



Over 130 Years Of Providing The Humane Touch™

Guidelines For Swine Standards

2008 Guidelines: Swine Standards

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PREFACE

The American Humane Certified™ Program

Over 130 Years Of Providing The Humane Touch™

The American Humane Association has long recognized the tremendous connection we each share as living beings. And, beginning in 1877, we set out on a mission to raise the awareness and importance of welfare for both children and animals, becoming the first organization in America to champion the causes. Right from the start, we became the first and foremost advocate for farm animal welfare – including our early work with the Chicago Stockyards as well as our valiant efforts during World War I in rescuing animals on the battlefield through our Red Star Program.

Today, this proud heritage of animal welfare has grown to include American Humane Certified™, a revolutionary, science-based farm animal welfare program built around the most comprehensive set of standards and audits ever created. It is a program that has been developed by respected leaders within the scientific and agriculture communities. And it's all founded on the belief that humane welfare standards contribute to healthy, stress-free farm animals.

The American Humane Certified™ program continues to work with producers, veterinarians, animal research experts and handlers to ensure that new technology and knowledge are shared and best practices are adopted. American Humane Certified™ producers take pride in being a part of the original and most effective animal welfare certification program available – the program that is truly good for animals, good for people, good for business.

INTRODUCTION

The Certification Process

Licensing

Before products may claim to be American Humane Certified, producers must become licensed to use the American Humane Certified name and logo. Producers stipulate and verify that all animal products that use the American Humane Certified name and label on their product packaging and promotional materials have come from American Humane Certified farms.

Registration

When applying for certification, each farm provides accurate information regarding management, the number of swine and their physical environment. Farms provide the physical address along with the name of the farm manager and detailed phone/email contact information. Farms report annual number of sows, births, and hogs finished along with monthly lbs of hogs sold. The American Humane Certified program keeps record of each farm's animal housing system information. Farms provide source information for replacement animals as well as the name of the animal welfare trained transport agent used when swine are moved from the farm for any reason. Farms report the name of their marketing or producer group and any other quality assurance programs to which they belong. The farms also report any issues arising during the year that are cause for animal welfare action, bio-security and health related events.

Certification and Verification

In order to be American Humane Certified™ each farm, and processing plant is audited by a trained, independent auditor to ensure compliance with the program standards. Farms are reassessed and certified annually to ensure that humane husbandry is practiced daily and is a part of the overall farm management plan.

Management

A high degree of caring and responsible management and stockmanship is vital to ensure good animal welfare. Managers are thoroughly trained, skilled and competent in animal husbandry and welfare, and have a good working knowledge of their system and the livestock under their care. A predictable daily management routine is provided to animals. Managers ensure that all caretakers have a copy of the *American Humane Certified™ Standards Checklist for Swine* and that all staff members are familiar with, and understand its content. A whistle blower policy is in place to protect employees who report animal welfare issues. Managers and caretakers have access to an Animal Welfare Incident Report and are trained to fill it out when issues of animal welfare are brought forward.

Standard Operating Procedure Documentation (SOP's)

Comprehensive written instructions relating to daily, weekly and monthly activities are available for all personnel. SOPs and training materials are available in bilingual form as necessary. The SOPs include:

- A training program for humane care and treatment of swine that includes regular updates and opportunities for continuing professional development.
- An Emergency Execution plan that includes procedures to cope with events such as fire, flood, and interruption of supplies.
- Emergency Action Board posted near a telephone with procedures to be followed by those discovering an emergency such as fire, flood or power failure.
- An Animal Health Plan that has been implemented, is regularly updated and where required health data is recorded appropriately.
- Production data including documentation of incoming and outgoing stock and medication records with types and quantities of medications used.
- A transport plan that outlines identification of animals and transportation procedures. This plan includes procedures that minimize waiting and regrouping times.
- An Emergency Euthanasia Plan for casualty animals.
- An up-to-date Bio-Security Plan.
- Local, state and federal regulations.

