

SECTION 2: ANIMAL CARE — DAILY, WEEKLY AND MONTHLY ROUTINES

Daily routine

- Make sure you allocate the proper amount of time in your daily routine to accomplish all of the tasks involved in pig care.
 - Individually evaluating each pig within the facility takes approximately 2 seconds per head, or approximately 30 minutes per 1,000 head.
 - To properly evaluate water, feeders and ventilation, and to perform associated tasks, plan on spending 1 hour per 1,000 head.
- Animal-care workers must enter pens daily to conduct a proper pig evaluation and verify water and feed availability.
- Workers should be equipped with the tools that support efficient care, including:
 - Syringes, medication and needles
 - Marking devices (aerosol or paint sticks)
 - A pen and notebook
 - A hydrometer and thermometer (to check humidity and temperature)
 - Potentially a panel (sorting board) to sort ill or injured pigs
- Evaluations include:
 - Identification of ill or injured pigs to treat or remove to a hospital pen
 - Evaluation and adjustments to produce proper water flow and feed pan coverage
 - Recording of daily water consumption and temperature variations (highs and lows)
 - Evaluation of humidity and airspeed to determine modifications in ventilation strategy
 - Recording the number of pigs treated, noting associated medication and dose
 - Daily evaluation of feed inventory and associated intake to predict upcoming feed orders
 - Making sure fans and heaters are appropriately functioning to produce optimal environments

Weekly routines

- Evaluate daily data to understand trends or patterns relating to:
 - Water intake
 - Health changes
 - Feed intake
 - Utility use (liquid propane levels, heater runtimes, temperature probes)
 - The availability of proper back-up devices (heater back-up thermostats, fan back-up thermostats, curtain drop thermostats, high/low alarm thermostats)
 - Visitor logs
 - Biosecurity of the site — clean showers, entryways and associated equipment
 - Biosecurity and cleanliness of mortality disposal equipment or compost management

Monthly routines

- Test emergency devices
 - Curtain drops
 - Alarms
 - Back-up heaters and fans
 - Generators, if available
- Monthly maintenance
 - Grease bearings
 - Check fan belts
 - Clean temperature probes
 - Check for sagging curtains or inlet repairs