

# Standard Operating Procedure for Treatment Management of Nursery/Finisher Pigs

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## Introduction

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All operations will periodically have an animal that requires treatment, vaccinations or other supportive care to protect the animal's health and that of its penmates. Maintaining individual animal health and herd health is instrumental to overall animal well-being and farm productivity. Utilizing proper injection techniques will insure appropriate product efficacy and absorption, while reducing injection-site reactions and broken needles. Read and follow the label instructions to assure violative residue avoidance. Follow your veterinarian's instructions for extra-label use. Follow PQA Plus® guidelines for proper needle injection location, as well as appropriate needle size for different phases of production.

## Safety

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### Hazards:

- For all size of pigs:
  - Lifting
  - Struck by or against object
  - Animal bite
  - Fall (slips and trips)
  - Pinch points
  - Debris in eyes
  - Dust (respiratory)

-Noise (hearing)

-Needle stick

- For pigs over 40 pounds:

-Stepped on by animal

-Struck by animal

-Caught between gates

NOTE: Animals may become excited when handled. Be aware of sharp objects. If accidental self-injection occurs, note the medication, contact your supervisor immediately, and seek medical attention.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

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Personal protective equipment (PPE) to be used may include:

- Protective eyewear

- Dust mask
- Safety-toe boots
- Hearing protection
- Exam gloves

## Supplies

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Supplies needed may include:

- Marking chalk/paint sticks
- Sorting panel/board
- Drag mat or sled for non-ambulatory animals
- Empty treatment pen in which to move pigs
- Animal restraint tools (Ex. Snare)
- Medication (specific to current need)
- Syringe
- Appropriate size and gauge needles
- Sharps disposal container
- Brooder heater/supplemental heat source
- Clipboard
- Medication/Treatment record
- Pen/Pencil
- Tote to carry supplies

## Procedures

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### Preparation:

- NOTE: Only administer vaccines or treatments if properly trained to do so.
- NOTE: If restraining animals during treatment, be sure the restraint is safe for both handlers and pigs.
- For vaccinations:
  - Identify animals for vaccination.
  - Prepare vaccines for administration per label guidelines.
- For sick animals:

-Identify animals that require treatment, visibly mark animals for identification and record their location.

-If necessary, move identified animals to a treatment/recovery pen

-Evaluate the problem(s) with the animal, and determine the proper choice of treatment for the situation. (Refer to the farm health protocols for recommended actions per conditions observed.)

- Take a prepared and stocked treatment tote to the barn.
- Locate animals to receive vaccination or that have been marked for treatment.

### Giving the injection:

- Make sure all injection equipment is clean, dry and in working order prior to use.
- Draw the medication into the syringe, using the proper dose according to the product label or veterinarian's recommendation.
- Inject the treatment medication into appropriate location on the animal.

-For example: Place in the triangle of the neck just behind and below the ear, but in front of shoulder.

-Do not inject more than 10cc per site, unless directed to do so by your veterinarian or the product label.

-Use the proper size and length of needle to ensure the medication is deposited in the muscle, not in other tissues. (See PQA Plus recommendations)

- Change the needle when appropriate to maintain cleanliness and sharpness.
- Never straighten a bent needle.
- Mark the animal as treated.
- Mark the treatment record with, at a minimum:

-Date of administration

-Animal ID

-Product administered

-Dose administered

-Route of administration

-Person administering

-Withdrawal period

### **Needle management**

- If a needle bends, becomes dull, burred or otherwise damaged, replace it immediately. DO NOT straighten a bent needle.
- If a needle breaks off in an animal, immediately mark the animal, and try to remove the needle.
- If the needle cannot be completely removed:

-Make sure the animal is adequately identified.

-Record the incident.

-Notify your supervisor.

### **Cleanup**

- When animals have been treated or vaccinated, return supplies to the office.
- Properly store or dispose of unused medication and vaccines.
- Properly dispose of all used needles and disposable syringes in a sharps container.
- Clean reusable injection equipment with clean water. Do not use soap or disinfectant. Allow equipment to completely dry.

## **Resources referenced**

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thanasia Action Plan (SOP)

Herd Health Plan

Veterinarian's Treatment Protocol

Needle Usage and/or broken needle SOP

PQA Plus Needle Recommendations