Restricted Access

Management ensures that the animals are protected from outside threats of disease by instituting a restricted access policy. Farm visitors are limited. The premises are fenced and gated so that all approved visitors check in and are escorted to the areas in which they need access. A visitors' log is maintained that records the date, time and reason for visits. Showers and clean clothing are available for visitors' use to prevent the risk of disease. Footbaths are used or disposable boots are provided. A "clean to dirty" work regime is followed.

Caretakers

Caretakers understand the times and circumstances in which swine on their unit are prone to welfare problems and are able to demonstrate their competence in recognizing and handling these problems. Prior to being given responsibility for the welfare of livestock, managers and handlers are properly trained to:

- Recognize normal behavior, abnormal behavior and fear;
- Recognize signs of common diseases, understand their prevention and control, and know when to seek veterinary assistance;
- Have a have a basic knowledge of what constitutes proper nutrition in swine;
- Have basic knowledge of body condition scoring;
- Understand functional anatomy of the normal foot, its care and treatment;
- Have knowledge of farrowing and the care of the newborn piglet;
- Have knowledge of humane methods of handling and loading.

Caretakers are able to demonstrate competence in handling animals in a positive and compassionate manner. Caretakers are able to demonstrate their proficiency in procedures that have potential to cause suffering (e.g., injections, clipping the tips of incisor teeth, tail docking, ear notching and castration).

Handling

Swine are frequently and considerately handled by the caretakers, in order to reduce fear and improve welfare and management in general terms. Swine are handled quietly and firmly, with care to avoid unnecessary pain or distress. They are not pulled or dragged by the tail, ears or limbs. Electric prods are not used except where animal and human safety is in jeopardy and is the means of last resort. Paddles and sorting boards are used in an

appropriate manner. Swine have water up to the point of transport. Food is withdrawn at least 4 hours before loading onto transport to prevent vomiting during transit, but fasting must not exceed 18 hours prior to slaughter.

Identification

Where it is necessary to mark swine for permanent identification, ear notching, ear tagging, slap marking and tattooing are performed. A trained, competent caretaker, using properly maintained instruments, carries out these operations. Ear notching is done before piglets are 5 days of age.

Equipment

Where equipment is installed which affects animal welfare, caretakers are able to demonstrate an ability to operate the equipment and demonstrate the ability to carry out routine maintenance. Caretakers are able to recognize common signs of equipment malfunction and demonstrate knowledge of action to be carried out in event of a failure. All equipment and protective gear is OSHA approved. All automatic equipment is thoroughly inspected by a caretaker, or other competent person, not less than once each day to check that there are no defects. Where a defect is found in the automatic equipment: the defect is rectified immediately; or if this is impracticable, such measures are immediately taken and maintained until the defect is rectified to safeguard the livestock from suffering unnecessary pain or distress as a result of the defect. Where the automatic equipment includes a ventilation system, the system contains an alarm which will give adequate warning of the failure and will operate even if the principal electricity supply to it has failed. There is backup equipment or means of ventilation whether automatic or not which, in the event of such a failure of the main system, provides adequate ventilation and prevents the livestock from suffering unnecessary distress as a result of the failure.

Inspection

Caretakers inspect their livestock and the equipment upon which the livestock depend every day. Records of the observations are kept along with the actions taken when defects are found.

Food and Water

Livestock have freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition by providing ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and promote a positive state of well-being. Feed and water is distributed in such a way that livestock can eat and drink without undue competition.

