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Global Animal Partnership 5-Step™ Animal Welfare Rating Standards for Pigs

- All standards applicable to “All Steps” or to any range of Steps that include Step 1 are required and must be met for the farm to enter the Global Animal Partnership 5-Step Program. Higher Steps are elective after the basic requirements of Step 1 have been met.
- If a standard has not been met for all animals on the farm at the time of initial inspection, a Step rating will not be assigned until evidence is provided confirming that the standard has been met. For castration or weaning standards that are not met at the time of initial inspection, a Step rating will not be assigned until evidence is provided confirming that either the standard has been met or all relevant procedures and protocols are in place to meet the standard going forward.
- If in a particular situation or circumstance, a standard as written might compromise the welfare of the animals in the producer’s care, the producer should contact the Global Animal Partnership-approved certifier with which they are working to request a variance.
- Producers must be in compliance with all local, regional, and national regulations and laws that relate to the Global Animal Partnership 5-Step Animal Welfare Rating standards.
- No standards in this document may supersede local, regional, or national regulations or laws.

Step 1: No crates, stalls or cages

Step 2: Enriched environment

Step 3: Enhanced outdoor access

Step 4: Pasture centered

Step 5: Animal centered: No physical alterations

Step 5+: Animal Centered: Entire life on same farm

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Section 1: Farm Plan and Documentation

1.1 Farm Plan

1.1.1 (All Steps)

Each farm must have a written plan that identifies practices implemented to ensure compliance with all applicable sections of the Global Animal Partnership 5-Step Animal Welfare Rating standards.

- A written farm plan must exist.
- It must be current and updated as needed to reflect any changes.
- It must address all relevant areas covered by these standards.
- The farm plan must reflect actual practices on the farm.

The completed Application/Workbook will suffice for this requirement.

Producer Guidance: Your farm plan should be a description of the goals and methods of your farming operation. By filling in the workbook and describing your actual practices, you may satisfy the requirements for this standard. The intent of this workbook is to assist you in putting down your practices in writing and can act as a “how-to” manual if someone has to step into your operation in an emergency. An important benefit of developing a farm plan is that often helps to focus the goals that you are trying to achieve. Importantly, writing down what is second nature to you will allow you, and others, to appreciate the good work that you do and the magnitude of what you know, do, and accomplish throughout the day, the month, and the year.

1.1.2 (Steps 5 – 5+)

In addition to the above, each farm plan must include:

- a. Evidence of an integrated all-farm approach with proactive measures in place that demonstrate an agricultural animal production system with primary emphasis on animal welfare.
- b. The primary producer must be able to demonstrate inherent strengths in animal husbandry based on a good understanding of interactions within an animal production system.

To qualify for Step 5 or 5+ status, all species of commercial animals raised on the farm must be raised to at least Step 1 standards. Within two years of approval at Step 5 levels, all commercial animals on the property must meet at least Step 4 requirements.

Producer Guidance: The two-year allowance to bring all commercial animals to Step 4 levels will be granted to the producer one time only. If the farm loses Step 5 status and re-applies, Step 4 status of all commercial animals will be required to re-establish the previous Step level.

1.1.3 (Steps 5 – 5+)

All domestic animals on the farm must be managed to the following requirements:

- Given an appropriate amount and type of feed to meet their nutritional requirements
- Kept in surroundings that do not cause them injury
- Provided with a comfortable resting area that protects them from extremes of temperature
- Kept in good health and given veterinary attention as required
- Dogs must not be tethered

Producer Guidance: “Domestic animals” refers to dogs, cats, horses, goats, cows, or any other animals maintained on the farm for non-commercial purposes, including both working animals and

pets. Leashes may be used with dogs when they are being moved about the farm or when temporarily removed from their runs for cleaning, but they may not be tied and left for long periods of time.

1.2 Animal Health Plan

1.2.1 (All Steps)

Each farm must plan for the health of the animals. Planning must include biosecurity measures.

1.3 Records and Documentation

1.3.1 (All Steps)

Each farm must maintain and provide the inspector full access to records sufficient to document compliance with all applicable Global Animal Partnership 5-Step Animal Welfare Rating standards. Informal records such as those written on calendars or notepads are acceptable but must be presented in an organized manner at inspection.

1.4 Emergency Procedures

1.4.1 (All Steps)

There must be procedures to follow in case of emergency. Anyone engaged in animal management must be aware of the emergency procedures and trained to take action should an emergency occur.

Producer Guidance: Emergency procedures might include contingency plans for natural disasters likely to occur in the area. Fire, emergency disease outbreak, emergency water shut off, and power failure should also be addressed. Instructions should be detailed enough to ensure the safety and well-being of animals and workers during an emergency.

