On-farm Swine Euthanasia
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What is the #1 welfare issue I deal with on swine farms?

Timely Euthanasia
Euthanasia

*Euthanasia:* "Good Death"

Prematurely ending an animal’s life for humane reasons

“The greatest ethical test that we're ever going to face is the treatment of those who are at our mercy.”

—Lyn White
Timely Euthanasia

• Goal: Use euthanasia as a tool to eliminate pain and suffering when recovery is prolonged or not likely
Euthanasia
Why should you care?
It is the right thing to do!

“IT THINK USING ANIMALS FOR FOOD IS AN ETHICAL THING TO DO, BUT WE'VE GOT TO DO IT RIGHT. WE’VE GOT TO GIVE THOSE ANIMALS A DECENT LIFE AND WE’VE GOT TO GIVE THEM A PAINLESS DEATH. WE OWE THE ANIMAL RESPECT.”

—TEMPLE GRANDIN

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—Lyn White

You are always responsible for how you act, no matter how you feel. Remember, that.
Industry standards demand it

COMMON SWINE INDUSTRY AUDIT

Instructions, Standards and Audit Tool
October 2015

Humane Euthanasia
This topic is critical to assuring good animal well-being and is an area for automatic failure.
Industry reputation depends on it
How do we ensure timely euthanasia?

Provide a Timeline

Educate and Train Employees

Follow Through with the Process
Provide a Timeline
Common Swine Industry Audit

• Created by the Industry Audit Task Force in response to demands from consumers, producers, processors, and other stakeholders

• Assesses records, animals, caretakers, and facilities
Common Swine Industry Audit

- Only two areas for automatic audit failure:
  - Willful acts of abuse or neglect
  - Humane euthanasia
Non-ambulatory pigs are those which cannot rise or those which can stand with support but cannot bear weight on two or more legs.

Pigs which have not improved after two days of active treatment

Severely injured or non-ambulatory* pigs which cannot recover

Pigs with uterine or necrotic prolapses

1) Perforated hernias
2) Large hernias which touch the ground, impede movement, and are ulcerated

Any non-ambulatory* pig with a body condition score of 1

*Non-ambulatory pigs are those which cannot rise or those which can stand with support but cannot bear weight on two or more legs.
Educate and Train Employees
Current Research in Our Lab

*Project Goals*: Develop interactive training materials to improve timeliness of on-farm euthanasia decision-making in the swine industry

“There-Farm Swine Euthanasia: Making Timely Decisions”
Euthanasia Training Program

OBJECTIVE: Reduce number of timely euthanasia failures

- Improve caretakers’ abilities to identify compromised pigs
- Improve caretakers’ abilities to recognize euthanasia endpoints
- Improve caretakers’ understanding of CSIA euthanasia guidelines
Euthanasia Training Program

• The program:
  ✓ Multimedia, computer-based
  ✓ Case-study format (15 total cases)
  ✓ Three modules corresponding to stages of production:
    ➢ Breeding Stock
    ➢ Piglets
    ➢ Wean to Grower-Finisher Pigs
Euthanasia Training Program

• Projected completion: Dec 2016

• Will be packaged in early 2017 with other NPB euthanasia training materials
Euthanasia Training Program

Nursery case study

Case 1
Euthanasia Training Program

Finisher case study

Case 5
Follow through with the process
Caretakers

- On-farm training
- Understanding the caretaker

Producers

- Veterinary and Service managers
- Accountability

Packers

- Plant
- Accountability
Questions?

Oink oink