Food

Feeders and waterers are checked twice daily to be sure they are functional. Feeders and waterers allow easy access by swine with minimal waste of feed. Feeders or feeding places are free from manure, urine, and other contaminants. Swine are fed to meet or exceed nutrient requirements as determined by the latest NRC guidelines or they are fed an approved diet developed by a swine nutritionist. Swine are fed a wholesome diet which is appropriate to their age and breed type and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity to maintain them in good health, and to satisfy their nutritional needs. Swine have access to food each day, except when the attending swine veterinarian requires withholding of feed. Producers maintain written records of the nutrient content of compound feeds and feed supplements used in each production unit. No feedstuffs containing mammalian derived protein are used, with the exception of milk and milk products. Sub-therapeutic antibiotics are not used. Antibiotics are only used for disease treatment for individual swine. The dosage and duration of drug administration is in strict adherence to labeled indications or as per a veterinary prescription. Sows are fed so that their body condition is likely to sustain full health and normal reproductive capacity over their maximum foreseeable life span. Body condition change in sows is carefully planned and maintained according to the stage of production cycle. 0% of the herd has a body condition score (BSC) less than 2 graded on a 5 point scale. Efforts are made to avoid sudden changes in the type and quantity of food. Facilities permitting, producers are encouraged to provide sows with a foraging substrate or suitable substitute to allow the animals to fulfill their drive to express oral/facial behaviors. Sows are fed in ways that avoid bullying. Swine are fed from the floor as long as the surface is dry and clean and individual feed consumption is not limited by social competition. For ration feeding swine in a trough, there is enough feeding space (1.1 times shoulder width) for all swine to feed simultaneously. A feed place is described as space required by a single swine while eating. For ad lib feeding there are no more than:

- 6 head per feeding place when using a dry feeder with no full head barriers between each feeding place.
- 10 head per feeding place where there are full head barriers.
- 14 head per feeding place where there is the opportunity to mix water with the feed (wet and dry feeders).

If wet feeding of sows indoors is employed, head and shoulder barriers are erected between each feeding place. Where swine are not fed on the ground or floor, the feeders are kept clean. In order to reduce contamination by bird feces and vermin, all feed hoppers/bins used for storage are covered. The standard operating procedure is to wean pigs at 21 days of age or older. This standard is met for each litter and is not considered an average. Piglets weaned before 21 days are under a plan devised and directed by a swine veterinarian.

Water

All swine have continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water each day, except when required by the attending veterinarian. One drinking place is provided per 10 head or at manufacturer's recommendation. A drinking place is defined as the space required by a single head while drinking. Special care is taken to ensure that waterers are adjusted (height and flow rate) to ensure that water is accessible for every head. Where wet and dry feeders are used, adequate access to both feed and water is available for all piglets. An additional drinker is supplied in the pen. Waterers are kept clean. If nipple waterers are used they are regularly checked to see that they are working and not clogged. Waterers used by lactating sows have a minimum flow rate of 750 ml per minute, or .75 qts./minute. Provisions are made to ensure an emergency supply of suitable drinking water in case normal supplies fail, e.g., freezing, drought, etc.

Environment

The environment in which livestock are kept takes into account their welfare needs and is designed to protect them from physical and thermal discomfort, fear and distress, and allows them to perform their natural behavior.

Bio-security

Bio-security means reducing the risk of disease occurring or spreading to other animals. A bio-security plan is developed, implemented and updated regularly. Records are kept of all swine brought onto the site and the bio-security measures taken. Good bio-security can be obtained through:

- good management/husbandry;
- good hygiene;
- reducing stress on the herd;
- effective disease control systems such as vaccination and worming programs.

Bio-security results in:

- farm units being more secure from the introduction of new infectious diseases; and
- the spread of any diseases on the unit itself being kept to a minimum.

Livestock are moved carefully onto the farm, and within the farm (particularly if the farm is on more than one site), to reduce the chance of a major outbreak of disease. Animals are transported in vehicles that have been properly cleansed and disinfected. Vendors provide information on the health of the swine, such as routine vaccination and worming procedures, so that their suitability for the herd can be assessed and where necessary, appropriate treatments and vaccinations administered. Isolation facilities are available to isolate and observe/test new animals for a suitable period when they arrive and before they join the rest of the herd. Hired boars are only used when no alternative is available. The potential disease status of the hired boar is carefully considered prior to its introduction in consultation with the herd veterinarian.

Buildings

For all accommodations, the key points relating to welfare are recorded in the farm log book or on the farm site plan. If practical this is displayed at or near to the entrance to each building and is amended regularly. This includes: total floor area and the maximum number of head in relation to age, weight, feeding/drinking, and bedding space permissible in the facility to meet the AHC standards. There are no physical features of the indoor or outdoor environment that cause recurring injuries to swine. Injury is defined as damaged severe enough for the formation of granular scar tissue and to an extent significantly greater than would be in accidental bumps and scratches. The interior of any building, including the floor and all internal fixtures and surfaces to which livestock have access is designed, constructed, maintained, and regularly inspected to ensure that there are no sharp edges or protrusions likely to cause injury or distress to the animal. Except where preservatives with an insecticidal role are used, swine do not come into contact with toxic fumes or surfaces from paint, wood preservatives or disinfectants. All electrical installations are inaccessible to swine, well insulated, safeguarded from rodents, properly grounded and tested at least annually. Internal surfaces of housing and pens are made of materials which can be readily cleaned and disinfected or be easily replaced when necessary. FDA approved cleaning products and compounds are used per manufacturer's instructions. All cleaning products are labeled and stored away from animals and feed. Urine and dung are disposed appropriately.

Thermal Environment & Ventilation

The thermal environment is not so hot or so cold as to significantly affect production or cause distress.

Recommended thermal conditions for swine are:

Weight		Temperature Range	
Lbs	Kg	°F	°C
7-33	3-15	79-90	26-32
33-77	15-35	64-79	18-26
77-154	35-70	59-77	15-25
154-220	70-100	50-77	10-25
>220	>100	50-77	10-25
Nursing sow		59-79	15-26
Litter		90	32

Effective ventilation of buildings to avoid high humidity, condensation and drafts is essential as swine can be susceptible to respiratory diseases. Properly designed ventilation permits the free circulation of air above swine height and avoid drafts at swine level. Provisions are made to ensure that, when swine are housed, aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer, as specified by OSHA regulation. *Inhalable dust does not exceed 10mg/m3 (PM 10 or less) and ammonia does not exceed 25ppm (averaged over an 8-hour period).* For summer conditions, provisions are made to protect swine from heat stress. Wallows, shade, evaporative coolers, drippers, cooling mats, misters and fans are provided as necessary. For winter conditions, provisions are made to protect swine from cold stress. Heaters are used in properly equipped buildings and/or bedding.

Lying Areas/Floors

Swine kept indoors are kept on either slatted or solid flooring and have access to a dry clean lying area at all times. It is of sufficient size to accommodate all head together lying on their sides. In service pens, the whole floor area is kept dry or sufficient bedding provided to give an adequate grip during service. The pens are large enough to allow courtship and mating.

Space Allowances

Swine are always provided with a total floor space no less than 1.5 times the thermo-neutral lying area. The minimum bedded space allowances for growing swine are as follows:

Live weight		Lying area		Total area	
(kg)	(lbs)	(m2)	(ft2)	(m2)	(ft2)
10	22	0.10	1.1	0.15	1.6
20	44	0.15	1.6	0.22	2.4
30	66	0.20	2.2	0.30	3.2
40	88	0.26	2.8	0.40	4.3
50	110	0.31	3.3	0.47	5.0
60	132	0.36	3.9	0.55	5.9
70	154	0.41	4.4	0.61	6.6
80	176	0.45	4.8	0.67	7.2
90	198	0.47	5.0	0.71	7.6
100	220	0.50	5.4	0.75	8.1

