

*All the feed, the labor, the time invested in raising hogs has come down to this moment. Knowing how to load market hogs will determine farm profits, meat quality, and will keep you and the hogs safe in the process.*



Market hogs are safer to handle if they are used to seeing handlers on a regular basis and have experience moving calmly around them.

Some hogs will need to be isolated from the herd for treatment. Move calmly, use a sort board, and use caution moving heavy gates.

Obstacles in the hallway may cause hogs to spook or balk. Prepare the hallway before movement begins to keep you and the hogs safe.

Pay attention to the behavior of the herd. By respecting the hogs' flight zone we can keep hogs calm and responsive and safe to handle.

Move market hogs in small groups of 3 to 5. This size herd is manageable for the handler and less stressful for the hogs.



Moving hogs at a calm, steady pace will result in faster load times than if you hurry them to the truck. Use pressure wisely to keep pigs moving.

Stressed hogs will freeze, flee, or fight. They may pant, develop blotchy skin, or tremble. Severe stress may lead to non-ambulatory hogs that may require euthanasia.

Calmly move stressed hogs to a quiet location away from other hogs where they can relax and recover. Hogs that have been stressed are more sensitive to future stressors.

Anticipate pigs balking or turning around at the ramp up to the trailer. Find a balanced, bentkneed position and keep the sort board between you and the pig.

The trailer should be properly prepared and weatherized prior to loading. Stow equipment and secure doors. Don't overcrowd pigs and account for weather conditions.