1.5 Training

1.5.1 (All Steps)

Initial and ongoing training must be provided in a manner that is clearly understood by all individuals who carry out any animal management tasks covered by this program.

Producer Guidance:

- Training should expand awareness and recognition that animals feel pain and have the capacity to suffer.
- Training should provide an overview of the entire operation as well as specific training related to the tasks that will be required. Ongoing training should aim at keeping up to date with current animal husbandry techniques and the requirements of the Global Animal Partnership standards. Training can be experience-based or written.
- Training might cover, but is not limited to, the following topics:
 - a. Artificial insemination
 - b. Any physical alterations, including the administration of pain relief
 - c. Animal handling
 - d. Movement and transport of animals
 - e. Animal identification methods
 - f. Assessment of body condition
 - g. Recognition and assessment of lameness

- h. Appropriate use of restraining tools
- i. Feeding protocols
- j. Assessment of foraging area/pasture conditions

1.6 Biosecurity Procedures

1.6.1 (All Steps)

Each farm must implement and maintain a biosecurity program. The program must include measures taken to avoid the introduction of disease from outside sources, such as incoming stock, visitors, and trucks or equipment.

Section 2: Breeding and Source of Animals

2.1 Breeding Programs

2.1.1 (All Steps)

Natural breeding and artificial insemination (AI) are the only breeding methods permitted.

2.1.2 (All Steps)

The intentional use of genetically modified or cloned animals or their progeny is prohibited.

2.1.3 (All Steps)

Breeding programs, whether on-farm or through introduced breeding stock, must be designed to promote the welfare of the animals in the production system rather than to select solely for production or economic outcomes. Breeding choices based solely on production outcomes that predispose the animals for reduced welfare in a system are prohibited.

Welfare-enhancing traits that must be sought in breeding programs are:

- Hardiness in outdoor systems
- Good mothering ability
- Ability to sustain a lactation without losing excessive condition
- Breeding for litter size the sow can support
- Low levels of tail biting

2.1.4 (All Steps)

Breeding programs must select for the absence of the halothane gene.

2.2 Source of Animals

2.2.1 (All Steps)

The types of animals must be well matched with the system in which they are raised.

Producer Guidance: The goal of the farm should be to find animals that work best in the circumstances of the farm/ranch and to avoid welfare problems caused by breed selection.

2.2.2 (All Steps)

Sourcing market animals from sale or auction barns is prohibited.

Section 3: Animal Health

3.1 Medication Use

3.1.1 (All Steps)

The therapeutic use of antibiotics, ionophores, or sulfa drugs is prohibited for market animals. If a market animal must be treated with prohibited medications, that animal must be identified and removed from the Global Animal Partnership 5-Step Animal Welfare program.

3.1.2 (All Steps)

Sub-therapeutic (preventive) levels of antibiotics, ionophores, growth hormones, beta agonists, or sulfas are prohibited for all market and breeding animals.

3.1.3 (All Steps)

Records must be kept of all treatments, whether alternative remedies or medications, and the results of treatment.

3.1.4 (All Steps)

No medicines may be used in an extra-label manner unless prescribed by the farm's attending veterinarian. Any such medicine must have the prescribing veterinarian's label affixed over the manufacturer's label that outlines the prescribed method of usage, duration of administration, and withholding time.

3.1.5 (All Steps)

All medications must be discarded after the expiration date.

3.2 Treatment of Ill or Injured Animals

3.2.1 (All Steps)

In the event an animal becomes ill or suffers accidental injury on the farm, it must receive immediate individual treatment designed to minimize pain and suffering, including veterinary attention if relief cannot be promptly provided by the farmer.

3.2.2 (All Steps)

If alternative treatments such as herbal or homeopathic treatments are used and are not successful, veterinary advice must be sought and any medication prescribed must be administered.

3.2.3 (All Steps)

If an animal is suffering from a non-recoverable illness, injury, or condition, it must be promptly euthanized on-farm using an approved method.

3.3 Body Condition

3.3.1 (All Steps)

All pigs must have an overall body condition score (BCS) of 2 or higher.

3.3.2 (All Steps)

Any animals on the farm scoring below BCS 2 must be given immediate care and treated if necessary. Any animal in an emaciated condition (BCS 1 or lower) that does not respond to treatment must be euthanized using an approved method.

3.4 Lameness

3.4.1 Lameness Levels: Step Differentiation

3.4.1 (Step 1)

Lameness levels must not exceed 5% of the herd at any one time.

3.4.1 (Step 2)

Lameness levels must not exceed 4% of the herd at any one time.

3.4.1 (Step 3)

Lameness levels must not exceed 3% of the herd at any one time.

3.4.1 (Steps 4 – 5+)

Lameness levels must not exceed 2% of the herd at any one time.

3.4.2 (All Steps)

Lame animals must be attended to and action taken immediately upon exhibition of foot or leg injury, or walking irregularity. If improvements are not seen, treatment must be escalated. If it is judged that the animal is not likely to improve, the animal must be euthanized. Actions taken to address lameness and results must be recorded.

Producer Guidance: Depending on the severity and cause of lameness, animals may need to be monitored, isolated for a period, or medically treated.

3.5 Separation of Newly Introduced, Ill or Injured Animals from the Herd

3.5.1 (All Steps)

There must be a pen or a specific area designated as a “sick pen” for isolation of animals that are either injured or ill.

3.5.2 (All Steps)

Animals must not be separated from the herd unless briefly during introduction to the farm, for veterinary procedures, or if the animal is injured or sick. Records must be kept of the separation from the herd of individual animals.

3.5.3 (All Steps)

The primary enclosure for sick or injured animals must meet all space and bedding requirements in Section 8 for each specific stage of growth.

Section 4: Animal Handling

4.1 Animal Handling

4.1.1 (All Steps)

Pigs must not be mistreated in any way.

4.1.2 (All Steps)

Pigs must be handled in a calm manner that takes into consideration the animals' natural response to stimuli.

4.1.3 (All Steps)

When handling pigs, the area must be quiet and free of high-pitched noises.

4.1.4 (All Steps)

Pigs must move of their own volition. They may not be dragged by any part of their body.

4.1.5 (All Steps)

Restraint of an animal in excess of the time required to treat the animal for a specific purpose is prohibited.

4.2 Crates or Stalls

4.2.1 (All Steps)

Crates or stalls for gestating or farrowing sows and for boars are prohibited. Tethers are prohibited.

4.3 Electric Prods

4.3.1 (All Steps)

The use of electric prods is prohibited.

Section 5: Animal Management

5.1 Group Management

5.1.1 (All Steps)

Pigs must be managed in a manner that minimizes aggressive behavior.

Producer Guidance: Minimizing aggression can be achieved by keeping pigs in stable social groups and providing pens with ample space for the pigs' normal behavior, including the ability to remain separate from other pigs. Limiting the group size, reducing competition for feed, and providing environmental enrichments can aid when it is necessary to mix unacquainted pigs.

5.1.2 (Steps 5 – 5+)

Piglets must remain with their litter mates from birth to slaughter. Separating the litter into male and female groups at weaning is permitted if the males are intact.

5.1.3 (All Steps)

Mortality must be evaluated by the farmer for all breeding and market animals.

- If mortality rates exceed GAP goals below, then measures must be taken to reduce mortality.
- Records must be kept of actions taken and their results.

Mortality and culled animals must be recorded as separate categories.

Producer Guidance: It is the goal of Global Animal Partnership to require that mortality under normal circumstances be maintained at:

- 10% born live to weaning
- 2% post-weaning for market pigs
- 3% for adult breeding pigs annually

These figures should be averaged over the course of a year and do not include still-born piglets. Farmers should be working toward this goal. Flood, disease outbreak, and other unusual circumstances that can cause higher mortality should be noted in the mortality records. Mortality higher than these figures is not the failing point for this standard—rather, it is the failure to evaluate and work toward solution that is the crux of this requirement.

5.2 Weaning

5.2.1 Weaning Age: Step Differentiation

5.2.1 (Step 1)

The minimum weaning age for piglets is 28 days.

5.2.1 (Step 2)

The minimum weaning age for piglets is 35 days.

5.2.1 (Steps 3 – 4)

The minimum weaning age for piglets is 42 days.

5.2.1 (Steps 5 – 5+)

The minimum weaning age for piglets is 56 days.

If the welfare of the sow or piglets may be compromised by leaving piglets on the sow to the weaning age, an individual sow's litter may be weaned earlier than the Step requirements listed above. In no instance may piglets be weaned prior to 28 days unless the sow's or piglets' health is in jeopardy. Records of early weaning must be made available at inspection.

5.3 Animal Identification

5.3.1 (All Steps)

The producer must demonstrate traceability of each group of GAP-rated animals, including all locations where the animals have been kept from birth.

5.3.2 (All Steps)

Breeding animals must be individually identifiable by more than one person on the farm.

5.3.3 (All Steps)

No more than two ear tags per animal are permitted, whether breeding stock or market animals. If two ear tags are required by law, a third ear tag may be used, providing it does not interfere with the animal's ability to express normal behavior.

5.3.4 (Steps 5 – 5+)

Ear notching of both breeding and market animals is prohibited.

5.4 Castration and Spaying

5.4.1 Castration Age: Step Differentiation

5.4.1 (Steps 1 – 4)

If piglets are to be castrated, the process must be undertaken before the piglets reach 7 days of age.

5.4.1 (Steps 5 – 5+)

Castration of piglets is prohibited.

5.4.2 (Steps 1 – 4)

If pigs are to be castrated, only surgical castration using a sharp scalpel is acceptable.

5.4.3 (All Steps)

Spaying gilts or sows is prohibited.

5.5 De-tusking and Tipping

5.5.1 (All Steps)

Routine tipping of boars' tusks is prohibited. Tipping an individual animal's tusks is permitted only when necessary to prevent tusks from growing into the animal's head or in response to behavior that puts other animals or handlers at risk.

Tipping an individual animal's tusk to stop aggression toward other animals or handlers must only be carried out after contributing factors, such as group size, feeder space, and lying space, have been addressed.

5.5.2 (All Steps)

The removal of tusks (de-tusking) is prohibited.

5.6 Tail Docking and Tooth Clipping

5.6.1 (All Steps)

Tail docking of a herd or group is prohibited. Docking the tail of an individual animal for health or welfare reasons is permitted. If tails are docked under these circumstances, at least 1/2 of the complete tail length must remain. If more than 1/2 of the tail has been damaged, as much of the tail must remain as possible.

If tails are docked in response to a tail biting problem, a plan must be implemented to resolve the causes of the biting. It is not acceptable to routinely dock tails.

Records must be kept regarding damage to tails and include the cause, the proportion of damage to the tails, and actions taken.

5.6.2 (All Steps)

Tooth filing or grinding is prohibited. Modification of teeth is permitted when necessary for welfare or health reasons.

5.6.3 (All Steps)

Tooth clipping is prohibited.

5.7 Nose Ringing

5.7.1 Nose Ringing: Step Differentiation

5.7.1 (Steps 1 – 4)

Disk rings are prohibited.

5.7.1 (Steps 5 – 5+)

Both disk and septum rings are prohibited.

Producer Guidance: Disk rings are nose rings that are applied around the edge of the animal's snout. The only nose rings acceptable for Steps 1 – 3 of these standards are septum rings. See Section 8 for vegetative cover requirements pertaining to ringed and un-ringed pigs.

Section 6: Feed and Water

6.1 Water Availability

6.1.1 (All Steps)

All animals must have free and continuous access to drinking water. In systems where animals move between indoors and outdoors, water must be continuously accessible in both areas.

6.2 Feeding Requirements

6.2.1 (All Steps)

All animals must be provided with a full ration that supplies optimal nutrition at each specific stage of life.

Producer Guidance: “Optimal nutrition” means that the combination of feed, including rations, supplements, and fiber, are sufficient to maintain the animal in good body condition (see Section 4) and to ensure the animal does not remain hungry after feeding.

6.2.2 (All Steps)

Palatable forage, such as roots, crop stubble, or straw, must be consistently available to animals during daylight hours and must be replenished within 2 hours of being completely consumed.

6.2.3 (All Steps)

All pigs must be fed daily.

6.2.4 (All Steps)

Animals must be fed in a manner that enables all animals to eat their full ration.

Producer Guidance: Whether fed in stalls, using electronic feeders, or feed is spread on the ground, the pigs should all be able to eat their full ration of feed.

6.3 Feed Safety and Hygiene

6.3.1 (All Steps)

Feed must not become moldy, mildewed, or otherwise compromised in quality.

6.3.2 (All Steps)

Feed must not be contaminated by rodents.

6.3.3 (All Steps)

Feeders must be clean and free of foreign objects.

6.4 Additives or Ingredients in Feed or Water

6.4.1 (All Steps)

Mammalian or avian by-products or wastes, with the exception of milk or milk-derived products, are prohibited.

Section 7: Outdoor Conditions

NOTE: At Step 4, animals may be housed seasonally. Therefore, there are Step 4 standards in both Section 7 (Outdoor Conditions and Land Management) and Section 8 (Housing).

7.1 Outdoor Environment

7.1.1 Outdoor Access: Step Differentiation

7.1.1 (Step 3)

Continuous, unobstructed outdoor access during daylight hours is required for all animals two weeks of age or older.

7.1.1 (Step 4)

Continuous access to foraging areas or pasture is required for all pigs two weeks of age or older when seasonal conditions permit; continuous access to the outdoors is required at all times.

7.1.1 (Steps 5 – 5+)

Continuous access to foraging areas or pasture is required for all pigs two weeks of age or older.

7.1.2 (Steps 4 – 5+)

Edible vegetative material must be continuously available on pasture or in foraging areas in sufficient quantities to encourage foraging and rooting.

Producer Guidance: Vegetative material can include grasses, legumes, herbs, bushes, and wooded areas, as well as crop stubble. Seasonal conditions may require supplying supplemental foraging material. Supplemental edible material might include, but is not limited to, hay, haylage, and silage.

7.1.3 Level of Vegetative Cover on Pasture: Step Differentiation

7.1.3 (Step 4)

Pasture must be maintained with at least 25% vegetative cover in each occupied area. If pigs have nose rings, pasture must be maintained with at least 50% vegetative cover.

7.1.3 (Steps 5 – 5+)

Pigs must have access to pasture that is maintained with at least 50% vegetative cover in each occupied area.

Producer Guidance: Vegetative cover can include grasses, legumes, herbs, bushes, and wooded areas or a combination of these components. Vegetative cover should include plants interesting to the animals. Planting or encouraging the growth of vegetation that pigs will not use is not an acceptable strategy for meeting this requirement. Areas of bare earth should be managed in such a manner that they are recoverable and not damaged to the point that they will not support plant growth.

7.1.4 Forage Area Vegetation Requirement

7.1.4 (Steps 4 – 5+)

Foraging areas must contain vegetative material and must encourage pigs' natural rooting behavior.

7.2 Huts and Housing in Outdoor Systems

7.2.1 (Steps 4 – 5+)

All animals in an outdoor system must have free access to housing or huts.

7.2.2 (Steps 4 – 5+)

The base of all huts or other outdoor housing must be covered with bedding.

7.2.3 (Steps 4 – 5+)

Bedding must be dry, clean, and fresh, and of sufficient quantity to cover the lying area completely and to provide comfort and protection to the animals.

7.2.4 (Steps 4 – 5+)

Bedding must be straw or other non-toxic substance that will allow the pigs opportunities to explore and to root.

7.2.5 (Steps 4 – 5+)

There must be an individual hut or a separated area within a building for each farrowing sow on pasture or in foraging areas. The space for each sow and her piglets must be at least 8x6 ft/2.4x1.8 m.

7.3 Heat and Cold Relief

7.3.1 (All Steps)

All pigs must be protected from heat and cold stress, sunburn, and extreme weather.

Producer Guidance: Wallows, sprinklers, or misters are good methods of heat relief, providing there is also protection from direct sun. Plenty of bedding into which they can burrow provides warmth in cold weather.

Signs of distress include:

- **Cold:** Lying down on sternum, huddling in piles, shivering, ears and tails down
- **Hot:** Seeking a cold, wet surface to lie on, lying on its side, panting, resting without physical contact with other animals, wallowing in feces and/or urine

7.4 Wallows

7.4.1 (Steps 4 – 5+)

All pigs with pasture access must have unrestricted access to wallows. Wallows must not be permitted to dry out.

Producer Guidance: Drinking troughs do not qualify as wallows. Besides providing heat relief, wallows are also important to the pigs' ability to express natural behavior.

7.5 Removal from Pasture or Forage Areas

7.5.1 Removal from Pasture or Forage Area: Step Differentiation

7.5.1 (Steps 3 – 4)

Pigs in an outdoor system may be confined when the pasture or forage area is unsuitable (seasonally), during extreme weather conditions, or for 7 days around farrowing.

7.5.1 (Step 5 – 5+)

It is prohibited to confine pigs except during extreme weather conditions.

7.5.2 Duration of Seasonal Confinement: Step Differentiation

7.5.2 (Step 4)

Seasonal confinement must not exceed 5 months in any 12-month period.

7.5.2 (Steps 5 – 5+)

Seasonal confinement is prohibited.

Producer Guidance: If animals are confined more than once per year, the combined confinement periods must not exceed the requirements above. The farmer must be able to provide records for all instances when animals have been confined and to explain the rationale for confinement.

7.5.3 (Step 4)

During seasonal confinement, all pigs older than two weeks of age must have continuous outdoor access during daylight hours.

7.6 Outdoor Conditions

7.6.1 (All Steps)

All outdoor areas and structures accessible to the animals must be maintained in such a way that they do not pose risk of injury.

