PIC®
Select
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PIC ISOWEAN® SELECTION CRITERIA

Isowean®: A piglet less than 21 days of age and no less than 3.6 kg.

Isoweans® offer producers the flexibility of taking in animals at a young age and size to fit into their system to help accommodate health, isolation and acclimatization issues that may or may not exist on their farm. The following are the guidelines to help you pick out Isowean® animals.

Isoweans® are considered to be a “healthier” animal, weaned early, avoiding exposure to pathogens from, “the adult animal”.

- Make sure the sex of the animal you are picking out is correct for the order placed (gilt or boar).
- Animals should have a proper ID, especially if interstate delivery.
- The Isowean® should be free of obvious defects; belly ruptures, large swelling around leg joints, swollen ears, etc.
- Make sure the Isowean® appears to be in good health and not rough hair coated or gaunt in appearance.
- The Isowean® should be a minimum of 3.6 kg.
- The Isowean® should be no older than 21 days unless otherwise specified.
- The Isoweans® should be transported by themselves, unless otherwise specified. Exposure to animals of other age groups compromises their Isowean® health status. Isoweans® may travel on the same truck as other age groups of pigs if they are all going to the same customer and the customer gives prior approval.

- Transport should inspect the load out of the source farm, to ensure the load out is cleaned and disinfected upon loading of the Isowean®. Always load the Isowean® first before any other selects or breeder weaners that may share the same load out facility.

- Transport should also inspect the load out at the delivery site to ensure that the load out is cleaned and disinfected before unloading the Isoweans®.

- On the truck do not bed the animal past the bottom of their belly, as the pigs inhale &/or ingest the bedding causing death.

- In transporting the Isowean® pen the animals just as you would selects or breeder weaners using the gates on the trailer to separate the animals into separate groups. This will reduce piling of the pigs, which could cause suffocation if allowed to have “free roam” of the trailer.

- Trauma to the legs/joints can occur at young age. Dropping animals back into the crate after processing can potentially start this trauma. Be considerate in placing animals back into the crate after processing, treating and any other time the animal is taken out of the crate.
CHECKLIST
Before & During Loading

1. Have copy of Health Papers (the state of Arizona requires original Health Papers, not a copied version) Check with your Herd Veterinarian for each state’s laws.

2. Have a list of the animals by pen that are to be loaded for every customer.

3. Have alternate animals for each load that can be substituted if need be at load time.

4. Make sure all animals on your load sheet are on your HEALTH PAPERS.

5. One last recheck of the animals needs to be done prior to loading animals onto the trucks. This should be accomplished as to not interfere with the truck scheduled loading time.

6. Pick out any animals that may have went lame, sick or whatever the case may be that determines the animal(s) not to be suitable as "PIC Selects".

7. Read each animal’s tag and put a check beside it on the load sheets as you move from pen to pen, again re-checking the animal to make sure it is a suitable "PIC Select".

8. Mark each animal CLEARLY, especially for others to know which animals are intended for loading onto the truck.

9. If animals should be found not suitable to go on the load and ALTERNATES are added, please inform your Herd Veterinarian of which animals you sent and which ones you did not as compared to the ORIGINAL HEALTH PAPERS or copies thereof you were sent by the Herd Veterinarian.

10. **Check to make sure the transfer sheet is filled out thoroughly and correctly with all animals accounted for, as this is a direct reflection of you and your unit.**
PIC BREEDER WEANER SELECTION CRITERIA

With more and more PIC products being shipped out as Breeder Weaner Lights (48 or less kg.) and Breeder Weaner Heavies (48 - 104 kg), some guidelines need to be in place when picking out these animals for customers. Keep in mind that breeder weaners are priced and sold with the understanding that customers will be selecting these, (PIC predicts 80% selection rate for them). While the animals they receive will not be getting the same scrutinization as regular selects, there are some basic criteria that need to be followed before they’re shipped to customers.

**Soundness**

- **Structure** - While it is unusual to see severe leg problems at a young age (buck-knee, sickle-hocked, etc.) these tendencies if seen on a young animal should be culled against. If seen in large numbers, report this to your unit veterinarian, as this could be the onset of something more severe.

- **Concrete lumps** - Lumps are often evident to some degree. Cull:
  - Lumps that obviously have fluid in them and are infected.
  - Animals with lumps which are inflamed or red.
  - Animals with large, ugly lumps.
  - Open concrete sores.

- **Abscesses** - Usually found on the sides of the front legs. Anything which is soft, red and bigger than a pea (Breeder Weaner Light) or grape (Breeder Weaner Heavy) should be culled.

**Underlines**

- **Breeder Weaner Heavies (48 - 104 kg)** - The underlines for this weight group should be evaluated like a regular Select; nothing sent out with less than 12 normal looking teats. Anything less can be grounds for being credited and replaced. Examination for belly ruptures as well as everything else covered in the Breeder Weaner Criteria should apply.
Breeder Weaner Lights (48 or less kg.) - The underline for this weight group is not fully developed and cannot be evaluated due to the age of the animal and the potential changes that may occur as the gilt continues to grow. The underline should be evaluated for belly ruptures and any other abnormalities. Everything else covered in the Breeder Weaner Criteria should apply.

Ears and Tails

**Crinkled ears** - Usually a result of rupturing blood vessels in the ear occurs usually when animals are fighting. As a general rule, send these animals if the crinkled ear is laying out flat. Cull an animal if both ears are crinkled. An animal whose ear has fluid in it should not be selected.

**Ear biting** - If the problem is not severe and the ear has properly healed, these animals can be sent. However, if the ear has been badly bitten down, do not send. Do not send any animal that is showing signs of recent biting or infection.

**Tattoo** - If the tattoo cannot be positively determined, the gilt may still be sent (unless pedigree information has been specifically asked for). Tattooing techniques should then be examined so appropriate changes can be made to ensure clear tattoos.

**Tail length** - The ideal pig has a tail long enough to use as a "handle". However, do not cull against tail length. Animals with no tail may look ugly and should be kept to a minimum, but are obviously capable of breeding.

**Tail biting** - Most animals which have been tail bitten usually show signs of infection even if they have healed up. In general, tail bitten animals should be sent only if there is definitely no sign of infection.

**No anus** - Difficult to detect in smaller pigs; the only way you may detect will be to see it defecate through its vulva. In the case of a “blind” anus, the animal may appear bloated with its backbone showing.

Crinkled ear

Ear biting

Tail bite

External Reproductive Organs (ERO)

**Necrotic vulva** - This will be more difficult to detect in Breeder Weaner Lights. This is not usually a major problem, but should be watched for. A necrotic vulva is one in which the vulva has been totally or partially rubbed off. If the tip is rubbed off, there is usually no problem. However, if any more is rubbed off, the animal should not be sent, as it may interfere with proper mating.
MAKE SURE THE PRODUCT YOU ARE TAGGING IS A FEMALE!!

The reason barrows get tagged and sent out is people get going too fast and don’t pay attention to what they should be looking at. It is also important to make sure you are sending the right breed if your farm produces more than one breed.

Other

› Belly Ruptures – Detect this defect by either picking up the Breeder Weaner Light, or checking the animals on a scale.

› Dip Backs - Do not send.

