Explain the hazards of an unkempt barn. Demonstrate routine preparation and maintenance before beginning breeding.

- Dispose of all trash immediately after use to eliminate trip hazards.
- Repair or replace bent gate and stall rods.
- Clean, disinfect, and dry the breeding row between breed groups to prevent disease spread and eliminate slipping hazards.

Explain the importance of choosing the correct boar for heat checking in pens. Demonstrate selecting the right size boar for the gilts or sows you will be heat checking in pens today.

- Boars should be approximately the same size or slightly larger than gilts or sows
- Boars should not be too old.

Explain the visual and physical components of heat checking. Demonstrate visually identifying and physically assessing for signs of heat.

- Communicate your presence with gentle touch to avoid startling the females.
- Encourage all sows to rise and interact with the boar.
- Visually assess for signs of heat.
- Physically assess for signs of heat.
- Mark and record all females in heat.

Explain the risks of pinch points when breeding and heat checking in stalls. Demonstrate safe breed techniques for sows and gilts found in heat.

- Watch for pinch points.
- Avoid sticking your arms and hands between the body of the female and the bars of the stall.

**NOTE:** If the boars fight, do not intervene. Wait until they are done fighting to move them. Cull aggressive boars.

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 the various ways to safely hook up and lead the boar. Demonstrate hooking up and leading the boar according to your farm's protocol.

- Manual lead
- Boar bot
- Boar cart

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