Gestating sows are provided with a minimum of 20 square feet of floor space per animal. Adult boar pens are large enough to enable animals to turn around easily and lie fully stretched. Service pens are large enough to allow for the complete expression of courtship behavior. Extra space is provided to allow swine to lie apart in hot conditions, together with systems of ventilation or other heat remediation (drippers, misters, cooling mats, evaporative coolers, wallows) to maintain the swine's temperatures below upper critical levels. The market hog is free to turn around and lie down at will without difficulty at all times. Tethers are not used. Gestating sows are free to turn around and lie down at will without difficulty at all times. American Humane recognizes that there is a

high risk of abortion in the sow during first few weeks of a pregnancy. Restraint in individual pens is used for a short period of time if it is paramount to the health of the animal. Breeding pens are used only during the first 35 days of pregnancy, referred to as “the breeding period.” Swine are not closely confined or restrained except in the following circumstances, and even then only for the shortest period of time necessary: for the duration of any examination, routine test, blood sampling, treatment or operation carried out for veterinary purposes; while animals are being fed; for the purpose of marking, washing or weighing; while accommodation is being cleaned; during artificial insemination; or while swine are awaiting loading for transportation. Swine are kept in small stable groups where subdivision is permissible or large dynamic groups where the large number of animals minimizes the untoward effects of the pig’s inherent social hierarchy. Where sows and gilts are kept indoors, aggressiveness can present a severe problem and in this situation, gilts and sows housed separately. Facilities in which animals can feed without undue interference from other animals are provided. If swine have fought to the extent that injury has resulted, a plan is devised, written in the Veterinary Health Plan (see H1) and implemented to change environmental factors in order to prevent further injury. Environmental enrichment, reduction in stocking density or changes in feeding regime is used to prevent injury due to fighting. Particular care is taken with sows and gilts kept in groups.

Farrowing Systems

American Humane Certified recognizes that the greatest risk of death for a pig is during the first several days of its life and all management efforts are focused on the survival of the baby piglet. In some instances, the well being of the piglet takes precedent over the welfare of the sow. Thus, all established farrowing systems such as the farrowing crate, turn-around crate, sloped farrowing pen and outdoor pastures with huts that address this objective are used. Farrowing pens are at least 5 x 7 ft. (1.5 x 2.1m). Producers allow unrestrained sow-piglet interactions as the piglets mature if it can be accomplished without putting the piglets at risk for injury or death. If the farrowing system allows the use of bedding, extra precautions are taken to ensure proper sanitation during lactation and between lactations. Sows are settled into clean, comfortable farrowing facilities before the piglets are due to be born. Caretakers must be experienced and competent in the techniques of farrowing. Farrowing facilities have a temperature suitable for piglets maintained by supplementary heating. Temperatures suitable for both sows and piglets are provided with heat lamps, heat pads or other auxiliary heat sources.

Environmental Enrichment

Facilities permitting, swine have access to straw or other suitable media such as wood chips or sawdust for the expression of rooting, pawing, mouthing and chewing behavior or balls and hanging chains. Animals expressing stereotypical or abnormal behaviors such as tail, flank, ear or vulva biting are removed from the pen and housed individually to insure the safety and welfare of the other animals. Each such incident is recorded with the action taken in the farm logbook. If abnormal behaviors develop repeatedly in any particular pen a program of modification and enrichment is devised with the veterinarian and the American Humane Certified Assessor, implemented promptly, and pursued until the problem is overcome. Pens are not sited or constructed in such a way as to isolate any head from the sight, sound or odor (except for quarantine) of other swine. Sick or injured swine are isolated temporarily for treatment or consultation with the veterinarian.

Lighting

Where swine are housed, adequate lighting, whether fixed or portable, is available to enable them to be thoroughly inspected at any time. Housed animals have access for the normal period of daylight hours to an area designed to be lit to a level of at least 50 lux at eye level (50 lux is bright enough to allow a person of normal eyesight to read standard newsprint without difficulty).

Outdoor Housing

For swine kept outdoors extensively during winter, a windproof and waterproof shelter is accessible which has sufficient space to provide a lying area for all and a sufficient supply of dry bedding material. For summer conditions, a shaded area is accessible which has sufficient space to allow all animals to lie down simultaneously and to lie apart from each other if they wish. Wallows, drips or sprinklers are provided and are considered part of the cooling system. Local and state environmental regulations help determine location of outdoor units and animal stocking densities.

Pest Control

Animals are protected from disease spread by the presence of pests. Rodent traps are placed away from animals and their locations noted. Traps are checked regularly. Ventilation ducts and windows are covered with suitable netting to prevent wild birds from entering buildings. Practical measures are taken to prevent or control infestation of insects and flies.

Health

Livestock is protected from pain, injury and disease. The environment in which livestock are housed is conducive to good health. All AHC producers develop a health plan in consultation with their veterinarian.

Animal Health Plan

All units have a written Animal Health Plan (AHP) that is regularly updated through the veterinarian-client-patient-relationship (VCPR). All units enroll in trichinae and toxoplasmosis certified health status as it becomes available and are certified as pseudorabies and brucellosis-free. All sudden deaths, disease outbreaks, and swine humanely killed as unfit, are recorded and reported to the veterinarian, investigated appropriately, and the outcome/action recorded. Herd performance data is continuously monitored for signs of disease or production disorders. If any herd performance parameters fall below the tolerance limits identified in the Animal Health Plan, the veterinarian is informed and the AHP revised to try to remedy the problem. Replacement animals brought in from other sources are quarantined and/or appropriately treated before integration. Animals test negative for Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), brucellosis, and pseudorabies. The national eradication programs for brucellosis and pseudorabies are followed. Provisions are made for the segregation and care of sick and injured animals. Any injured, ailing or distressed animal is segregated, treated without delay and veterinary advice sought when needed. If necessary, such animals are humanely killed according to NPB Euthanasia Guide. Urine and dung from hospital pens for sick and injured animals is disposed of separately without the risk of spreading infection to other stock. Pens are constructed to facilitate effective cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and the possible removal of a carcass from the pen. If abnormal behavioral activities develop repeatedly in any particular pen, a program of modification and enrichment are devised together with the attending veterinarian and pursued until the problem is overcome. All federal and state health and disease monitoring regulations are followed. All practical measures are taken to prevent or control external and internal parasitic infestation. Close attention is given to the condition of the feet, which must be regularly inspected for signs of abnormal wear, excessive growth or infection. An action plan for dealing with lameness and foot problems is included in the Animal Health Plan.

Husbandry Procedures

Potentially injurious husbandry practices comply with the following recommended American Humane Certified procedures except those done for therapeutic reasons by a veterinarian:

- Needle teeth of newborn piglets are trimmed within the first 48 hours of life, or in the case of weak or sick piglets, within 3 days of birth. Needle teeth trimming is carried out by a trained and competent person. No more than the first third of the tooth is removed.
- Ear notching, ear tagging, slapmarking, and tattooing are performed as necessary. Ear notching is done within the first five days after birth.
- Tail docking is performed as necessary. Tail docking is against the principles of the American Humane Certified™ Standards. However, at the present time it is accepted that it may be necessary to alleviate the pain and suffering caused by tail biting. As soon as enough information is available regarding husbandry methods which prevent tail-biting outbreaks, the practice of tail docking for preventative reasons will not be permitted within the American Humane Certified™ Program.
- Castration of piglets is done before piglets are 7 days of age. A trained and competent person using sanitized equipment performs castration.
- The trimming of tusks in boars is undertaken by the attending veterinarian, or other competent person, in order to ensure the safeguarding of other animals and the caretakers from injury.
- Only septum nose rings are inserted with sows if, by this practice, they are provided life in an outdoor area with vegetative ground cover. Septum rings are only inserted once.

All of these practices are performed in a way which minimizes suffering and by trained and competent caretakers.