**Belly rupture**

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**Dip back**

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**Vaccinations**

**Table 1: Suggested Vaccine Schedule in Gilts Prior to Breeding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erysipelas I</td>
<td>8 weeks of age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erysipelas II</td>
<td>10 weeks of age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parvovirus + Leptospirosis + Erysipelas I</td>
<td>160 days of age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parvovirus + Leptospirosis + Erysipelas II</td>
<td>180 days of age</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Filling The Order**

Filling orders is marketing or packaging. Customers want a uniform product which lives up to their expectation. The first impression of a customer’s whole order is judged on the appearance of the breeding stock when it comes off the truck. Nothing will turn them off faster than an uneven group or an obvious selection error. When filling orders, keep the group as uniform as possible by:

› Weight and age parameters
› Conformation
› Color markings (if any)

The range for any group of Breeder Weaners should be 9 kg, although this will vary on the size of the group. For example, if the order of Breeder Weaner Lights calls for an 36 kg Breeder Weaner Light, you can expect to tag animals down to 32 kg and up to 41 kg. If you cannot keep in this weight range, contact Inventory Management. Inform them how big the range will be so they can notify the Customer Service Representative. In most cases, the larger range will not be an issue but as a courtesy, the customer should be notified. Consistency on delivery is a major concern of our customers. Strive to keep within the weight ranges.
A final review of the animals must be done just before the pigs are loaded. Any animals that have developed defects since being tagged should not be sent. The same goes for animals with infection at the vaccination site (abscesses). Do not send out any animals you suspect may be in poor health.

Breeder Weaners are to be product tagged and recorded on your transfer sheets just as with regular selects. If a customer is receiving animals in different weight groups, do not mix the weight groups on the transfer sheets.

**CHECKLIST**

**Before & During Loading**

1. Have copy of Health Papers (the state of Arizona requires original Health Papers, not a copied version) Check with your Herd Veterinarian for each state's laws.

2. Have a list of the animals by pen that are to be loaded for every customer.

3. Have alternate animals for each load that can be substituted if need be at load time.

4. Make sure all animals on your load sheet are on your HEALTH PAPERS.

5. One last recheck of the animals needs to be done prior to loading animals onto the trucks. This should be accomplished as to not interfere with the truck scheduled loading time.

6. Pick out any animals that may have went lame, sick or whatever the case may be that determines the animal(s) not to be suitable as "PIC Selects".

7. Read each animal's tag and put a check beside it on the load sheets as you move from pen to pen, again re-checking the animal to make sure it is a suitable "PIC Select".

8. Mark each animal CLEARLY, especially for others to know which animals are intended for loading onto the truck.

9. If animals should be found not suitable to go on the load and ALTERNATES are added, please inform your Herd Veterinarian of which animals you sent and which ones you did not as compared to the ORIGNAL HEALTH PAPERS or copies thereof you were sent by the Herd Veterinarian.

10. **Check to make sure the transfer sheet is filled out thoroughly and correctly with all animals accounted for, as this is a direct reflection of you and your unit.**
Gilt selection is one of the vital steps in providing the customer with a genetically improved female. The purpose of selection is to maximize the number of saleable gilts conforming to PIC quality standards. (This differs from filling orders, discussed later.) These standards are established to ensure the customer receives a product that both he and PIC can be proud of.

PIC selection IS NOT the same as a hog-judging contest at a state fair for blue ribbons. PIC supplies genetically improved breeding stock based on objective scientific principles not subject to prejudices on what a “good” hog should look like. At the same time, we can’t ignore the visual characteristics that influence our customers to purchase our breeding stock and our challenge is to come as close to filling these expectations as possible. Most producers have not been used to purchasing large numbers of females, so a great deal of care and attention is needed in filling their order.

The following notes and comments - based on many years of practical experience in gilt selection - set out a series of guidelines which must be followed in selecting gilts. The selection process must be relative. Finding faults and culling a gilt is too easy when selecting her by herself. Selectors MUST evaluate a gilt against the average for the group she is from. NEVER cull gilts based on individual merit unless they do not live up to minimum PIC quality control standards.

Selecting the Gilt
Begin selecting by estimating the average weight of the week’s selection; look at the group, not individuals. Identify those that do not fit the physical standards for:

- Conformation/General Appearance
- Weight/Size
- Color Markings
- Legs (Soundness)

Ears and Tails

Conformation/General Appearance
Animals should be sighted on both sides. The nose and lower jaw must be straight and there should not be any active abscesses. Hair swirls or cowlicks are not a reason to cull.

Animals with insect bites should be selected but Inventory Management should be contacted so they can inform the Customer Service Representative.

If an animal has any structural problem, such as a dipped back or a feature of its structure that definitely does not fit with the rest of the body, it should be culled.

Some animals shake or give the appearance that they are shivering. This problem is most often seen after animals have been excited or stressed. Do not select shaker pigs.

Weight/Size - Unless selecting breeder weaners, the selection weight should be between 77 and 91 kg. This is when the gilt is approaching puberty and is the ideal time to assess body characteristics.

Age for size - If a gilt has a definite weight disadvantage when compared to an animal of the same age, she should be culled. Again, this is a judgment call but small, old gilts can cause serious problems with customers. Age for size is always an individual judgment and the animal must be compared to contemporaries. We also need to realize that the issue of age for size is important to our customers getting smaller groups of gilts in which they should expect a tighter group age-wise. Therefore, any group of gilts up to 25 head, there should be no more than a 21-day age spread. Those groups over 25 head can utilize the 30 day age spread keeping in mind
the tighter the group age-wise you can get, the better.

Weight at shipping shall be 104 kg+ depending on the size of the group. No individual gilt should weigh less than 104 kg at shipment.

**Conformation culls**

**Structure**
Always allow room for the animals to walk. Do not attempt to assess legs on an animal until you see it walk. The gilt must have good sound legs. Typical problems to be selected against are:

**Bent front legs** - The animal appears to be “going over” on its front legs or have flat front feet.

**Weak back legs** - Some animals “wobble” on their back legs, usually animals with large hams. Legs can also “go under” (sickle hocked) the animal causing it to slip and fall on its rear end giving the appearance of splay legs.

**Stiff walking** - Usually a front leg problem.

**Concrete lumps** - Lumps are often evident to some degree. Cull:
- Lumps that obviously have fluid in them are infected.
- Animals with lumps which are inflamed or red.
- Animals with large, ugly lumps.
- Open concrete sores.

**Abscesses** - Usually found on the sides of the front legs. Anything that is soft, red, or bigger than a grape should be culled.

**Small inside toe** - This can be a problem, particularly on the back foot. Animals which “wobble” or are having a problem walking because of uneven toes should be culled.

**Flex in front toe** - Some flex, or give in the front leg and foot is highly desirable, but, where the foot looks double jointed or where the dewclaws are touching, or nearly touching the floor "coonfooted", the animals should be culled.

**Humpback** - Refers to an animal’s back not being flat. Affects front & rear legs yielding straight legs on both, these animals should be culled.

**Dip Back** - Opposite of Hump Back, usually a dip behind the shoulders is noticeable.

**Structure Photos**

**Buck-knees**

**Post legs**

**Cracked hooves**
Ears and Tails

“Crinkled ears” - Usually a result of rupturing blood vessels in the ear, occurs when animals are fighting. As a general rule, send these animals if the crinkled ear is laying out flat. Cull an animal if both ears are crinkled. An animal whose ear has fluid in it should not be sent to a customer.

Ear biting - If the problem is not severe and the ear has properly healed, these animals should be selected. However, if the ear has been badly bitten down, do not select. Do not select any ear showing signs of recent biting or infection.

Tattoo - If the tattoo cannot be positively determined, the gilt may still be selected (unless pedigree information has been specifically asked for). Tattooing techniques should then be examined so appropriate changes can be made to ensure clear tattoos.

Tail length - The ideal pig has a tail long enough to use as a “handle”. However, do not select against tail length. Animals with no tail may look ugly and should be kept to a minimum, but are obviously capable of breeding.

Tail biting - Most animals which have been tail bitten usually show signs of infection even if they have healed up. In general, tail bitten animals should be selected only if there is definitely no sign of infection.

**After they have been selected on physical appearance, select gilts on maternal traits:**

- External Reproductive Organs (ERO)
- Underlines and Teats.

**External Reproductive Organs (ERO)**

No anus – commonly called Blind Anus. Always inspect the vulva carefully and make sure the animal has two “holes” - obviously select against this problem. In some cases, the anus cannot be probed. Many times you can actually see the gilt defecate through the vulva. If this is seen any time before selection in the growth phase, be sure to note it on her pen card and cull.

