

Items to come and be sent to the Iowa Advisors

- Dessie will make a group e-mail list of the IA trained advisors
- USDA-VCPR from MSU
- Excel sheet of SOPs from MSU
- Excel sample calculation OSU
- Q/A from the field and send this out to the group

Questions / Answers from the Iowa Advisor Sections 2016

1. If a farm does PQA Plus version 2 May 2016, will the site assessment still be valid for 3-years?

Yes, V.2. site assessments done up to August 31st 2016 are valid. However, producers that go through V. of the Site Assessment will not be assessed using the format that mirrors the Common Swine Industry Audit for a further 3 years. If there farm is then identified to be audited, the producers will not be familiar with the CSIA expectations.

2. Would it be useful for advisors to explain to their producer clientele about the differences between V.2. and V.3. site assessments and perhaps encourage them to have a V.3. site assessment?

Yes, it would be strongly encouraged for advisors to explain the differences between these two site assessments and the importance of V.3. as it relates to the Common Swine Industry Audit.

3. On the LMS system when entering the site assessment details, if a corrective action plan needs to be done how do you do this?

For fields on the Site Assessment Form that are marked “Develop and Implement a Corrective Action Plan”, the advisor should be briefly writing what they observed to mark it as such and what the producer will do correct the problem. Ex: “Daily observation records had entries that were missing initials of the caretaker and there were only 3 months of records. Producer will make sure each entry contains initials and will keep records for 12 months.”

Think of the box on the Site Assessment Form and website as the “Description of the error and what will be done to correct it”.

4) So what do we do with the corrective action form that is found in our PQA Plus V.3 binder and in PDF form?

The Assessment Corrective Action Plan located in the back of the Site Assessment Guide is to be used by both Advisors and Producers to document areas that need improvement, what needs to be done, a timeline for doing such things and a spot for a producer to document when/why/how they corrected items.

5) Does the National Pork Board (NPB) need a copy of the corrective action plan?

No, the Assessment Corrective Action Plan stays between an Advisor and Producer, that particular plan does not get uploaded to LMS or the Site Assessment Database. Advisors are welcome to scan and store those pages electronically or in a paper file, if they like, but there is no requirement by NPB to do so and it does not get attached to the electronic Site Assessment Record at NPB.

6) Under the Producer certification book (page 44) it still has 12 lbs. on BFT on table, but under the site assessment booklet (page 25), this weight range is not there. Which one is right?

NPB is struggling with version control on this table. The table in the GPP booklet page 44 was finalized and published before the Table was published in the Site Assessment Guide. The version in the Site Assessment Guide is the tentative updated version – but has not been 100% finalized from the revision of the On Farm Euthanasia Guide for Swine. That revision will be finalized in the very near future.

So, NPB policy that pig size is an important consideration for the effectiveness of BFT.

7) Under Emergency Action Plans, should they include manure spills?

Manure spills are not listed specifically as being information minimally required on an Emergency Action Plan, but there is no reason they could not be if a Producer wanted to add that information.

8) For on-line PQA Plus producer certification renewals, how close to the expiration date can they still do on-line renewals?

Producers may be granted access to the online program at any point in their certification. If a producer wanted to do online renewal every year instead of waiting every 3 years, they could do so. If they are waiting to renew online close to their expiration date, they MUST request access before the expiration date. If they are not granted access to the online renewal prior to their expiration date, they would need to go to a face-to-face training to renew.

9) If the PQA Plus certification number changes (i.e. one manager leaves and another is employed) can you go into the LMS system and change the PQA Plus certification number after 90 days?

You can change the PQA Certification number associated with the site after 90 days, but it will have no effect on the site status of the site. To change this in LMS, you go to the Site on dashboard and click the "details" button. Then you can update the Certification associated with the site. There is an important Caveat: the new PQA plus number you enter must have been a valid certification for the site at the TIME of the assessment. For Example: PIN 1234 was assessed on 1/15/13. The certification for the updated associated producer must have been valid on 1/15/13. If the producer was certified on 6/24/15, you cannot update the site with that certification.

10) The “see it and stop it” is a very good program based on addressing animal abuse and neglect. However, there has been past history of farms firing a person(s) and then having to go to an unfair dismissal hearing and the farm worker is awarded unemployment benefit. This does not seem fair?

