



Take the employee into the barn and explain the importance of daily interaction with market hogs.

- Walk the pens to make hogs comfortable around handlers.



Take the employee into the barn and demonstrate how to move hogs in need of extra care.

- Use of a sorting board is necessary to remove an animal from a pen.
- Use of sorting a board will help reduce change of handler injury.
- Sorting larger hogs is safer with two people.



Show the employee how to properly prepare the path of movement when moving hogs onto a trailer.

- Clear all potential obstacles and distractions.
- Secure all gates and close all doors.
- As necessary, apply a drying agent to the floor to prevent slipping.



Have the employee approach a herd of hogs and note at what point the herd begins to move away. Discuss how this point represents the limits of the flight zone.

- The hog wants to keep a safe distance between itself and the handler.
- The point that the hog moves away from the handler determines the edge of the flight zone.
- The size of the hog's flight zone is dependent on the hog's comfort level with the handler.



Have the employee observe sorting and moving hogs

- Moving groups of three to five is safer, less stressful and more efficient than larger groups.



Explain to the employee the importance of minimal stress on a market hog.

- Low stress handling keeps the hogs moving steadily and efficiently.
- Low stress handling improves the quality of meat to be harvested.
- Low stress handling reduces the chance of employee injuries.



Explain to the employee how to identify a hog that is stressed.

- Stressed pigs will seem exhausted and may be breathing heavily with an open mouth.
- Stressed pigs will have an increased heart rate and body temperature.
- Stressed pigs will walk stiffly with skin that appears blotchy due to erratic blood flow.



Explain to the employee how to treat a hog exhibiting signs of stress.

- Quietly and calmly move a stressed hog to a separate location, away from other hogs.



Show the employee a safe stance when loading market hogs onto the trailer.

- Hold the sort board between yourself and the market hog.
- Keep your knees slightly bent to allow for give.
- Stand with your feet under your shoulders for balance.



For employees that enter trailers, take the employee onto a trailer (be sure to wear hard hats) and show them what to look for to ensure safe transport of market hogs.

- Non-slip, solid flooring and fully functioning, internal ramps that extend to the floor are required.
- All gating and doors should open and close freely and be able to be shut securely.