Hermaphrodite - Sometimes difficult to detect. Usual signs are a very upturned vulva often accompanied by a small sheath under the belly. If the inside of the vulva is examined, a small penis can usually be found. Always cull these animals.

Juvenile vulva - Not usually a major problem but occasionally very small vulvae are seen. A juvenile vulva is always reason for culling; an example is a 91kg animal with a vulva the size of a 45 kg animal. Generally, if you can’t insert your thumb into the

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Calluses

Dip back

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**NEVER STOP IMPROVING**
opening, cull the animal.

**Necrotic vulva** - Again not usually a major problem, but should always be watched for. An necrotic vulva is one in which the vulva has been totally or partially rubbed off. If just the tip is rubbed off, there is usually no problem. However, if any more is rubbed off, the animal should be culled as it may interfere with proper mating.

**External reproductive organ culls**

**Teats**
PIC gilts will have 12 normal teats. Teats can be categorized into five general types (Normal, Inverted, Necrotic, Washer and Pin Nipples). Only the normal and a proportion of the washer teats are considered functional teats.

**Normal teats** - Normal teats are fully developed teats that show no outward signs of damaged tissue. They should be of uniform size, reasonably long, slender bell-shaped and can be pulled down when grabbed (without slipping between one’s fingers).

**Pin Nipples** – Pin nipples are small infantile nipples that appear very small in comparison to the other nipples or teats, these should be counted as non-productive nipples.

**Inverted Teats** - There are “True inverts” and “Partial inverts”.

- **“True inverts”** are usually grouped around the umbilicus and are inverted up into the skin forming a depression. These teats feel like they have a fibrous core when rolled between the fingers. These teats should always be counted as a bad teat.

- **“Partial inverts”** result in a characteristically “tucked-in” appearance of the teat. They are not as obvious as the true invert because they will protrude down from the belly and can be found at any location. While our research and practical experience has shown that over half of these come down at farrowing, it is our selection policy to count these as bad teats.

**Necrotic Teats** - Have a flat appearance that invariably affect the anterior teats. All necrotic teats must be considered bad teats, as the damage is permanent to the teat canals.

**Washer Teats** - A washer teat has a small ring of tissue around the base of the teat and for lack of a better description, looks like a doughnut with someone sticking a finger through the hole. Generally, when the end of the nipple can be seen clearly protruding past the ring of tissue, the teat will be good. If you grab it and pull down, count it as a good teat. If it slips between your fingers, count it as a bad teat.

**The Selected Gilts**
Once the decision has been made to select the gilt, she should be tagged in the ear, vaccinated with approved leptospirosis and erysipelas vaccinations and recorded on the selection sheets. If possible, she should go back in the same pen she came out of, keeping mixing to a minimum. Inventory Management must be kept informed on the number
of gilts selected and their weights.

Filling orders is marketing or packaging. Customers want a UNIFORM product which lives up to their expectation. The first impression of a customer’s breeding stock is judged on the whole order when it comes off the truck. Nothing will turn him off faster than an uneven group or an obvious selection error. When filling orders, keep the group as uniform as possible by:
- Weight and Age
- Conformation
- Colour Markings (if applicable)
- Muscling

The minimum net for any selected gilt is 104 kg. If you find you have to drop below the minimum of 104 kg to fill the order, contact Inventory Management to get the go ahead to ship these animals. Consistency at delivery is a major concern of our customers. Getting a light load on one delivery and a heavy load the next can create problems. Strive to keep within the minimum/maximum weight limits.

The final selection must be done just before pigs are loaded. Any animals that have gone lame or stiff should not be loaded. The same goes for animals with infection at the injection site (abscesses); conversely, animals with minor problems that may correct themselves in time may be selected. These should then be closely checked before shipping.

* Note - any animals that were not on the original Health Paper but are suitable to ship at loading must be added to the Health Paper by the local veterinarian’s office as soon after the loading process as possible. Remember the selection officer CANNOT change the health paper on their own, as it is a violation of federal law.

Remember, you are attempting to select sound animals which are capable of producing 6 - 8 litters. PIC is not in the business of producing show animals, but the product is expected to meet or exceed the expectations of the customer who is paying a premium price for the best product in the market. ALWAYS USE YOUR COMMON SENSE AT SELECTION TIME.

**Colour Markings**
- Skin spots should be no larger than a quarter in size.
- If any skin spot is larger than a quarter the animal should be culled.
- If skin spots cover more than 1/3 of the body, the animal should be culled.

**Handling Gilts after selection**
Handling the selected gilts after selection is the last step before putting together groups of selects together for customers. One must be able to evaluate body type, muscling, size and/or weight in order to properly group selected females together before filling the order for the customer.

As soon after selection try to remove all selection rejects from selects as to decrease fallout of the remaining selects.

**Advantages**
- Decreases the number of people to load out animals.
- Increases customer satisfaction by increasing uniformity by increasing eye appeal.
- Decreases further mixing of selects left behind for future loads.
CHECKLIST
Before & During Loading

1. Have copy of Health Papers (the state of Arizona requires original Health Papers, not a copied version) Check with your Herd Veterinarian for each state's laws.

2. Have a list of the animals by pen that are to be loaded for every customer.

3. Have alternate animals for each load that can be substituted if need be at load time.

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6. Pick out any animals that may have went lame, sick or whatever the case may be that determines the animal(s) not to be suitable as "PIC Selects".

7. Read each animal's tag and put a check beside it on the load sheets as you move from pen to pen, again re-checking the animal to make sure it is a suitable "PIC Select".

8. Mark each animal CLEARLY, especially for others to know which animals are intended for loading onto the truck.

9. If animals should be found not suitable to go on the load and ALTERNATES are added, please inform your Herd Veterinarian of which animals you sent and which ones you did not as compared to the ORIGINAL HEALTH PAPERS or copies thereof you were sent by the Herd Veterinarian.

10. **Check to make sure the transfer sheet is filled out thoroughly and correctly with all animals accounted for, as this is a direct reflection of you and your unit.**
PIC BOAR SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection Area
The selection area must allow selection officers the ability to see the animal moving around in order to give it the most accurate leg score and to determine functionality of animal. Farms that didn’t have this were not allowed to go to the more sophisticated leg scoring system (older facilities).

Pre-Selection
- Muscle & leg score
- Phenotypic flaws
- Obvious defects
- Cull accordingly

Muscle & Leg Scoring
Leg Scoring
- Developed by Dr. Max Rothschild of Iowa State University
- 9 point leg scoring system to give specific score to specific leg condition
- Visits made by Dr. Rothschild to assess personnel’s ability to score legs
- Use of videotape in between visits

Everything comes off-test regardless of whether physical cull or not

Front
Undesirable Skeletal Structure
- Angle of shoulder blade close to 90°
- Front leg too straight

Desirable Skeletal Structure
- Angle of shoulder blade much greater than 90°
- Front leg slopes forward

Back
Undesirable Skeletal Structure
- Rear leg structure too straight
- Posty legs, likely to score 4

Desirable Skeletal Structure
- Slightly set under
- Likely to score 5
The Basic Leg Scoring System and the Two Scoring Scales

There are two scoring scales:
1. Front Leg Scoring Scale
2. Back Leg Scoring Scale

1. The Front Leg Scoring Scale
Front legs are scored on a simple sliding improving scale. Scores increase from 1 (Worst) to 9 (Best). Scores 1 to 4 have the most undesirable leg structure with scores ranging from 5 to 9 describing front legs with increasing forward slope.

Front Leg Scoring

2. The Back Leg Scoring Scale
The back leg scale is not quite as simple as the front leg scale. The “Best” score is a 5. Scores ranging from 1 to 4 are “set under” rear legs, while scores ranging 6 to 9 are different degrees of straight or “posty” rear legs (detailed in Section 2).

