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

- Ear plugs (recommended)
- Dust masks (recommended)
- Gloves (recommended)
- Steel toed boots (recommended)
- Sorting boards (recommended)
  □ Make sure the sorting board fits easily down the hallway so it doesn’t snag or trip you.
  □ Make sure the sorting board is not too narrow or it will limit your ability to guide the boar.

Explain how to prepare for moving the boar. Demonstrate safely releasing the boar from his stall and moving him to the collection area.

- Only move one boar at a time to prevent opportunities for fighting.
- Prepare the pathway and pick up any obstacles, such as feed that has spilled onto or close to the pathway, that could distract the boar.
- Regularly clean the aisle to remove feces and other slipping and tripping hazards.
- When you release the boar from his stall, stand behind the stall gate, and safely move the boar forward out of his stall.
- If you need to encourage the boar to exit the stall, use a sorting board to protect yourself while you guide him out of the stall. Or have a team member encourage him from behind and step back to allow a clear path forward for him.

Explain that employee safety and wellbeing is your top priority and employees are not expected to tolerate aggressive boars. Demonstrate reporting an aggressive boar to a supervisor.

- If you are uncomfortable moving a boar because he exhibits aggressive behavior, report him.
- Use caution and strongly consider culling a boar who has behaved aggressively.
- Follow your farm’s protocol for aggressive boar culling if applicable.

Explain working with younger, less trained boars. Demonstrate additional guidance and training when working with younger boars.

- Be patient with younger boars.
- Give time to explore the environment the first time they are moved through the barn.
- Their flight zone will be larger until they feel comfortable in the new environment, so apply pressure and release appropriately.
- Limit distractions by preparing the hallway before movement.

Explain the importance of personal safety when working with boars. Demonstrate how to work in pairs, carry a sorting board, and position yourself safely when in a pen with the boar.

- Employees should work in teams of two when training or working with boars.
- Never turn your back on a boar.
- Always carry a sorting board to guide boars to the dummy.
Explain the difference between normal, calm boar behavior and boar mating behavior. Demonstrate identifying normal, calm behaviors and normal mating behaviors in the boars you will be handling.

Calm behavior
• Most time is spent eating, drinking, sleeping, and rubbing against the stall.
• Muscles and posture will be relaxed

Mating behavior
• Competing for mates
• Dominating other boars to ensure they are first to mate
• Using aggression to secure dominance
• Salivating
• Chomping
• Vocalizing
• Attempting to mount and nudge objects representing the female with his snout or the side of his head

Explain the signs of aggressive boar behavior. Demonstrate identifying aggressive boar behavior in the boars you will be handling.

• Muscle tension
• Chomping or popping of jaw
• Making eye contact
• Swinging the head
• Bowing head while holding gaze and pointing tusks toward potential victim

• Leaning back in a stiff legged stance
• Confronting, sniffing, poking, or jabbing other boars
• Hair on the shoulders or along the spine standing on end
• Charging forward

Explain the safety risks of working with boars during times of elevated libido. Demonstrate attentiveness, always carrying a sorting board, and correct body positioning within the pen or alley.

• Never let your guard down when boars are calm or exhibiting normal breeding behavior.
• Keep a sorting board with you to protect you from normal breeding behavior, and never stand where you may become trapped.
• When boars become aggressive, dominant or competitive, stay behind your sorting board and move to a safe spot as quickly as possible without turning your back.
• Move one boar at a time.
• If boars are competing, dominating or expressing aggression toward you or another boar, get out of the pen or aisle immediately.

Explain how to quickly escape if a boar becomes aggressive. Demonstrate exiting the pen, jumping out of the way, and using the sorting board for protection.

• If the boar becomes aggressive, get to safety as quickly as possible.
• If you can’t get out quickly, protect yourself by holding a sorting board between you and the boar while moving backwards to safety.
• Some pens are designed with vertical slats, so people can easily move to safety if needed.
• Never turn your back on a boar.
• If a boar charges and you do not have a sorting board or easy means of escape, a quick sidestep or side leap may be the best way to avoid a head-on charge and potential swing of the tusks.
Safe Pig Handling

Explain the course of action in the event of an injury. Demonstrate calling for help and getting away from the boar as quickly as possible.

- Call for help to notify others immediately of your situation.
- Work to remove yourself from the situation.
- If you are impaled by a tusk, try to remain standing at all costs.

Explain the collection process from the time the boar enters the pen until he is ready to be returned to his stall. Demonstrate safety in collection pens and/or stalls by allowing the boar to complete his routine prior to mounting the dummy, approaching him calmly, and collecting him.

- Evaluate the dummy for stability and the need for repairs prior to collection.
- For a trained boar, stand back and allow the boar to go through his routine prior to mounting the dummy.
- Position yourself to the side of the boar and dummy.
- Keep distractions to a minimum and let the boar focus on his task.
- Wear two pairs of gloves to prevent bacterial contamination of the semen.
- Have your cup warmer ready for collection.
- Approach and ejaculate the boar after he is mounted.
- As you collect be aware of the boar’s positioning and watch for signs of unbalance.
- Be aware of the boar’s changing moods or behavior. It is important that you do not drop your guard.
- If you use hormonal injections, follow safety precautions for the use of hormonal products.

Explain the process of gathering diagnostics during collection. Demonstrate conducting routine health and wellness diagnostics during collection.

- Boars should be active, in good body condition, and have no lameness.
- Follow your farm’s treatment and vaccination plan.
- Know how to safely gather diagnostics per your veterinarian’s protocol.
  - Many farms gather diagnostics during semen collection with no additional restraint, and other farms snare the boar prior to treatment or gathering diagnostics.

Explain your farm’s culling policy. Demonstrate identifying boars that should be culled due to aggression, age, lameness, or illness.

- Culling programs should be implemented and understood.
- If your farm sends boars to market, use a sorting board to load them one at a time.
- If possible, use a trailer that separates each boar because they will likely fight during the ride to market.
- Depending on your farm’s protocol, regular de-tusking according to your veterinarian’s protocol may be allowed to facilitate movement and safety.
- The driver should always be TQA certified and use a sorting panel for unloading.