Euthanasia and Casualty Animals

Each farm has provisions for humane slaughter or euthanasia without delay, of casualties, either by on-farm methods carried out by a named, trained, competent staff member, or a licensed veterinarian. Acceptable procedures are those listed in the NPB Euthanasia Guide; these procedures are posted in each building that houses animals. If there is any doubt as to how to proceed regarding illness or injury, the attending swine veterinarian is called at an early stage to advise whether treatment is possible or whether humane euthanasia is required to prevent suffering. If an animal is in severe pain that is uncontrollable, then the animal is promptly and humanely euthanized. All carcasses are disposed of through a USDA inspected facility or a state licensed rendering facility or are buried or burned. Records are kept of the name of the outlets through which all such carcasses are disposed, unless they are disposed of on farm. All local, state and federal environmental regulations are followed for on farm burial.

Handling and Transport

Handling and Transport of Downed Swine

If a hog goes down in transport and cannot be successfully treated, it is humanely euthanized on the spot or at the medical facility as per American Humane Certified standards. The transportation and treatment of the hog is documented in the health care records in the American Humane Certified farm manual. Live animals are not suspended by mechanical means, nor lifted nor dragged by the head, legs or tail. Handlers do not use excessive force to control animals. Handlers do not use any instrument which is capable of inflicting an electric shock to control any animal; or use a stick, goad or other instrument or thing to hit or prod any pig. Paddles and boards are permissible. Nothing in this provision prevents the suspension by mechanical means of a receptacle in which an animal is being carried.

Loading of Hogs

Transportation vehicles are clean before loading and disinfected after unloading. Swine are loaded and unloaded using suitable ramps, bridges, and gangways operated to prevent injury or unnecessary suffering to any animal. Flooring of loading equipment is constructed to prevent slipping. Ramps, bridges, gangways and loading platforms have protection on each side that is of sufficient strength, length and height to prevent any animal from falling or escaping; and is positioned so that it will not result in injury. A hog is loaded or unloaded by means of manual lifting or carrying if the animal is of a size that it can easily be lifted by not more than two persons, and the operation is carried out without causing injury or unnecessary suffering to the animal. Managers have the facilities on-farm to load and unload swine onto and from a vehicle, with as little stress as possible. Stock-keepers know behavior characteristics and how to handle hogs during loading and unloading, including using visual fields (i.e. swine have a good field of vision but with certain breeds the ears may restrict their vision and may create a blind spot behind them, which handlers should avoid entering) and flight zones (an imaginary area which if handlers enter will make the animal want to move away. Handlers control an animal's movement by understanding the flight zone), understanding that pigs are less inclined to follow each other; understanding that pigs have good hearing and a refined sense of smell; lighting (as swine prefer to move from the dark into the light); and when/how to use such things as paddles and boards.

Slaughter and Trucking

American Humane Association, American Humane Certified program adheres to the Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide published by the American Meat Institute Foundation for humane slaughtering and processing practices including trucking. Auditors and producers have a current copy of the Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide and are familiar with its content.

Exit Interview

Any identified welfare issues are discussed in the exit interview by the manager and auditor. Welfare concerns are described in a **Non-Conformance Report** which is signed by both the manager and auditor. All issues agreed upon at the exit interview must be corrected.

A **Correction Action Plan** is submitted to American Humane within 7 days of the Non-Conformance Report date. The Correction Action Plan describes the items identified through the audit process and the corrective actions that will be taken by the producer.

The Corrective Action Plan is completed within 90 days and a **Corrective Action Completion** form is submitted with supporting documentation. Producers are subject to a re-audit at the discretion of American Humane Certified after plan completion. Variances are permitted through submission to American Humane Certified and upon approval. Producers are encouraged to report to American Humane Certified on their progress on corrective actions throughout the correction period.

AHC farms are expected to maintain high welfare standards throughout the term of their certification. If it is determined after an audit that an AHC farm has fallen out of compliance the farm is immediately suspended from the program. Suspended farms are asked to verify correction of the practices and undergo complete re-assessment process before being reinstated.

American Humane Certified reserves the right to perform spot checks at anytime during the certification period.