Back Leg Scoring
The Full Range of Front Leg Scores

The Full Range of Back Leg Scores
Steps to Learning the Leg Scoring System Effectively

Step 1: Know the difference between the back and front leg scoring scales.
Step 2: Learn how to record the scoring symbols.

The first step should be to familiarize yourself with the recording of the scores, as marked on each animal's back. These symbols represent the score and some examples are shown in the chart below. Once these are clearly understood, you can concentrate on the actual leg assessment. The scoring symbols are easy to familiarize yourself with, but it becomes confusing when trying to learn how to assess legs as well as understanding the symbols.

Every pig starts with a horizontal stroke across the shoulder and a horizontal stroke across the loin as shown with Pig A in the chart above. After assessing leg structure, the operator then decides upon a score for front legs and a score for back legs. If the leg scorer does not draw any additional strokes, then the pig scores a 5 for both front and back legs, since the horizontal stroke represents a score of 5. So Pig A scores a 5 for front legs and a 5 for back legs.

Each vertical stroke drawn toward the head of the pig is an increase of one, so Pig B scores 6; \((5 + 1)\) on front legs and Pig C scores 7; \((5 + 2)\), etc. Each vertical stroke drawn towards the rear end of the pig is a decrease of one or \(-1\), so for Pig D, the front leg score will be 2; \((5 - 3)\), since there are 3 vertical strokes which are towards the rear. This recording system is the same for front and back leg scores.

Muscle Scoring
General assessment tools for evaluating muscle on a pig.

1. Muscle has shape and definition
2. Fat is smooth and starts to look rounded, like a football, especially when looking over the loin area down the top of the pig.
3. Areas to look for fat on a pig
   a. Jowl area.
   b. Over the loin or down the top of the pig.
   c. Right behind the shoulder blade.
   d. Fat seam (the area right in the center of hams, looking from the rear of the animal.
   e. Around the tail head.

Three areas are assessed to describe the muscle of the animal:

- Ham Muscling
- Loin Muscling
- Shoulder and Chest cavity width
Ham Muscling
- Viewed from the side & along the body length from the tail
- Definition of muscle blocks
- Fullness of hams
  - Width of ham
  - Depth of ham on the hocks
  - Curvature of ham to leg
- Visibility of Blood Vessels

Loin Muscling
- Loin Muscling
- Viewed along body length
- Width of back
- Depth & Definition of “Cognac Groove”
- Depth & Definition of “Tail Dimple”

Shoulder and Chest cavity Muscling
- View animal walking toward you and look at the width between the front legs. The wider the chest floor the more muscling the animal has.
- Remember muscle pushes the bones wider.

Leg & Muscle Score

Selection
- Leg & Muscle Score
- Ear Notch
- Ultra Sound
- Weight
- Product Tag (based on line, DNA markers, genetic status)
- Vaccinate
- Inspect for flaws

Data Entry
- Leg & Muscle score
- Weight
- Identification (Line & tag number)
- Ultra sound
- Product Tag
- Comment on any part of the body or animal that may be useful for order fulfillment or general record keeping.

Product Tagging
Tag animals with appropriate product tag.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grandparent</th>
<th>Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GP1010</td>
<td>Green</td>
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Structure
Selection cannot be said to have taken place if the animal is not reviewed walking freely in the open. Always allow the animal room to walk. Do not attempt to assess legs on a boar until it has been seen walking. If the animals are being raised on
slats, try to evaluate legs on a solid surface if possible. The boar must have sound legs that you expect to function throughout the boar's life of at least 2 years.

**Typical selection problems are:**
- **Bent front legs** - Bent at the knee and/or front hoof.
- **Weak back legs** - Flat Hooves. Crossing over its back feet. Legs that tend to slide under and give the appearance of splay legs when it sits or falls on its back end (Sickle-hocked). Back feet that buckle over between hoof & knuckle at the joint. This often gives the boar grip problems when serving or being collected on a concrete floor.
- **Severely split or cracked hooves**
- **Post-legged animals** - Studies have shown this conformation defect is related to decreased working life.
- **Stiff walking action** - Normally a front leg & shoulder problem. Waddling back legs.
- **Concrete Lumps**
  - Lumps that have fluid in them are infected. Animals with infection should be culled.
  - Animals with lumps that are red or inflamed should be culled.
  - Animals with large ugly knots should be culled.
- **Uneven Toes** - Can cause problems. The smaller digit must not be less than 3/4 the length of the larger digit.
- **Flex in feet** - Some flex is desirable but the hooves should be flat or double pointed. Boars should have feet and legs that point straight forward, not to the right or left (Turned out). Research shows that boars down on their dewclaws are more durable than those too straight on their toes.

**Cracked hooves**

**Buck-knees**

**Post legged**

**Illustration of Foot and Leg Structural Deficiencies**
**Calluses**
- Determine size
- Determine hard or soft
- Will it affect functionality of animal?
- Aesthetic value; if it looks big and ugly to you, it will to the customer.
- Where and when to use?
- What are your feelings on this?

**Abscesses**
- Determine whether hard or soft
- Check for abscesses under neck
- Size consideration
- Location consideration

**External Reproductive Organs**

**Testicles**
- Size
- Unevenness

**Uneven Testicles**
- Perception of not being sound
- Raises questions about function ability
- Doesn’t look good
- Reason to cull

**Sheath**
- Size
- Open Sores

**Size**
- If larger than a grapefruit, animal should not be tagged as a select.
- Squeeze the sheath checking for bloody discharge, cull if seen.

**Open Sores**
- If open sores are present, an animal should not be tagged as a select.
Belly Ruptures

- Obvious Culls
- Varying degrees of severity

Ears

- **Bitten ears** - Do not select badly bitten ears or any showing recent biting or infection. Remember, unreadable ear numbers suggest test data is not accurate. Treat and reselect after healing or select, treat & hold until healed if the damage is not severe.
- **Crinkled ears** - Those that with very minor crinkles may be selected and sold to customers. Boars with severely crinkled or crumpled ears should not be sent to customers.
  - Determine whether or not fluid filled.
  - Should lay flat and not balled up against side of head.
  - Most customers willing to work with this, if above is met.

Tails

- Tail bitten animals normally show signs of previous infection and should not be selected.
- Tail bites vary from being bitten or chewed on, to where the tip has been bitten. If the tip has been bitten and scabbed over with no sign of infection, this animal can be considered as a saleable animal.
- Tail Length - The ideal pig has a tail long enough to use as a “handle”.

Boars with structural problems such as a dipped back should not be selected.

Muscling and Conformation scores are independent of line.

Boars giving the appearance of being extremely short and fat or with extremely poor conformation should not be selected.

Boars in poor condition should not be selected. Keep in mind different breeds may be of different shapes.

Shakers

- Try to determine if an animal is a true shaker by observing the animal in its own pen in a relaxed setting before moving down to selection area or by giving it a chance to calm down once it’s gotten down to the selection area. Do not select an animal established as a true shaker.

Conformation

- Matching up by:
  - EBV
  - Marker Technology
  - Penmates
  - Age
  - Breed
  - Weight
  - Muscle & Conformation
  - Understand your customer’s expectations

Putting the order together

Do not make assumptions of what the customer has requested, always check to confirm any expectations other than standard selection criteria.
Most orders will be from repeat customers. This allows the selection officer to profile the customer’s likes and dislikes. It is recommended to keep customer files with information on comments and complaints.

General Information

- Boars should be viewed on both sides. The nose and lower jaw should be straight and there should not be active abscesses. Hair swirls and cowlicks are not a reason to cull.
- Any boars with physical defects should be culled, e.g., blindness in one or both eyes, abnormally shaped snouts, large scars or cuts, missing digits, etc.
- Final selection must be done prior to loading. Boars that have gone lame or have abscesses or sores at injection or tagging sites should not be loaded.
- Minimum weight is 108 kg and the range will be 108 - 145 kg. If boar weights are outside the range, then Inventory Management should be informed for further action and approval.
- All Farm Managers, Site Managers and supervisory staff at supply farms will be required to sign a transfer sheet stating weight and number of boars shipped, breed and category and that they meet and conform to the selection standards set out and agreed by PIC.
- Animals chosen to fill an order should be uniform in type, size, age, weight and if possible color. Uniformity is appreciated by the customer and enhances acceptance of all animals in the group.
- Customer Service will then contact the customer or Account Manager for approval or rejection.
- Selection is an on-going process. Animals should be critically evaluated at every opportunity, with the final evaluation occurring as the selection officer is loading them out. It is far less costly to cull an animal at the last minute than to send one you are risking acceptance by the customer.

Handling Selects after selection

Handling the selected boars after selection is the last step before putting together groups of selects for customers. One must be able to evaluate body type, muscling, size and weight in order to properly group selected boars together for customers’ orders.

As soon after selection try to remove all selection rejects from selects as to decrease fall out of the remaining selects.

After animals have been identified it is recommended that each boar have a card (or each pen have a pen card listing boars individually) with him that includes the following information:

1. Stig or Product Tag
2. Tattoo
3. Line/ Breed
4. Gene Markers (if any)
5. EBV or Class
6. Selection Weight
7. Misc. Information (such as selection comments)
**Transporting PIC Boars**

To more safely deliver PIC products and protect the investment of both PIC and our customers, PIC has invested in trailers specifically for use in hauling PIC Gene Transfer boars.

**Features include:**
- Spaces for individual penning
- Heated trailer
- Heated trailer floor
- Single Deck
- No ramp
- Air Drop - 8 inches
- Mister systems

**CHECKLIST**

**Before & During Loading**

1. Have copy of Health Papers (the state of Arizona requires original Health Papers, not a copied version) Check with your Herd Veterinarian for each state’s laws.

2. Have a list of the animals by pen that are to be loaded for every customer.

3. Have alternate animals for each load that can be substituted if need be at load time.

4. Make sure all animals on your load sheet are on your HEALTH PAPERS.

5. One last recheck of the animals needs to be done prior to loading animals onto the trucks. This should be accomplished as to not interfere with the truck scheduled loading time.

6. Pick out any animals that may have went lame, sick or whatever the case may be that determines the animal(s) not to be suitable as "PIC Selects".

7. Read each animal’s tag and put a check beside it on the load sheets as you move from pen to pen, again re-checking the animal to make sure it is a suitable "PIC Select".

8. Mark each animal CLEARLY, especially for others to know which animals are intended for loading onto the truck.

9. If animals should be found not suitable to go on the load and ALTERNATES are added, please inform your Herd Veterinarian of which animals you sent and which ones you did not as compared to the ORIGNAL HEALTH PAPERS or copies thereof you were sent by the Herd Veterinarian.

10. **Check to make sure the transfer sheet is filled out thoroughly and correctly with all animals accounted for, as this is a direct reflection of you and your unit.**
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BEATING BRUISING ................................................ Page 35
Handling of Pigs
1. The number one rule is to apply PATIENCE. Calmness and common sense are always necessary.
2. Experience will be the best teacher.
3. Flagrant abuse of pigs during loading or unloading time will result in disciplinary action.
4. Failure to comply with any of the above can result in immediate dismissal.

Load and Go
Proper care and treatment of swine breeding stock is essential. Quality selection of a product that conforms to a customer's requirements is of little importance if transportation subjects the load to avoidable stress.

All personal matters (bank withdrawals, equipment inspections, fueling, meals, coffee, paperwork, etc.) must be concluded prior to loading.

Do not load and allow pigs to sit and fight unnecessarily.

Gilt and Boar Abnormalities at Loading Time
The driver must inform Dispatch of anything that is not routine or normal when loading breeding stock. The following situations require that Dispatch be informed:
1. Structurally unsound legs.
2. Animals not uniform in appearance.
3. Animal weights do not appear to match the ordered weight.
4. Abnormal coughing, diarrhea, or any animals in an unthrifty, gaunt condition.
5. Tag numbers do not match transfer sheets and/or health papers.
6. Inadequate paperwork at loading time.

Transporting Pigs
Transporting PIC breeding stock across the United States subjects these animals to rapidly changing environmental conditions. It is not uncommon for animals to be loaded at temperatures of 60 to 70 degrees and be transported to states experiencing sub-zero temperatures within 20 hours. This temperature change demands a healthy, adaptable pig and a driver/livestock person who understands its needs.

It is important to minimize the stress on pigs and humans in order to minimize the economic losses between the barn door and the destination. It has taken 9 to 10 months from conception to the point of loading and the investment in the animal is considerable.

Time taken in preparing for loading (even investing in permanent loading facilities) is a sound investment to maximize the return per pig and build one's reputation as a source of quality pigs.

Before moving any pigs, it is necessary to understand pig psychology and plan accordingly:

Vision
Pigs have wide-angle, panoramic vision, which enables them to see behind without turning their heads. Lighting in handling facilities should be even and diffuse. Sharp contrasts should be avoided.

Pigs are likely to spook or balk at the following and they should be eliminated if possible; shadows, water puddles, drain gates, shiny objects (such as car bumpers), flapping objects, coats on fences, dogs, or a bright spot of sunlight coming through a hole in the roof.

When loading pigs at night, put a light inside the truck, but avoid bare bulbs that glare in the eyes of animals. Illuminate dark areas where animals will be moving.

Avoid facing loading or unloading chutes into the
sun. Load confinement pigs at night, if possible, because they are reluctant to come out into bright sunlight. For easier daytime loading, put a shade over the loading ramp.

**Hearing and Smell**
When pigs are being unloaded, spread some of the truck bedding on the crossover of the ramp to entice them out of the truck. The bedding covers the strange smell of the ramp. Don’t yell and scream at livestock. Their ears are more sensitive than ours.

Put rubber bumpers on clanging gates and fix air leaks in pneumatic gates or truck brake lines to reduce noise. Air exhausts should be piped away from animals.

**Herd Behavior**
Let animals follow the leader at their own pace and they will seldom injure themselves.

Confinement pigs move more slowly than pigs raised on dirt. Don’t rush them. Pay attention to the design of load out facilities.

**Gates**
All gates should have tiebacks and latches should be on the top of the gate to prevent bruising. A pig gate should be hung no more than 4 inches off the floor to prevent injuries. Articulated gates, which fold in the middle, are handy for crowding pigs.

**Bruise Hazard Zone**
The hazard zone for bruises is the area between 12 inches and 30 inches from the floor. Watch for any dangerous protrusions such as bent sheet metal with in the hazard zone.

In accordance with PIC’s Procedures for Drivers, this animal handling and downtime policy should be reviewed with each driver of the contract carrier before loading animals for PIC.

**Delivery of Animals (Including Multipliers)**

**All Boars**
There will be no hot shots used on any boars. Move small number of boars with cutting boards or paddles.

**All Gilts**
There will be no hot shots used on any gilts without permission from the person receiving the animals. Move small number of gilts with cutting boards or paddles.

**Inner sanctum**
There will be no hot shots used on boars or gilts.

**Slaughter and Feeder Pigs**
Hot shots may be used with discretion, but kept to a minimum. Move animals in small groups with cutting boards or paddles.

**Shuttling of Breeding Stock**
There will be no hot shots used on boars or gilts.

A good way to unload animals is to use a cutting board or paddle.

Any abusive handling of livestock will result in disciplinary action. Any violation of this Policy may subject the Driver to termination. The Transportation Department has a very good track record when moving breeding stock. Let’s continue that reputation.

**Loading**
Be especially careful loading or unloading from double decker semi-trailers. Pigs will pile up and fall down the internal ramps in these trailers if rushed. If
IF THE OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE IS ABOVE 80°F, THE DRIVER MUST SPREAD OUT ALL SHAVINGS ON THE TOP AND BOTTOM DECK OF THE TRAILER (IF NEEDED) AND WATER DOWN THE SHAVINGS BEFORE ANY ANIMALS ARE LOADED. This will help decrease the number of animals that could potentially die of Heat Stress.

If a garden hose is not available outside, ask the farm staff to provide one in order to wet down the bedding. IF NO HOSE IS AVAILABLE FROM THE FARM REPORT TO DISPATCHER.

Downtimes
The downtime requirements for contract carrier usage will be:
1. Wash and disinfect.
2. 3 Days down after wash and disinfect.
3. Re-wash and disinfect at PIC approved wash.
4. Trailer to be inspected by WDS/PIC personnel prior to loading.

Any questions concerning required downtimes should be directed to PIC/HA or WDS Central Dispatch.

Pigs need to be outsmarted, not out muscled. DO NOT RUSH/CROWD PIGS and avoid mixing pigs from different pens while moving.

The key is to keep stress levels low for both people and pigs. Allow both overexerted pigs and people time to rest when moving.

Handling With Care Can Reduce PSE
PSE or Pale Soft Exudative meat is economically damaging to the pork industry. PSE pork is unattractive and must go into manufacturing of lower value products. Obtaining an even cure in PSE hams is difficult. There are two major causes of PSE, both brought on by stress.

First, there is a genetic predisposition that also contributes to the Porcine Stress Syndrome (PSS). Lying down, panting, and trembling characteristically precedes death from PSS. These pigs must be allowed to rest.

Second, a stressful environment during handling and slaughter can produce PSE in animals without the genetic predisposition. Rough handling, especially during the last 15 minutes before slaughter, will contribute to PSE. Work in the UK indicates this may be more relevant on modern lean, young pork than has previously been believed with older, fatter carcasses. This may also become a concern again in the US as pigs become leaner.

The major underlying point therefore, is to handle pigs with care and avoid undue stress during moving and loading. Overexertion and heart failure can kill pigs. When a pig’s heart starts to race, he will usually lie down, to bring his heart rate down to a safe level. A pig’s heart will beat much faster when he is climbing a loading chute, compared with unloading.
A pig, which has overexerted himself, must be allowed to rest. Overexertion is a special problem with confinement pigs.

Problems with PSS and heart failure are greatest on hot days because the heart rate increased in an effort to get rid of excess heat. Pigs are also more susceptible to PSS when temperatures fluctuate widely from daytime to nighttime during the fall. When the temperature is over 80 degrees F., all pigs should be sprinkled with water sprays.

**Be careful with electric prods.** If a pig is prodded several times in rapid succession with an electric prod, its heart rate will keep increasing and it may have a heart attack and die. If a pig lies down, don’t keep prodding him.

If a pig collapses from overexertion or PSS, do not throw cold water on the animal. Instead, wet the ground around the pig to provide cooling by evaporation.

**Pig Losses**

Many pigs are lost in poorly bedded and poorly ventilated farm trucks while being transported. About 70% of pig transit deaths occur on the truck and the rest after the pigs have reached the destination.

In addition to deaths during transit, about a third as many pigs are crippled during the ride to market, further increasing the transit loss to the industry.

Death losses often double on hot, humid days. Delays in unloading after the pigs reach the destination are another major cause of pig deaths, especially during hot weather. The following table illustrates the difference in pig transit losses by season of the year. The data represent losses per 100,000 pigs while they are in the possession of meat packers, either on packer trucks or at the slaughterhouse. They do not include pigs, which die during transit by producer or truckers to markets or buying stations.

**Hot Weather**

Hot weather and high humidity are deadly because pigs do not have sweat glands. When the daytime temperature and humidity reach the alert level on the livestock weather safety index, pigs should be delivered by 11:00 a.m. When the temperature and humidity reach the danger level on the weather safety index, pigs should be hauled at night. When the combination of temperature and humidity reach the emergency level, postpone all pig shipments.

When the temperature is over 15 degrees Celcius remove the nose vents from trucks or open nose vents to provide more ventilation. Load and unload promptly, heat will build up rapidly inside a vehicle, which is standing still. Don’t stop at the cafe and let your pigs roast in the truck.

If the air temperature is 27 degrees Celcius or higher, sprinkle pigs with water as soon as possible after loading. Then begin moving immediately so air is moving over the pigs. Heat will build up rapidly in a vehicle that is standing still.
Livestock Weather Safety Index
Relative Humidity Intervals (%)

How to read the chart on following page:
Check a weather forecast for temperature and humidity. Locate the expected temperature in the column on the left. Extend that temperature in a straight line across the chart until it intersects with a line from the expected relative humidity.

Temperatures above 100 degrees F are always DANGER, and if the relative humidity is above 25 percent, the situation is EMERGENCY.

If the intersection of temperature and humidity on the chart is in the ALERT range, load 10 percent fewer hogs (see Hog Loading Guide) and plan to deliver them to market by 11 a.m.

If the index is in the DANGER zone, load 20 percent fewer hogs and haul them at night.

If the index is in the EMERGENCY zone, post-pone hog shipments until weather moderates.

Consult the Livestock Weather Safety Index at www.theagclassifieds.com/weather.htm for hot weather warnings.
**Cold Weather**

Wind chill can also kill pigs so they must be protected from the cold wind during truck travel. Pigs exposed in a truck, which is moving down the road at 80 km/h with the temperature at 4 degrees C., are exposed to a wind chill of -13 degrees C. If the truck is traveling into a head wind, the wind chill effect will be even greater. In the chart below, the wind chill temperature would be the same for unprotected pigs moving at the speed indicated for the wind.

Winter panels should be used when the temperature is 50 degrees Fahrenheit or lower. Freezing rain and near-freezing temperatures can be deadly if animals become wet. Use winter panels to protect pigs from freezing rain. Always use PIC approved bedding. Close nose vents. During winter travel, protect hogs from cold crosswinds by using winter panels.

Consult the Livestock Safety Index at [www.theagclassifieds.com/weather.htm for cold weather warnings.](http://www.theagclassifieds.com/weather.htm)

### Wind Chill Temperature Chart

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Wind Speed (in km/h)</th>
<th>32</th>
<th>22</th>
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<td>-8</td>
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<td>-27</td>
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<td>-58</td>
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<td>-90</td>
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</table>
**Space Recommendations**
Pigs need more room in a truck during hot weather. Pigs weighing 91 kg need a minimum of 0.4 square meter per animal. A 104 kg pig needs up to 0.41 square meter when the humidity is high and the temperature is over 57 degrees Celsius. The chart below provides a rule of thumb guide per running foot of truck floor (based on a 2.3 meter inside truck width), for varying weights of pigs, when temperatures are below 57 degrees Celsius. When the livestock weather safety index is in the alert condition, load 20% fewer pigs.

**Minimum Pig Space Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal Weight (kg.)</th>
<th>Square Meter Required (per head)</th>
<th>Pigs Per Linear Meter of Trailer (2.33 m wide)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
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**Pig Trucking Tips**
When loading a truck, keep pigs from separate pens or different farms (pigs from different social groups) separated on the truck. Fighting is a major cause of death and can also reduce the quality of meat by increasing the incidence of PSE pork (as a result of large secretions of adrenaline).

Use partitions to divide the load and stop pigs from piling up. If pigs are to be slaughtered on the same day they are hauled, withhold feed for 12 hours prior to loading. If they are to be slaughtered on the next day feed them lightly prior to trucking. Pigs with full stomachs are more likely to die during transport.

Stop and start smoothly to prevent animals from being thrown off their feet. Surveys show careful drivers can greatly reduce death losses.

Avoid multiple handling. Whenever possible, deliver directly to one customer. The major stress is in the handling and loading and not the distance to the customer. The greatest stress is during unloading.

