

## 1. HOUSING AND HANDLING FACILITIES

### 1.1 Housing Systems

- ▶ Housing systems and their components must be designed, constructed and regularly inspected and maintained in a manner that reduces the potential for injury, provides suitable temperatures (refer to table 1.1), fresh air, and clean conditions, and allows for inspection of all pigs.
- ▶ Emergency plans must be developed to ensure that alternative means of temperature regulation, ventilation, feeding, and watering of pigs are available in the event of a power failure, mechanical breakdown, or other emergency situation.
- ▶ Pigs must not be tethered as part of their normal housing systems.

#### 1.1.2 Gestating Gilts and Sows

- ▶ For all holdings newly built or rebuilt or brought into use for the first time after July 1, 2014, mated gilts and sows must be housed in groups. Individual stalls may be used for up to 28 days after the date of last breeding and an additional period of up to 7 days is permitted to manage grouping. Time in stalls can only be extended to protect the welfare of individual sows on the advice of a competent stockperson.
- ▶ All new installations and replacements of existing individual stalls that occur after July 1, 2014, must be sized appropriately to allow sows to:
  - stand up at rest in a stall without simultaneously touching both sides of the stall
  - lie down without their udders protruding into adjacent stalls
  - stand up without touching the top bars
  - stand in a stall without simultaneously touching both ends of the stall.
- ▶ As of July 1, 2024, mated gilts and sows must be housed:
  - in groups\*; or
  - in individual pens; or
  - in stalls, if they are provided with the opportunity to turn around or exercise periodically, or other means that allow greater freedom of movement. Suitable options will be clarified by the participating stakeholders by July 1, 2019, as informed by scientific evidence.

\* If housed in groups, individual stalls may be used for up to 28 days after the date of last breeding, and an additional period of up to 7 days is permitted to manage grouping

#### 1.1.3 Nursing Sows with Piglets

- ▶ The length of a farrowing crate must allow the sow enough room to move forward and backward, and to lie down unhindered by a raised trough or rear gate.
- ▶ When standing in a normal position in a farrowing crate, the sow must not touch both sides of the crate (not including anti-crush rails) simultaneously, and her back must not touch any bars along the top.
- ▶ Sows must not be kept in farrowing crates for more than 6 weeks in any one reproductive cycle except in exceptional circumstances (e.g., when a sow is required to foster a second litter).
- ▶ The farrowing system must provide an area to which the piglets can retreat when the sow moves.

#### 1.1.6 Boars

- ▶ Boars must be able to stand, lie down, and adopt normal resting postures without undue interference.
- ▶ For all holdings newly built or brought into use for the first time after July 1, 2014, boars must be provided with sufficient space so that they can stand, turn around, and lie comfortably in a natural position.
- ▶ As of July 1, 2024, boars must be housed
  - in individual pens; or
  - in stalls, if they are provided with the opportunity to turn around or exercise periodically, or other means that allows greater freedom of movement. Suitable options will be clarified by the participating stakeholders by July 1, 2019, as informed by scientific evidence.

## 1.2 Space Allowances

### 1.2.1 Sow Space Allowances

- ▶ All group housed sows must be able to stand, move about and lie down without interference with each other in a way that compromises welfare, and space must be provided for separation of dunging from lying and eating areas.

### 1.2.2 Weaned/Grower/Finisher Pig Space Allowances

- ▶ Pigs must be housed at a space allowance of  $k \geq 0.0335$ . When a short-term decrease in space allowance is needed at the end of the production phase:
  - a decrease of up to 15% for nursery pigs and up to 10% for grower/finisher pigs is allowed
  - a decrease of up to 20% for nursery pigs and up to 15% for grower/finisher pigs is allowed only if it is demonstrated that the higher densities do not compromise the welfare of the animals as determined by average daily gain, mortality, morbidity and treatment records, as well as the absence of or no increase in vices such as tail-biting.

## 1.3 Facilities for Sick and Injured Pigs

- ▶ Every pig production facility must have the ability to segregate sick or injured pigs in a separate area where the necessary treatment can be administered.

