



Theirs – AWAP Adoption Eminent

- **NCCR and FMI developed AWAP, an audit program for all farms**
 - Fall 2004, momentum was growing, introduction eminent
 - AWAP cost to the industry was estimated by ISU and the University of Minnesota at over \$100 million per year.




Ours – Swine Welfare Assurance

- **Work began in 2000**
- **2003 SWAP introduced**
 - Science-based
 - Education and assessment progra...
 - No audit component



Customers believed SWAP lacked credibility...
and the pork industry believed AWAP was unworkable and unaffordable.



Board of Directors Action

- A plan was developed and approved by the Board and the USDA
- The plan was initiated with a discovery meeting with all segments of the food-chain
- The Coalition Discovery Team included:
 - NPB
 - NPPC
 - Producers
 - Packers
 - Customers (Foodservice & Retail)



The Workable / Affordable Component

What's New and What's Not

1. PQA Plus Certification for producer
2. PQA Plus certification and status lasts for 3 years
3. PQA and SWAP are merged
4. All PQA Plus 'Advisors' must be trained
5. SWAP (GPP 10) assessment is streamlined and focused
6. Care and well-being audits of a statistical sample of sites
7. PQA Plus Status for site – premises ID



The Credibility Component

- The goal of audits should be to measure the effectiveness of the welfare assurance system/program, not to find farms not in compliance.
 - Audit farms to achieve a 99% confidence level that at least 95% of farms are in compliance
 - Pending USDA approval, Pork Checkoff would pay for audits



Objective – Continuous Improvement

- Use the aggregate assessment data to identify areas for additional education and training in pork production



Who Can be an PQA Plus Advisor?



Advisor Qualifications

■ General

- Be a veterinarian, Extension Specialist or Ag Educator.
- Have a B.S. or equivalent in Animal Science or associated field
- Have two years of recent, documentable swine production experience.
- *Current PQA Educators or Certified SWAP Educators are not grandfathered into PQA Plus.*

■ Training and Examination

■ Certification



Advisor Qualifications

■ General

■ Training and Examination

- Attend a PQA Plus Advisor training session conducted by a PQA Plus Trainer.
- Successfully complete and pass an examination covering PQA Plus Good
- Production Practices 1-10 and the on-farm site assessment process.
 - » *The examination may be retaken twice in one session or attendance at another training session will be required.*
- No National Pork Board fees are required.

■ Certification



Advisor Qualifications

■ General

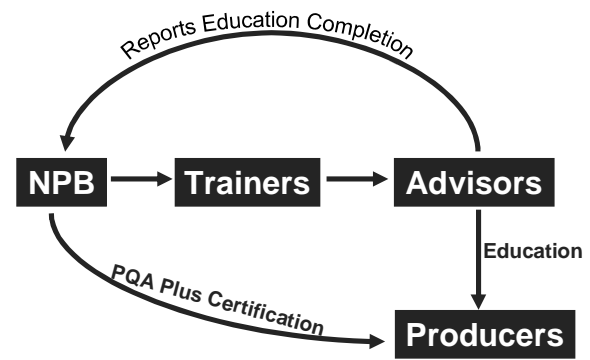
■ Training and Examination

■ Certification

- PQA Plus Advisor Certification is good for three years based on the PQA Plus Advisor training date.
- Retraining is optional for recertification but a retest is mandatory.



Producer certification



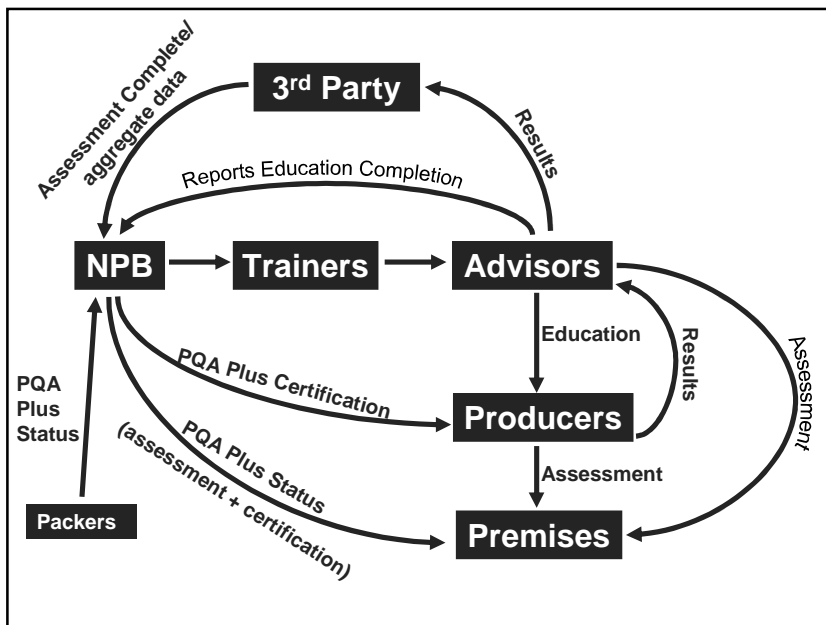
Producer Certification Notices

- Receive hard copy via mail
- Advisors may view & reprint from online website
 - <http://pqaplus.pork.org>
- Notices of recertification prior to expiration
 - PQA Level III – no less than 2 months beginning in April
 - PQA Plus – 6-8 weeks



Site Assessment





Producer Self-Assessments

Producer Endorsement

- **General**
 - