



Take employee into farrowing barn and demonstrate positive interaction with the sows.

- Walk the room calmly and quietly.
- Check the feeder and waterer.
- Enter an individual stall safely and calmly.



Show the employee how to properly prepare the path of movement when moving sows from the farrowing barn to the gestation barn.

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



Explain to the employee the dangers of not having the path of movement properly prepared.

- Items propped against walls could fall and hit the sows
- Debris on the floor could cause the sows to trip or slip.
- Distractions can cause sows to stop along the path and create a bottleneck.



Explain the advantages and disadvantages of weaning the piglets before the sow.

- There is less room for the piglets to run, making them easier to catch.
- The handler must be cautious of the sow's protective instincts.



Explain the advantages and disadvantages of weaning the sow before the piglets.

- Chance of sow biting or stepping on handler is eliminated.
- There is more room for the piglets to run, making them more difficult to catch.
- Employees must be cautious as a sow enters an alley or hallway as she may seek to return to her litter.



Take employee into farrowing barn and demonstrate patience in moving a sow.

- Allow the sow to move at her own pace.
- Give ample time for the sow to explore her surroundings and interact with her neighbors.



Take employee into the hallway and show a manageable number of sows to move at one time.

- Smaller groups will allow for the most efficient movement of sows.
- Older sows will help lead younger sows who are unfamiliar with the process.



Take employee into the gestation barn and show how to safely guide a sow into a stall.

- Use a sorting board to maintain steady, light pressure when moving the sows in small groups.
- Older sows will help lead younger sows who are unfamiliar with the process.
- Be aware of coworkers and never push a sow into another person.



Take the employee into the gestation barn and demonstrate constant, gentle pressure to move sows into stalls.

- Younger sows will be reluctant to enter into the gestation stall.
- When the handler remains calm and patient, the sow will be calmer and less likely to become excited and difficult to move.



Take the employee to a gestation stall and demonstrate the proper way to secure all gates and latches.

- Unsecured latches may allow a sow to backup and exit her stall.
- Loose gates could be knocked open into employee legs causing injury.