7.6.2 (All Steps)

Animals must be protected from contact with any potentially toxic substances.

Producer Guidance: All potentially toxic materials, such as paints or anti-corrosives, pest control substances, or lubricants, must be properly stored and used in a manner that prevents animals from coming into contact with them.

Section 8: Housing

NOTE: At Step 4, animals may be housed seasonally. Therefore, there are Step 4 standards in both Section 7 (Outdoor Conditions and Land Management) and Section 8 (Housing).

8.1 Housing Environment

8.1.1 (Steps 1 – 4)

When housed, animals must be able to exercise, lie down on their sides without being obstructed by another animal, and have the ability to move away from other animals if they desire.

8.1.2 (Steps 1 – 4)

Housing conditions must allow pigs opportunity for establishing separate eating, lying, and dunging areas.

8.1.3 (Steps 2 – 4)

Farrowing sows must have an area separate from the lying area for exercise in which they can move about freely.

8.1.4 (Steps 3 – 4)

Housed pigs older than two weeks of age must have continuous, unobstructed access to the outdoors during daylight hours.

8.2 Bedding Requirements

8.2.1 (Steps 1 – 4)

The base of housing must be covered with bedding.

8.2.2. (Steps 1 – 4)

Bedding must be dry, clean, fresh, and of sufficient quantity to cover the lying area completely and to provide comfort and protection to the animals.

8.2.3. (Steps 1 – 4)

Bedding must be straw or other non-toxic substance that will allow the pigs opportunities to explore and to root.

8.3 Housing Conditions

8.3.1 (Steps 1 – 4)

All housing must provide warmth for pigs in cold weather and the ability to remain cool in hot weather.

8.3.2 (Steps 1 – 4)

Air quality must be regularly assessed at the level of the animals through sensory evaluation or other appropriate methods.

Producer Guidance: Monitoring devices are not required unless the farm is found to have untenable levels of ammonia or the animals are suffering due to high levels of toxic gases.

The following maximum levels are recommended for Steps 1 – 3:

- ammonia: < 25ppm
- dust < 10mg per cubic meter

The following maximum levels are recommended for Step 4.

- ammonia: < 10ppm
- dust < 10mg per cubic meter

8.3.3 (Steps 1 – 4)

Periods of light and darkness must be provided that follow the diurnal seasonal patterns. Artificial light cannot extend the period of daylight past 16 hours.

8.3.4 (Steps 1 – 4)

Light intensity in indoor housing during daylight hours must exceed 50 lux.

8.3.5 (Steps 2 – 4)

All pigs must be provided with environmental enrichments that encourage foraging behavior and manipulation of objects.

Producer Guidance: As well as the provision of forage and straw bedding, which is required and essential to the well-being of the animals, pigs must be provided with objects that they can manipulate, such as whole bales of straw or barrels. To encourage foraging behavior, feed can be spread in the bedding.

8.4 Housing Safety, Sanitation, and Maintenance

8.4.1 (Steps 1 – 4)

Slatted flooring in an area occupied by animal(s) may not exceed 25% of the total floor area available to the animal(s).

8.4.2 (Steps 1 – 4)

All equipment, fittings, fences, gates, openings, and protrusions must be maintained in good working order and in such a manner that they do not inflict injuries or pose risks to the animals or caretakers.

8.4.3 (Steps 1 – 4)

Animals must not come into contact with any potentially toxic substances used for maintenance, sanitation, cleaning, or pest control. All potentially toxic materials, such as sanitizers, pest control substances, and lubricants, must be properly stored and used in a manner that prevents animals from coming into contact with them.

8.4.4 (Steps 1 – 4)

It must be possible to quickly remove animals from housing in an emergency.

8.4.5 (Steps 1 – 4)

If electricity is required for ventilation, water, feeders, or lighting, a back-up power supply with power failure alarm must be operational and periodically tested.

Section 9: Insect, Rodent, and Predator Control

9.1 Insect and Parasite Control

9.1.1 (All Steps)

The use of organophosphates or any product containing organophosphates in any manner in which an animal might ingest or absorb them is prohibited.

9.2 Rodent Control

9.2.1 (All Steps)

The producer must minimize risk to pigs posed by rodents.

9.2.2 (All Steps)

Exclusion of rodents from housing and feed storage areas or other non-lethal methods must be the first level of protection. Buildings must be constructed and/or maintained in such a manner as to prevent the intrusion of rodents.

9.2.3 (All Steps)

Poisons for the control or elimination of rodents are permitted only after exclusion has failed.

Producer Guidance: Methods used to control rodents should be swift and efficient, and not cause unnecessary suffering. Currently, poison used to control or eliminate rodents is unavoidable in certain farming models, and it is acknowledged that poison does cause suffering. The ultimate goal is to prohibit its use entirely.

One of the unwanted side effects of using poisoned bait is that it can attract rodents to the area and exacerbate the problem. It is essential to design any baiting procedures to attract only rodents already posing a danger and to avoid attracting more rodents to the area.

9.3 Predator Control

9.3.1 (All Steps)

The producer must minimize risk to pigs posed by predators.

9.3.2 (All Steps)

Exclusion of predators from housing and outdoor areas or other non-lethal methods must be the first level of defense.

9.3.3 (All Steps)

Methods of control and/or elimination of predators must be swift and efficient, and must not cause suffering.

9.3.4 (All Steps)

Poisons for the control or elimination of predators that are posing a risk to pigs are prohibited.

9.3.5 (All Steps)

Lethal means of predator control must target the offending animal(s) only.

9.4 Methods of Control

9.4.1 (All Steps)

All varieties of leg-hold traps, including egg traps, neck snares, conibear traps, glue boards, and drowning traps, are prohibited.

Producer Guidance: Box traps that capture animals alive without restricting them from movement are permitted.

9.4.2 Live Trap Monitoring: Step Differentiation

9.4.2 (Steps 1 – 4)

Live traps without monitors must be checked at least daily. If live trap monitors are used, they must be acted upon within 24 hours of an alert.

9.4.2 (Steps 5 – 5+)

Live traps without monitors must be checked at least twice daily. If live trap monitors are used, they must be acted upon within 6 hours of an alert.

Section 10: Movement and Transport of Animals

NOTE: Transport pertains to transporting animals onto or off the farm. Movement pertains to moving animals within the farm. Step 5+ allows movement of animals ONLY within the farm.

10.1 Movement of Animals Within the Farm

10.1.1 (All Steps)

Movement within the farm must not exceed 1 hour. If movement of animals exceeds 1 hour, all transport standards apply.

10.1.2 (All Steps)

Unweaned pigs must not be moved on a vehicle within the farm except to access pasture or forage areas where they will remain with their mothers.

10.1.3 (All Steps)

The trailer or other conveyance must be clean and in good condition.

Producer Guidance: Specific areas to evaluate include:

- Is the floor of the trailer in good condition or worn? Is the flooring surface sufficiently textured to prevent slipping and falling?
- Is the structural material sound and not torn or broken so as to present risk? Is the exhaust system in good repair so fumes do not enter the pens?

10.1.4 (All Steps)

All ramps and floors must be constructed in such a way to minimize animals slipping. Floors must be solid and constructed of non-slip material.

Producer Guidance: Loading ramps must be appropriately designed and should have foot battens or be covered with litter to prevent animals from slipping or falling.

10.1.5 (All Steps)

Animals must be able to stand naturally.

10.1.6 (All Steps)

Animals must be able to step into and out of the vehicle easily and safely.

10.2 Disposition of Animals

10.2.1 (Steps 5 – 5+)

Sale through auction or sale barns is prohibited.

NOTE: The long-term intention of these standards is to extend this requirement to all steps. This standard will be reviewed on an annual basis.

10.2.2 (Step 5+)

Slaughter must occur either on-farm or at a location the animals can easily and safely reach by walking.

Producer Guidance: Slaughter conducted on or adjacent to the farm must be conducted under USDA or state inspection. A separate inspection of both animal welfare and food safety must be successfully completed prior to the farm receiving a Step 5 rating.

10.3 Condition of Animals at Transport

10.3.1 (Steps 1 – 5)

Transporting unhealthy, non-ambulatory, or injured animals for any reason other than to access veterinary treatment is prohibited.

Producer Guidance: It is permitted to transport an unhealthy or injured animal to access veterinary treatment. Records must be kept of all animals transported for this purpose.

10.3.2 (Steps 1-5)

Pregnant sows must not be transported off the farm within 4 weeks of expected farrowing.

Producer Guidance: Movement of short duration to farrowing pens is permitted.

10.3.3 (Steps 1 – 5)

Sows with suckling pigs must not be transported off the farm.

10.3.4 (Steps 1 – 5)

No piglet may be transported onto or off of the farm prior to weaning.

10.4 Transport Duration

NOTE: At no time may transport exceed in-country regulatory requirements and in no case may it exceed the following:

10.4.1 Transport Duration: Step Differentiation

10.4.1 (Step 1)

Transport must not exceed 14 hours.

10.4.1 (Steps 2 – 5)

Transport must not exceed 8 hours.