Time the loading for delivery to the customer to minimize the time pigs spend waiting to lessen the opportunity for fighting.

**Customer Relations**
Upon arrival at a customer, first impression can mean future business. Calling ahead, clean truck and a friendly driver is a few of the aspects a customer will notice first.

The driver should introduce him/herself then ask customer where to unload. He/she must evaluate if the unload area is suitable for truck and unloading of pigs. The unload setup should be so no pig after exiting may be able to re-enter the truck.

The driver should then acquire clean unloading clothes from truck side clean box. He/she pulls clean coverall over his clothes. He/she then takes clean rubber boots, he/she places one boot on before entering box and second boot on upon being in box. Boots should not touch the ground.

Unloading proceeds with a system that will not stress or hurt animals. Remember that it is important animals never re-enter truck but should be unloaded in a manner farmer can handle animals being sent to barn.

Exiting the box will be accomplished in the opposite manner as entering. Namely, taking first boot off
while in box, stepping to ground then taking off second. You can take off coveralls before taking down loading chute. Customer should by this time have noticed any defects or concerns. Make a note of any comments or concerns the customer may have on the transfer sheet(s).

A driver who is taught why this manner of procedure is followed will be more apt to do so than by just being told it is to be done in this manner.

**Proper Cleaning of Trailers**
1. Scrape and sweep all manure, bedding and debris from trailer/box.
2. When using winter panels, pull all panels off trailer. Wash both sides, rinse and disinfect.
3. Flush trailers out thoroughly and remove all decking.
4. Wash trailer inside and out with soap, always starting with top deck first. Pay special attention to ramps, gates, cutting boards, chute sides, brooms and shovels (use plastic/nylon).
   a) Soap to be compatible with sanitizer.
   b) Do not use Carbonate-Soap.
5. Wash under-carriage, wheels of tractor and trailer. Wash storage boxes, floor mats and tractor. If not equipped with both a dirty and a clean box, use a large enough box to accommodate two Rubbermaid containers, one for clean items, one for dirty items.
6. Disinfect tractor, trailer, storage boxes, floor mats, rims and tires.
7. Wash all boots, coveralls and cloth gloves.
8. Determine if 12-hour downtime is needed.
9. Look at trip sheet for proper number of boots, coveralls, gloves and disinfectant. Disinfectants to be kept on equipment at all time and hand sprayer to accommodate such.
10. One pair of coveralls and boots per load. Take extra in case they get dirty or touch the ground. Store in a proper place in the truck.
a) Imperative that driver use good judgment when changing.
b) Extra or sufficient number of coveralls, boots and gloves is taken, to include surplus.
11. Again look at trip sheet to determine proper loading sequence and unloading sequence.
12. Visually inspect the trailer for cleanliness.
13. You are now ready to leave the yard.
14. Upon arrival at source farm, inspect the load-out before backing up to chute.
   a) Biosecurity concern: make sure it’s clean.
   b) Safety concern: make sure the load-out is in good repair.
15. Remove from box one clean pair of boots and one clean pair of coveralls. Do not let coveralls or boots touch the ground.
16. Determine where the clean area is and put your coveralls on, keeping their contact with the ground to a minimum. Then put on one boot, step in the clean area with that foot, and put on the other boot before placing that foot in the clean area.
   a) Clean areas vary from site to site.
   b) DO NOT APPROACH OR ENTER BUILDING IF UNSURE OF CLEAN AREA.
17. Driver is responsible for matching exact number of animals for each customer.
   a) Do not allow customers to enter the box of the truck or trailer.
   b) On delivery to customers, the driver is to make sure the tags on the paperwork match the tags on the animals.

**Driver’s “What If” Scenarios**
The answers to these questions are guidelines for you to use **only if you cannot contact your dispatcher or PIC Health Assurance.**

**What to do if:**
1. **A BIRD’S NEST DROPS OUT OF THE LOAD OUT AND BABY BIRDS ARE ON THE PLATFORM FOR**
LOADING OR UN-LOADING?
Q: ARE YOU EMPTY? If the answer to this question is Yes or No you will follow the same procedure.
A: Remove the nest and the birds, clean and disinfect the area, load the pigs. Call your dispatcher so they can notify the Production Manager and or Vet Services.
Q: DID IT HAPPEN DURING LOADING? Yes
A: Remove the nest and the birds, clean and disinfect the area, load more pigs.

2. IF I SHOULD NOTICE THAT A BIRD HAS BUILT A NEST IN MY TRAILER?
Q: IT WAS NOTICED DURING THE PRE-TRIP INSPECTION?
A: Remove the nest and re-wash and disinfect the trailer.
Q: IT WAS NOTICED DURING THE LOADING OR UNLOADING AT A MULTIPLIER OR FARM?
A: Remove the nest disinfect the area, load pigs. If unloading pigs, do not unload, call Dispatch.

3. I’VE PULLED AWAY FROM THE LOADING DOCK AND I’VE NOTICED THAT THERE’S A PIG(S) ON THE GROUND?
Q: ARE THE ANIMALS BREEDING STOCK? Yes
A: Leave it there and tell farm manager.
Q: ARE THE ANIMALS FOR SLAUGHTER? Yes
A: If no other stops to pick up more pigs, load it. If you are to pick up more, leave it and tell farm manager.

4. I’VE NOTICED THAT A FARMER HAS STEPPED ON MY TRAILER OR CHUTE?
Q: WHAT IF I’VE STILL MORE DROPS TO MAKE?
A: Call Dispatch. Load goes to slaughter.
Q: WHAT IF IT WAS MY LAST CUSTOMER?
A: Unload and politely educate the customer.

5. WHAT IF A FARMER’S DOG SHOULD HAPPENS TO COME INTO THE TRAILER OR UP THE CHUTE?
Q: WHAT IF I STILL HAVE MORE DROPS TO MAKE?
A: Call Dispatch. Load goes to slaughter.
Q: WHAT IF IT WAS MY LAST DROP?
A: Unload and politely educate the customer and the dog.

6. WHAT IF A FARMER TELLS ME THAT HE OR SHE HAS BROKEN OUT WITH A DISEASE?
Q: I’VE NOT YET GOT OUT OF THE TRUCK OR TOUCHED THE INSIDE OF THE TRAILER?
A: This depends on the disease if it is PRV or PRRS the load goes to slaughter. Call Dispatch, they will guide you in the right direction.
Q: HE OR SHE TOLD ME AFTER UNLOADED AND I’VE STILL MORE DROPS TO MAKE?
A: Call Dispatch for direction.
Q: IT WAS MY LAST DROP?
A: If the customer still wants the animals, go ahead and unload. Let Dispatch know in case they have other orders on another truck.

7. WHAT IF A FARMER REJECTS AN ANIMAL BECAUSE IT LOOKS SICK OR INJURED?
Q: WHAT IF THE ANIMAL IS UN-LOADED?
A: Leave it there and note the tag # on the Route Sheet so the customer gets credit for the animal.
Q: WHAT IF THE ANIMAL IS STILL ON THE TRAILER?
A: Leave it on trailer, call Dispatch to make arrangements to slaughter.

8. WHAT IF AN ANIMAL I’VE UN-LOADED SHOULD HAPPEN TO COME BACK ONTO THE TRAILER?
Q: I’M LOADING/UNLOADING AT A MULTIPLIER?
A: If this is a load to just the Multiplier, finish unloading.
Q: I’M UN-LOADING AT A FARMER?
A: If this is your last drop finish unloading, if you have other animals on the truck they must go to slaughter.

9. WHAT IF I SHOULD HAPPEN TO NOTICE THAT AN ANIMAL IS SICK OR INJURED?
Q: I’VE NOTICED IT DURING THE LOADING AT A MULTIPLIER?
A: If the pig has not crossed the clean dirty line have the loading crew keep it, and see if they can replace it. If it has crossed the line see if they can load another pig.
Q: I’VE NOTICED IT DURING THE UN-LOADING, BUT NOT YET UNLOADED IT?
A: Leave it on the truck, note it on your paper work so
the customer gets credit for the animal.

