Thank you for participating in SowBridge 2014-2015.

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3rd party audits: Are you prepared?
Sow Bridge Lecture Series
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Audit:

- Definition:
  - *(noun)* - an official inspection of an individual's or organization's accounts, typically by an independent body.
  - synonyms: inspection, examination, verification, scrutiny, probe, investigation, assessment, appraisal, evaluation, review, analysis

- Typically invokes anxiety and defensiveness
Our opponents
Our industry is changing

- Audits are now a part of raising pigs and are here to stay.
  - Your farm WILL eventually be audited
  - Being prepared in advance makes for a better experience
  - Showcase your farm and your passion for caring for animals
- PQA +, TQA, Packer requirements
  - Tool for personal development
  - Enhances consumer confidence
  - Provides for an insurance policy against animal neglect/abuse allegations and food safety liabilities
  - Sets guidelines for what the industry considers to be best practices
About the auditors

- All audits conducted by Validus trained auditors

- Validus:
  - Independent certification company that prepares food companies and producers for changing market demands.
  - Based in Urbandale, IA
  - Created audits designed to meet the specs for each packer = proprietary
    - Hormel and JBS audits are identical
    - Tyson will accept a JBS/Hormel audit
  - Auditors have knowledge of swine production and should be familiar with basic farm terminology
  - Temporarily suspended auditing due to PEDv
    - Auditors preparing to be out in full force come May
When your farm is selected for an audit:

- Notified by hog buyer in advance
- Validus auditor will contact you to ask about your farm’s biosecurity requirements
- Audits typically take 6-8 hrs for a sow farm and 5-6 hrs for a grow-finish farm.
  - Records
  - Animal observations
  - Interviewing caretakers
- Based on a point system
  - Animal observations make up the most points
  - Documentation makes up fewer points
  - Need to have 80-85% to pass the audit
Critical failures

- Require immediate corrective action to be submitted within 24 hrs.
- Include the following:
  - Failure to have emergency back-up equipment
    - Solid sided buildings must have alarm and generator that can be started up within 30 min. of the power failure.
    - Curtain sided barns must have auto-magnetic curtain drops and a generator or alarm
  - Euthanasia technique
    - Must be an approved technique in accordance with the AASV/NPB Guidelines for Euthanasia of Swine
    - Equipment should be readily available, functioning and properly stored
  - Timely euthanasia
    - Animals must not be kept in a state of suffering
    - Refer to PQA Plus handbook for definition of timely euthanasia
Critical failures continued...

- Terminal C-sections must not be practiced
- Non-ambulatory animals
  - Animals that are loaded onto transport vehicles must be able to walk on all four limbs.
- Electric prod use
  - Must not be used on piglets, weanlings or feeder pigs
  - Must not be used more than twice on any one animal
  - Must not be used in pens
  - Must not be used in sensitive areas
Critical failures cont..

- Failure to have an animal welfare policy
  - Policy must be posted
  - Must state that there is zero tolerance for animal abuse or mistreatment
    - i.e. no willful acts of abuse, dragging of live animals, swinging gates on animals, etc.

- Failure to provide documentation of daily observation of the sick pen
  - Need to track individual animals on a daily basis
  - Should match the standard operating procedure for sick pen management

- Failure to provide access to food at least 1x/24 hrs or water at least 2x/day
Consequences for failures

- Vary depending on packer
- Critical failures require immediate action
- Written corrective action reports will be requested
- Major non-conformances or critical failures will result in a follow-up on-farm audit
  - Farm may be responsible for bearing the cost
Summary of additional requirements:

- Site information
- Standard operating procedures
- Protocols and policies
- Packer specific information (Tyson)
- PQA+ and TQA documentation
- Site Records

- Be familiar with your packer’s program specifications.
Site information:

- “No entrance to site” sign posted in a prominent location
- Premise ID number
- List of current caretakers
- Emergency contact sheet
- V CPR certificate
Standard Operating Procedures

- A set of written instructions that detail all the steps and activities of a process or procedure followed by an operation.

- Should reflect day to day procedures on the farm

- Reviewed at least annually with all caretakers

- Should be dated at each revision and accessible to all caretakers

- Written in a language that all caretakers can understand
Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Examples of SOPs to include:

- Caretaker training
- Site biosecurity
- Animal handling
- Daily pig care
- Broken needles
- Medication and treatment
- Facility repair and maintenance
- Record keeping and retention
Protocols and Policies

- Written animal care policy
  - Includes zero tolerance of willful acts of abuse or neglect
  - Any occurrence of neglect or abuse must be reported ASAP
  - Consequences relating to abuse or neglect including disciplinary actions
  - Must be dated, signed by all caretakers and posted

- Animal abuse reporting policy
  - Written policy including email or phone number with voicemail that caretakers can report abuse or improper care.
  - Contact information posted and reviewed annually
Protocols and Policies

- Written euthanasia action plan for each stage of production
  - Posted in a prominent location
  - Must be an approved technique in accordance with the AASV/NPB Guidelines for Euthanasia of Swine
    - Blunt force trauma is approved for use only in suckling piglets <12 lbs.
  - Must include an alternative method
Packer specific information

- Tyson
  - Certificate of understanding
    - Signed by all caretakers prior to working with pigs
    - Kept on site for review
  - Internal animal care audits
    - Conducted monthly on grow-finish sites and weekly on sow farms
    - Kept on site for review
  - Tyson annual competency exams
    - Completed by all caretakers annually
    - Kept on site for review
PQA Plus and TQA certification

- PQA Plus and TQA reference material on site for review
- PQA Plus site status is current
- PQA Plus certification is current for all caretakers
- TQA certification is current for all caretakers
Site Records

- Visitor sign-in log
- Caretaker training records
- Daily observation records
  - Kept by room/barn
  - To include initials of caretaker and temperature recording
- Daily observation of pigs in the treatment area
- Medication and treatment records
  - Must contain minimum FDA required information
- Out of feed events record
- Annual dead and non-ambulatory in transit
- Annual mortality records
- Monthly site maintenance checklist
- Monthly warning system and back-up equipment check
- Activated alarm record
Resources

- Packer program specifications
  - Tyson, Hormel, JBS- all have written details of expectations
- PQA Plus and TQA materials
- Herd veterinarian or PQA advisor
- Animal care services
  - Several services exist to aid producers in getting into compliance
    - Suidae Health and Production-Animal Care and Training Service (ACTS)
      - Develop site specific protocols and record templates, face-to-face review of materials with caretakers, on-farm audits with caretakers to review current practices.
      - Learn more at www.suidaehp.com
Final words of advice

- If marketing to more than 1 packer:
  - Request the auditor does the most comprehensive audit of the packers you work with
    - i.e. Market to Tyson and JBS- Request auditor to conduct the JBS audit which will suffice for both.
  - Should not be audited more than 1x/3 yrs
  - Still eligible for NPB 3rd party verification audit
- Ask for help from your veterinarian, PQA Plus advisor, etc.
  - Pre-audit walk-throughs are valuable
- View audits as a chance to learn and improve
- BE PREPARED!
Thank you for your time!
Questions?