10.4.1 (Step 5+)

Transport to or from the farm is prohibited.

10.4.2 (Steps 1-5)

Extending transport duration past the maximum time-span by removing the animals from the truck to rest before continuing the journey is prohibited.

10.5 Transport of Animals

NOTE: If the farm conducts or contracts transport, subsection 10.5 applies to the farm. If a producer group, cooperative, or other organization conducts or contracts transport, subsection 10.5 applies to the producer group, cooperative, or other organization. The farm must adhere to producer group policies and practices.

10.5.1 (Steps 1 – 5)

The trailer or other conveyance must be clean and in good condition.

Producer Guidance: Specific areas to evaluate, whether the trailer is an on-farm conveyance or a hired trailer moving animals off the farm, are:

- Is the floor of the trailer in good condition or worn? Is the flooring surface sufficiently textured to prevent slipping and falling?
- Is the aluminum torn or broken so as to present the risk of injury to the animals?
- Is the exhaust system in good repair so fumes do not enter the pens?

10.5.2 (Steps 1 – 5)

All ramps and floors, whether internal or external, must be constructed in such a way to minimize animals slipping. Floors must be solid and constructed of non-slip material.

Producer Guidance: Loading ramps must be appropriately designed and should have foot battens or be covered with litter to prevent animals from slipping or falling.

10.5.3 (Steps 1 – 5)

Animals must be able to stand naturally.

10.5.4 (Steps 1 – 5)

The driver must be able to inspect all animals on the truck.

Producer Guidance: The truck design should provide visual access to all animals. If the interior lighting is not sufficient for this purpose or is not working, the driver should carry a flashlight or other light source to be able to inspect the animals.

10.5.5 (Steps 1 – 5)

The truck must be designed to allow the driver to attend to an animal in distress.

Producer Guidance: Access to individual compartments may be through the main loading door, but provision of a separate inspection door giving access to each floor or tier is recommended.

10.5.6 (Steps 1 – 5)

Animals must be able to step into and out of the vehicle easily and safely.

10.5.7 (Steps 1 – 5)

Animals must have access to water until loading begins.

10.5.8 (Steps 1 – 5)

Animals must be protected from heat and cold stress during transport.

10.5.9 (Steps 1 – 5)

During transport, space allowance must meet the requirements in the table below. Pigs must be given 10% more floor area when the temperature in the truck exceeds 25°C/77°F.

| Category | Weight (in kg/lb) | Area in m ² / animal | Area in ft ² /animal |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Weaned pigs | 13.6 / 30 | 0.18 | 1.94 |
| Market pigs | 100/220 | 0.43 | 4.63 |
| Market pigs | 150/330 | 0.65 | 7.00 |

10.5.10 (Steps 1 – 5)

The use of electric prods is prohibited.

10.6 Transport Personnel Responsibilities, Training, and Procedures

NOTE: If the farm conducts or contracts transport, subsection 10.6 applies to the farm. If a producer group, cooperative, or other organization conducts or contracts transport, subsection 10.6 applies to the producer group, cooperative, or other organization. The farm must adhere to producer group policies and practices.

10.6.1 (Steps 1 – 5)

Personnel involved with transport must be licensed to drive the type of truck used for transport, thoroughly trained, and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.

10.6.2 (Steps 1 – 5)

The driver is responsible for the animals during all aspects of loading, delivery, and unloading that are under his/her control.

10.6.3 (Steps 1 – 5)

Transport records for each group of animals, including loading start and end times, departure and arrival times, and reasons for any stops or delays en route, must be kept and made available for review.

10.6.4 (Steps 1 – 5)

If the truck is scheduled to pick up animals from more than one farm, a separate bill of lading/delivery note must be kept for each farm.

10.6.5 (Steps 1 – 5)

If a truck has animals from different properties and/or sources, the groups of animals must be segregated.

10.6.6 (Steps 1 – 5)

If a truck is transporting animals of different species, they must be segregated during transport.

Producer Guidance: Animals of different species must not be transported in the same compartment. They can be transported on the same vehicle.

10.6.7 (Steps 1 – 5)

There must be a clear, written procedure for the driver to follow that includes actions and contact numbers to ensure the highest welfare of the animals in case of an accident or emergency en route.

Producer Guidance: These should include actions that can be taken by the driver and a clear point at which he/she should call for assistance. The driver must have an emergency number that will

reach the staff field agent or farmer who can initiate logistical actions that could include getting a replacement truck to the scene, getting a crew to the scene to reload the animals, and designating a person responsible for euthanizing or separating injured animals.