10. WHAT IF THE ANIMAL(S) THAT I’M UNLOADING AT A FARMER SHOULD HAPPEN TO FALL OFF THE TRAILER?
   Q: WHAT IF THE FARMER SHOULD REJECT THE ANIMAL DUE TO INJURY?
   A: Leave the pig, note this on your paper work so the customer will get credit for the animal.
   Q: WHAT IF THE ANIMAL BELONGS TO A DIFFERENT CUSTOMER?
   A: Leave the pig, note it on the other farmer’s paper work. Call Dispatch so they can call the other customer to let him know.

11. WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I’VE PARKED AND NOTICED A DIFFERENT PIG COMPANY HAS PARKED NEXT TO MY TRAILER?
   Q: MY TRAILER IS CLEAN AND DIS-INFECTED, READY TO LOAD?
   A: You may continue on your way. Let your dispatcher know this has happened.
   Q: I STILL HAVE ANIMALS ON TO DELIVER TO CUSTOMERS?
   A: Again let your dispatcher know. The out come of this is determined by how long, how close, and if the other truck has pigs on it.

12. WHAT IF I SHOULD HAPPEN TO GET INTO AN ACCIDENT?
   Q: IT WAS WITH ANOTHER VEHICLE AND THE TRAILER TIPPED OVER?
   A: These animals would go to slaughter.
   Q: IT WAS WITH ANOTHER VEHICLE, WHICH WAS TRANSPORTING ANIMALS?
   A: These animals would go to slaughter.

13. I’VE NOTICE THAT THE ANIMAL ON THE TRAILER IS NOT THE CORRECT ONE THE FARMER REQUESTED?
   Q: THE ANIMAL IS NOT THE SAME BREED OR LINE OF STOCK?
   A: It would depend on when this happened. If during loading, try to get the correct animal. If you were at your unloading site, leave the animal on the truck and apologize for the mistake. Call Dispatch and inform them of the mistake. Dispatch will make the necessary arrangements.
   Q: THE ANIMAL IS THE SAME BREED OR LINE OF STOCK, BUT THE FARMER REJECTS THE ANIMAL?
   A: Leave the animal on the truck, apologize. Then call Dispatch for instructions.
   Q: THE ANIMAL IS THE SAME BREED OR LINE OF STOCK, AND THE FARMER WILL ACCEPT THE ANIMAL?
   A: Unload the animal, make the necessary changes on paper work, call Dispatch.

PIC Isowean® Transport Movement
The following are recommended guidelines from PIC Transport and PIC Health Assurance regarding the hauling of Isowean® pigs (pigs less than 21 days of age and weighing around 3.6 kg each).

1. Keep the wind off the pigs.
   › Put side panels on as needed to cut down on air draft inside of the trailer.
   › Most of the side panels may need to be on most of the time, since moving air generally will feel cooler on the body after a short time than the actual temperature outside.
   › This will help keep the pigs from piling up.

2. Keep the pigs dry.
   › Keep the pigs as dry as possible.
   › Use side panels as need when it is raining or wet outside.
   › Don’t over crowd the pigs in each pen.

3. Provide bedding in the same thickness as you would for larger pigs.
   › Bed the same as you do for the bigger pigs.
   › Do not over bed the trailer because young pigs may eat too many shavings and die.
   › When bedding a heated box, keep in mind that the heat is coming from the floor.
   › Too many shavings for Isowean® pigs are as bad as not enough shavings.
4. Be on time.

- The source farm is relying on you to be on schedule because they can wean the sows and/or move on with their schedule after you leave.
- The customer is waiting at the other end because he does not want the pigs on the truck any longer than need be. Isoweans® are to be on the truck no longer than necessary. Any trip that is longer than 10 hours, a team should be used, however, still no layovers are allowed.
- Heated trucks are required in winter; any exceptions must have prior approval from Customer Service.

5. Loading and unloading.

- Do not pen the pigs too tightly in each pen.
  - Use each gate for which it was designed in each trailer.
- When unloading, move Isoweans® in small groups to avoid piling of the pigs.

Health control is one of the biggest reasons a customer is buying Isowean® pigs. Please think and plan before you act on anything you do with Isoweans® pigs. Check on Isoweans® more often than older pigs. If they are dry and out of direct wind, they do very well. They do produce a lot of heat themselves, so watch carefully how they look and act.

Beating Bruising (Article by Dr. Temple Grandin)

Bruises cost the cattle and the pork industry millions of dollars annually. A recent non-fed beef audit showed that 22% of cull cows have severe bruising. Even in fed beef, up to half of the carcasses will have bruises. Because it is impossible to determine the age of recent bruises, it can be difficult for plant managers to determine whether a bruise occurred inside or outside of the slaughter plant. The answer lies in looking for different patterns of bruising.

If a bruise is occurring in the plant, it will usually occur in the same location on cattle and can come from many different sources. In one beef plant, management started to notice bruises on the animal’s left shoulders. They were occurring on cattle from many different feedlots, and they were gradually getting worse. The cause of the bruises was worn-out metal in the restrainer entrance. Cattle are very abrasive, and over a period of several years, they had worn through the metal side of the restrainer, creating a sharp edge. The first place to look for bruise-causing agents is around broken or damaged parts in the chutes, restrainer or stunning box.

Rough handling can also cause increases in bruising. Back bruises caused by slamming stunning box doors on cattle indicate rough handling. Some pork plants have eliminated back bruises caused by guillotine gates by cutting off the bottom of the metal door and replacing it with a curtain made from conveyor belting. The animals think the conveyor belting is solid and will not attempt to go through it.

Tracking the causes of bruises that occur outside the plant will require a little more detective work. Employees have to observe many carcasses on the line to determine if a bruise is occurring only on cattle from a specific origin. For example, there may be a severe bruise on the right loin of cattle from a particular feedlot. A trip to the feedlot may reveal a sharp metal strip protruding in to the loading ramp.

One overlooked factor is the variable of truck drivers. Poor driving habits such as slamming on the brakes and sudden acceleration can increase bruising because cattle are thrown off balance. Check to make sure the driver is not the cause. Suspect a truck driver when some of the cattle from a feedlot have bruises, and other loads of cattle from the same feedlot have low levels of bruising. This may indicate that one driver is causing the bruises. Several feedlots have banned the use of electric prods for truck loading. This has resulted in less bruising and
fewer dark cutters.

Another cause of bruising is excessively wild cattle. Cattle that are not accustomed to people on foot will often have more bruises and dark cutters. Cattle should be exposed to people on foot long before they arrive at a packing plant.

Although it is not possible to determine the age of a bruise that is under 24 hours old, it is possible to separate bruises into two categories: fresh bruises and bruises that are several days or weeks old. You can look at a bruise and determine if it occurred a long period before or not. Old bruises have clear yellow mucous indicated the bruises were most likely several days or weeks old.

In another plant, pork loins had bruise damage. The plant manager thought the stunner caused the bruises. The loin damage had yellow mucous on it and had occurred about a week prior, when the pigs were sorted. When I looked at the carcasses on the kill floor, I observed marks where the pigs had been beaten with metal gate rods. The marks were in the same location as the yellow mucous on the loins.

Yellow mucous, which is an indicator of an old injury, can remain on carcasses for months. At a fed beef plant, I observed some faint traces of yellow mucous on the legs of the animals at the point where the meat hooks are inserted. When I called the feedlot, I learned that these cattle had been severely abused during handling at a stocker operation prior to entering the feedlot. The manager thinks that many of the cattle had fallen down when they exited the squeeze chute.

Tracking down the cause of bruises takes some time, but the reward is reduced losses and improved animal welfare.

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Thanks

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