Train all employees or persons responsible for giving injections on HOW TO PREVENT BROKEN NEEDLES IN MARKET SOWS.

**Talk to your packer about how to prevent broken needles in market sows.**

1. Talk to your packer to determine the packer’s policy on animals suspected of carrying broken needles.
2. Talk to your packer if you are considering the use of alternate injection technologies.