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 appropriate restraint techniques for different sizes and ages of pigs. Demonstrate safe restraint and handling techniques.

- Slow down — don’t rush injections.
- Restrain animals by using the appropriate livestock handling equipment and techniques.

Explain safe assembly and handling practices. Demonstrate safe syringe assembly and handling.

- Leave the cap on the needle until you are ready to inject the first pig
- Attach a needle guard to the syringe whenever possible

Explain how to use the Needle Size Reference Chart provided by the National Pork Board. Demonstrate selecting the correct needle size for the different ages and weights of pigs in your system.

- Piglets, nursery pigs, market or finishing hogs, and breeding stock will all need different sizes of needles as shown in the chart included in the SOP.

Explain the basics of needle safety to the employee. Demonstrate your commitment to these guidelines throughout the training process.

- ALWAYS
  - Carry the syringe in your hand with the needle pointing towards the ground.
  - Use pliers to recap needles.
  - Discard used, bent, burred, or dirty needles.
  - Dispose of needles in an approved and properly labeled sharps container.
  - Report needle stick injuries to management and contact your health care provider if you have a needle stick injury.
  - Follow your veterinarian's instructions and know your farm’s protocol for changing needles.

- NEVER
  - Put uncapped needles or syringes in your pockets.
  - Reuse needles or attempt to straighten needles.
  - Attempt to remove needles from sharps containers.
Explain the importance of only injecting the pig in the neck unless instructed otherwise by a veterinarian. Demonstrate how to identify the proper injection site.

- Inject in the neck muscle, behind the ear.
- Do not inject in the ham or loin unless directed by your veterinarian.
- Mark and record the pigs that have been treated or vaccinated to prevent over- or under-medicating, missing treatments, or transporting pigs to market before withdrawal time has been completed.
- Improper administration of vaccinations or treatments endangers the health of the pig.

Explain the importance of accurate needle counts. Demonstrate how to keep track of all needles being brought into and carried out of the barn.

- Always retrieve any dropped needles.
- Lost needles are sometimes found in the mouth, throat or feet of pigs.
- Count the number of needles you take into the barn and count the number of needles you take out of the barn. The number should always match.
- Do not leave used needles in the barn.

Explain the proper technique of injecting sows in stalls. Demonstrate safe injection techniques using proper PPE.

- Be aware of the stall bars.
- The most common injury is getting an arm caught between the stall bars and the sow when reaching into her stall with the syringe.
- Inject the sow and remove the syringe quickly.
- Sows may pull back when they are injected, and if you are holding the syringe when she moves, this could torque your arm or back.

Explain the proper technique of injecting sows in pens. Demonstrate safe injection techniques using proper PPE.

- Usually it is best to approach the sow from behind and inject quickly into the muscle of the neck without restraining her.
- Keep your knees slightly bent while working in pens.
- Sometimes it may be preferable to isolate a sow in a treatment pen and then administer the injection.

Explain the proper technique of injecting piglets in farrowing stalls. Demonstrate safe injection techniques using proper PPE.

- If you step in the stall, use caution so you don’t slip in feces or placenta.
- Pay attention to the sow, she may be protective of her pigs and might try to bite your hand or arm.
- Squat down to lift the pigs, don’t bend at the waist and lift with your back.
- If you are working from outside of the stall, don’t lean over the side and reach too far, this can also strain your back.
**Safe Pig Handling**

**Trainer Checklist & Key Learning Points**

**Vaccinating & Treating**

1. **Explain the proper technique of injecting finisher pigs in pens.** Demonstrate safe injection techniques using proper PPE.
   - Be mindful of pig movement.
   - If you or the pig you are injecting is bumped into, an accidental needle stick might occur.
   - Keep your knees slightly bent as you move through the pen.

2. **Explain what to do when a needle breaks in a pig or handler.** Introduce your employee to the content of the National Pork Board's Needle Know-How training lesson.
   - If a needle is broken in a pig
     - Follow your farm’s protocol for dealing with a broken needle.
     - Refer to the National Pork Board’s Needle Know-how resources for further information.
   - If a needle breaks in a handler
     - If possible, remove the needle and wash and disinfect the injection site immediately.
     - Seek medical attention, even if you were able to remove the needle.
     - Take the label of the medication with you to the doctor.

3. **Explain the benefits of stretching before each shift to minimize the risk of repetitive motion injuries.** Demonstrate the stretches that help prevent these injuries.
   - Start your shift with hand and wrist stretches to prepare your muscles for the tasks at hand.
   - Job rotation and regular short breaks will allow muscles time to recover from overuse.
   - Try to alternate hands and maintain a neutral wrist position.
   - Improper lifting, bending or stooping frequently strains the muscles in the back.