

# 2026 UPDATES TO THE COMMON SWINE INDUSTRY AUDIT



The U.S. pork industry has successfully implemented the Common Swine Industry Audit since its introduction in October 2014. Each year, the Common Swine Industry Audit Task Force reviews feedback from producers, packers, auditors, and customers to clarify and enhance the audit. As in previous years, the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization (PAACO) has certified the 2026 edition of the audit, which is now available to the public.

The Common Swine Industry Audit serves as a single, common audit platform for the pork industry. The overarching goal of the common audit process remains the same in the revised edition: *to provide consumers greater assurance of the care taken by farmers and pork processors to improve animal well-being and food safety*. The audit tool builds on the existing Pork Quality Assurance® Plus (PQA Plus®) program and is an integral component of the continuous improvement process. The standards within the Common Swine Industry Audit include 27 key aspects of swine care and pre-harvest pork safety through all phases of production. The four areas reviewed during an audit are records, animals, facilities and caretakers. These principles have not changed with the 2023 version of the Common Swine Industry Audit.

The 2026 updates to the Common Swine Industry Audit include both revisions and clarifications to audit standards and individual questions. Key updates include:

## Animal Sampling:



- The animal sampling protocol was updated following recommendations from published validation research. The revised method is designed to detect at least a 0.5% occurrence at a 95% confidence level, improving data accuracy and consistency while maintaining practicality for on-farm use.

## Animal Benchmarking Question Language:



- Benchmarking questions were reframed to report positive welfare indicators—such as the percentage of animals walking well or in good condition—reflecting a shift toward recognizing positive affective states while maintaining transparency about welfare concerns.

## Animal Handling:



- Additional questions were added to capture a broader range of observed animal handling behaviors. All handling must now be performed in accordance with the site's written Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The section also includes expanded criteria for evaluating handling during transport, with added emphasis on space allowance during loading and unloading.

Visit [www.porkcheckoff.org/csia](http://www.porkcheckoff.org/csia) for access to all of the current Common Swine Industry Audit materials. In addition to the English and Spanish versions of the audit documents, producers will find resources and training materials to help prepare for an audit. For questions related to the Common Swine Industry Audit, please call the National Pork Board Service Center at 1-800-456-7675.

