Explain the importance of personal protective equipment (PPE). Demonstrate selecting the appropriate PPE to comply with your farm’s safety protocol.

- Steel toed boots (recommended)
- Earplugs (recommended)
- Bump caps (suggested)
- Dust masks (suggested)
- Knee pads (suggested)
- Safety glasses (suggested)

Explain behaviors that should be identified as normal sow behavior. Demonstrate identifying sows engaging in normal behaviors.

- Eating
- Drinking
- Sleeping
- Occasional fighting, especially after weaning

Explain the criteria for calm, quiet interactions and how they should occur regularly. Demonstrate calm, quiet interactions with sows.

- Walk calmly through the sows to observe or complete chores.
- Respect the flight zones of individual sows as well as the flight zone of the herd.
- Use minimal noise and only when necessary.
- Communicate your presence with gentle touch.
- Bend the knees to squat, don’t bend at the waist.

Explain why freshly weaned sows might engage in aggressive behavior toward one another. Demonstrate observing freshly weaned sows and monitoring for fighting.

- Use a sorting board.
- Have an escape route.
- If sows are fighting, it might be possible to separate them if aggressive intention has just started.

Explain the signs and symptoms of illness. Demonstrate identifying and treating sick sows.

- Do a head to tail observation of every sow and look for clinical signs that are abnormal.
- Avoid slip and trip hazards.
- Handle needles safely between use.
Explain your farm’s protocol for pregnancy confirmation. Demonstrate confirming pregnancies through visual confirmations and/or ultrasounds.

- Ultrasound according to your farm’s protocol.
- Conduct weekly walk-throughs to visually confirm pregnancy in sows 60+ days pregnant.
- Do not perform ultrasounds if a boar is in the pen and you are alone.

Explain why a sow may need special treatment or to be moved to another location. Demonstrate how to safely sort sows needing special treatment, then move them to their destination.

- Prepare the path of movement before sorting.
- Enter the pen with a coworker, each with a sorting board.
- Keep a slight bend to the knees while in the pen.
- Use the sorting board to separate the sow and encourage forward movement to her destination.

Explain the importance of proper ear tag placement and restraint during the tagging process. Demonstrate the correct ear tagging procedure, including placement and restraint.

- The center of the ear is the correct placement for the tag.
- If using a snare, snare behind the canines and release the snare carefully to prevent injury.