NPB does not take reports of abuse or neglect at the 1-800 number. Anyone calling the 1-800 number the service representatives will get a referral to call their state/local animal welfare contact. Because each state handles jurisdiction of these types of reports differently, we have put together a list of the official state contacts and their information.

11) In the PQA Plus certification for firearms it notes that two persons need to be present, why is that?

NPB is not sure how that ended up in the script. The intent of this wording was to think through the importance of human safety when you using firearms. Therefore, it is not a requirement for two persons to be present when using a firearm during euthanasia.

12) A farm collects piglets from the farrowing stall, and places them into a cart (some piglets are standing on top of others), wheels the cart to the door and then turns the cart sideways and piglets “roll out” of the cart onto the floor. Is this considered “humane handling?”

Two issues can be flagged with this current situation (1) piglets are being piled on top of each other in the cart and (2) piglets are rolling / falling out of the cart onto the floor. These are not humane handling for the piglets and are discouraged under the PQA Plus program.

13) Is it a humane handling method to catch individual piglets using a chicken catcher device from their farrowing stall? The device is effectively a rod, with a wire “hoop” at the end that loops around the back leg of the piglet. The piglet is then moved (perhaps viewed as “dragged” towards the person whom can then pick the piglet up.)

The NPB will ask the Task Force and will be provide an answer.

14) When observing loading / unloading the suggested method is 1/3 in the pen, 1/3 in the alley and 1/3 up the chute (ramp). “What is defined as the pen and what is defined as the alley” For example “pigs are ID the day before marketing and are moved into a smaller pen with no feed but access to water. On the day of loading, internal gates are swung open, and then pigs are moved down these opened pens to the end and then turn and head towards the chute” So what is the pen and what is the alley? This picture gives an idea of this pre-sorting concept.



It is suggested that the pen = where the waterer is located. Therefore, alleyways will be all differing lengths.

15) It is a bit confusing on carrying electric prods into the home pen and using it as a “tapping” device vs. energized. Looking at the PQA plus site assessment booklet it notes: So a should is not a must!

- Electric prods **should** not be used on suckling or weaned piglets.
- Electric prods **should** not be used to move nursery pigs out of pens.
- Electric prods **should** not be used to move market pigs out of pens.
- Electric prods should not be used to move sows or boars out of pens.
- Electric prods **should** not be used when moving pigs from the pen.

Much of the language in PQA remained as should instead of replaced by must because the Welfare committee felt the language should be softer than an audit and is designed for educational back and forth. However, as an advisor it would be strongly advisable to tell producers how this relates to the common swine industry audit tool and that energized electric prods cannot be used in the home pen!

IF a producer wants to carry an electric prod into the home pen, but it does not have batteries then advisors can teach producers how to answer questions at an auditor.

- 1) Display the electric prod to the advisor/auditor
- 2) Script as follows “I carry a sorting board and an electric prod, I use the prod unenergized unless _____” (scenario). You can see I don’t have my hand on the button to energize”.
- 3) If they do tap a pig and it vocalizes, tell the producer to be prepared to say “I energized the prod” or “I did not energize the prod” to the advisor or auditor.
- 4) Realizing that animal handling activities might be happening quickly and it might be hard to say these things at the time; just trying to think through scenarios in which everyone can communicate and Advisors/Auditors can document.

16) Under tab 3 slide 67 it notes “movement records are just as important as treatment records and should be maintained for three years” Why is this?

The animal movement records retention policy of 3 years was a requirement set forth by the Pork Industry Animal Identification Working Group and is consistent with the Code of Federal Regulations movement records retention requirement. This portion of the CFR refers to animal identification and records retention related to disease traceability.

17) Can county fairgrounds be PQA Plus site assessed?

Country fair grounds are not typically site assessed as that is where the animals are housed for a short period of time. Almost all swine exhibitions, including country fairs (and packers) require youth entering pigs in the fair to be Youth PQA certified – which covers the main points within the adult program such as withdrawal times, medication and treatment records etc., Youth PQA does not have a site assessment component. Packers buying pigs from country fairs understand as part of their agreement with the fair organizations that the fairgrounds itself does not have site status, but the pigs coming from youth are certified in the Youth PQA program.

18) Will my partner(s) in my clinic be able to fill a VFD order in my absence?

No; One vet - One client - One VCPR. The clinic does not hold the VCPR.

19) What is there is feed left in the bins after January 1st, 2017?

There will need to be a VFD for this feed, even though it was delivered prior to Jan 1, 2017.