## 1.4 Environmental Management: Temperature, Ventilation and Air Quality

- ▶ Environmental control systems must be designed, constructed and maintained in a manner that allows for temperatures, fresh air, and hygienic conditions that promote health and welfare for pigs.
- ▶ Newborn piglets must be housed at temperatures that will assist them to reach and maintain normal body temperatures.
- ▶ Reasonable steps must be taken to help prevent and manage housed pigs from becoming overheated or cold stressed.

## 1.5 Lighting

- ▶ Sufficient lighting must be available to permit thorough inspection of pigs and facilities at any time, and for normal husbandry practices.
- ▶ A minimum of 50 lux of lighting (described as bright enough to allow a person of normal sight to read standard newspaper print) must be provided for a minimum of 8 hours per day.
- ▶ Pigs must have access to a darkened area (i.e., ~5 lux or less, with the exception of heat devices in farrowing areas and the first 48 hours for newly weaned pigs) for at least 6 consecutive hours per day (9).

## 1.6 Flooring and Bedding Management

- ▶ Flooring must be designed and maintained to minimize slipping.
- ▶ Flooring must be designed, constructed and maintained in a manner that does not cause injury or suffering to pigs standing or lying on them, and must contribute to pig comfort.
- ▶ Where bedding is provided, it must be clean, dry, and not harmful to the pigs.

## 1.7 Feeding/Watering Areas

- ▶ Feeders and waterers must be constructed, located, and maintained in a way that makes them available for use by all pigs in that area.

## 1.8 Enrichment

- ▶ Pigs must be provided with multiple forms of enrichment that aim to improve the welfare of the animals through the enhancement of their physical and social environments.

## 1.9 Outdoor Housing

- ▶ Nose rings must not be used.
- ▶ Pigs must have access to shelter that minimizes the effects of adverse weather and provides a dry resting area and shade.
- ▶ A protocol must be developed and implemented that protects pigs from parasites and predators.

## 2. FEED AND WATER

### 2.1 Nutrition and Feed Management

- ▶ Pigs must be provided with daily access to feed that maintains their health and meets their physiological requirements.
- ▶ Pigs must be fed a diet which is appropriate to their species, age, and production phase.
- ▶ Feed must be provided in such a way so as to prevent competition resulting in injury or excessive weight variation within the group.
- ▶ Corrective action must be taken if there is a significant reduction of feed intake.

#### 2.1.1 Nursing Piglets

- ▶ All piglets must have access to colostrum as soon as possible after birth, and within 12 hours.
- ▶ Piglets at risk of dying from inadequate nourishment must be cross-fostered, split suckled, hand-reared or euthanized. Refer to Section 6 Euthanasia.
- ▶ Creep feed must be provided to nursing piglets after 28 days of age to help maintain sow body condition.
- ▶ Supplemental iron must be administered to piglets reared indoors to prevent nutritional anemia.

#### 2.1.2 Newly Weaned Pigs: First Week

- ▶ All newly weaned pigs must have continuous access to fresh feed and feeder design must be appropriate for the size of the pigs.
- ▶ All newly weaned pigs must be observed frequently in the period following weaning to ensure that all are eating.

#### 2.1.5 Gestating and Farrowing Sows

- ▶ Sows must be fed daily to meet nutritional requirements.

#### 2.1.6 Lactating Sows

- ▶ Feeding strategies must be developed and followed to minimize sow condition loss and optimize milk production.

### 2.2 Body Condition Scoring for Breeding Stock

- ▶ Corrective action must be taken for animals at a BCS of less than 2 or more than 4 (see below).

### 2.3 Water

- ▶ All pigs must have continual access to a supply of palatable water that is not harmful to health and in sufficient quantity to meet the needs of the animals.
- ▶ Liquid feeding systems must be supplemented with a separate source of water that is palatable and safe.
- ▶ Water must be tested at least annually to ensure its suitability for the animals and corrective actions must be taken as necessary.
- ▶ A contingency plan to provide water in the event of an interruption or contamination of the supply of water to the animals must be established.

### 3. ANIMAL HEALTH

#### 3.2 Herd Health Management Program

- ▶ A working relationship with a licensed veterinarian (VCPR) must be established.
- ▶ A Herd Health Management Program must be developed in consultation with the herd veterinarian, and followed.

##### 3.2.1 Reportable/Notifiable Diseases

- ▶ A veterinarian must be advised of any suspected reportable disease.

#### 3.3 Sick and Injured Animals

- ▶ A standard operating procedure that details protocols for the identification, care, and humane treatment of sick or injured pigs must be developed and implemented.
- ▶ All pigs must be examined daily for sickness and/or injury.
- ▶ Pigs that are sick or injured must be monitored at a frequency appropriate to their conditions, and at least daily.
- ▶ Pigs that are sick, injured, in pain, or suffering must be promptly treated, or be euthanized, or if fit for human consumption, slaughtered on-farm. Refer to *Appendix J – Example Decision Tree for Euthanasia*.
- ▶ Behavioural problems (vices) such as tail-biting, belly nosing, sucking, aggression and fighting must be investigated to identify the possible environment, feed, management, or health factors causing the problem.

#### 3.4 Skills Related to Animal Health and Welfare

##### 3.4.1 Recognizing Sickness Behaviour

- ▶ Stockpersons must be knowledgeable of normal pig behaviour and signs of illness, injury and disease; or must work in conjunction with an experienced stockperson.

#### 3.5 On-Farm Strategy

- ▶ Surgical procedures (e.g., hernia repair, cryptorchidectomy) other than elective husbandry procedures (refer to Section 4.5) must be performed in consultation with a veterinarian and using appropriate anesthesia and analgesia. Major surgical procedures (e.g., caesarian section) must only be performed by a licensed veterinarian.
- ▶ Stockpersons who perform on-farm procedures must be competent in performing those procedures.

#### 3.6 Farrowing

- ▶ Sows must be observed frequently around their expected farrowing times.
- ▶ Upon discovering sows in farrowing difficulty, prompt assistance must be provided.
- ▶ Sows must be provided with continuous access to water post-farrowing.

#### 3.7 Newly Weaned Pigs

- ▶ Weaning procedures that minimize negative impacts on the health and welfare of the piglets must be developed and followed.

#### 3.8 Sanitation

- ▶ A sanitation protocol must be developed for each production area of the barn and followed at least annually.
- ▶ Manure must be removed and stored in a manner that promotes the health and welfare of the animals.

#### 3.10 Emergency and Safety

- ▶ Emergency plans must be developed to ensure that alternative means of temperature regulation, ventilation, feeding, and watering of pigs are available in the event of a power failure, mechanical breakdown, or other emergency situation.

## 4. HUSBANDRY PRACTICES

### 4.1 Handling, Moving, Restraining and Treating Animals

- ▶ Use humane moving devices when moving pigs (e.g., chase boards, shakers).
- ▶ Electric prods must only be used as a last resort and never as the primary driving device. When necessary, use of prods must be restricted to the back and hind quarters on lead pigs, but never used in the anal and genital areas, and only when there is a clear path for them to move forward.
- ▶ Electric prods must not be used in the finishing pen.
- ▶ Electric prods must not be used on piglets, nursery, distressed, sick or injured pigs (refer to Glossary for definition of distressed).
- ▶ Pigs must not be handled aggressively (e.g., kicked, walked on top of, picked up or suspended or pulled by one front leg, ears or tail).
- ▶ Pigs that become distressed during handling must be attended to immediately.
- ▶ Pigs must only be restrained for as long as necessary and only appropriate, well-maintained restraint devices must be used.

### 4.2 Stockmanship Skills Related to Animal Welfare

- ▶ Handlers must be competent in low-stress pig handling methods.

### 4.3 Mixing Pigs

- ▶ Strategies to minimize or eliminate aggression must be developed and followed.

### 4.4 Breeding

- ▶ Breeding practices must not cause injury or suffering to any of the animals.
- ▶ Boars housed in stalls must be provided with opportunities for exercise at least 4 times per week.
- ▶ Gilts must not be bred before achieving adequate body weight and condition, age, and maturity to ensure the health and welfare of the gilts and their litters.

### 4.5 Elective Husbandry Procedures

- ▶ Elective husbandry procedures must only be carried out by competent stockpersons.
- ▶ Properly maintained equipment must be used and hygienic conditions must be maintained.
- ▶ The need for all elective procedures and alternative options must be reviewed and evaluated regularly.

#### 4.5.1 Castration

- ▶ Castration performed after 10 days of age must be done with anesthetic and analgesic to help control pain.
- ▶ As of July 1, 2016, castration performed at any age must be done with analgesics to help control post-procedure pain.

#### 4.5.2 Identification

- ▶ Ear notching must only be performed on piglets when deemed necessary and when piglets are less than 14 days of age.

#### 4.5.3 Tail Docking and Tail-Biting

- ▶ Pigs must be routinely monitored for signs of tail-biting, and corrective action, as necessary, must be taken (e.g., assess possible contributing factors; remove tail-biter; add rooting and/or physical enrichment).
- ▶ Tail docking of pigs over 7 days of age must be done with pain control.
- ▶ As of July 1, 2016, tail-docking performed at any age must be done with analgesics to help control post-procedure pain.

#### 4.5.4 Teeth Clipping

- ▶ The need to clip piglets' teeth must be evaluated, and the procedure performed only when deemed necessary.

#### 4.5.5 Tusk Trimming

- ▶ The pulp cavity must be avoided during tusk trimming.

## 5. TRANSPORTATION

### 5.1 Pre-Transport Planning

- ▶ Pigs must be loaded, unloaded, handled, and transported by competent persons.
- ▶ Pigs that are incompatible must not be mixed.

#### 5.1.2 Preparing Newly Weaned Pigs for Transport

- ▶ The vehicle or container must be bedded with clean straw, shavings, or other bedding material to provide effective insulation and comfort and to prevent the newly weaned pigs from developing hypothermia or frostbite.

### 5.2 Fitness for Transport

- ▶ Unfit animals must not be loaded (28). Refer to *Appendix L – “Should this Pig be Loaded?” Decision Tree* for guidance for determining fitness.
- ▶ Compromised animals that are able to be transported under special provisions must be shipped directly to local slaughter, not through auction markets.
- ▶ Animals that cannot bear weight on all four legs must not be loaded; these animals will likely become non-ambulatory during transport.
- ▶ Fitness for transport in the context of each trip, including relevant factors such as the anticipated total trip duration from farm to final destination, and prevailing weather conditions, must be evaluated.

### 5.3 Handling During Loading or Unloading

- ▶ Pigs showing signs of distress prior to loading must not be loaded.

### 5.4 Loading/Unloading Facilities

- ▶ Loading and unloading facilities must be constructed with safe and secure footholds and must be maintained to facilitate ease of movement, and to prevent pigs from falling off, escaping or being injured.

## 6. EUTHANASIA

### 6.1 On-Farm Euthanasia Plans

- ▶ In consultation with a licensed veterinarian, an on-farm written euthanasia plan to facilitate timely on-farm euthanasia must be developed and followed.
- ▶ Individuals who euthanize pigs must be trained in the appropriate euthanasia methods. Refer to *Appendix N – Methods of Euthanasia*.

### 6.2 Decision Making around Euthanasia

- ▶ Pigs not responding to treatment and pigs with untreatable conditions that compromise welfare, if not fit for transport, must be promptly euthanized or slaughtered on-farm (if fit for human consumption) in accordance with provincial regulations.

### 6.3 Methods of Euthanasia

- ▶ An acceptable method for euthanizing pigs must be used. Refer to *Appendix N – Methods of Euthanasia*.
- ▶ The method used to euthanize pigs must be administered in a manner that is quick and causes the least possible pain and distress.
- ▶ Prior to being euthanized, animals must not be dragged, prodded, forced to move on broken limbs, or made to move when pain and suffering will occur.

### 6.4 Confirmation of Death

- ▶ Animals must be evaluated for insensibility immediately following the application of the euthanasia method. A backup method of euthanasia must be immediately applied if an animal shows signs of returning to sensibility. Refer to *Appendix N – Methods of Euthanasia*.
- ▶ Death must always be confirmed when euthanizing animals before moving or leaving the animal.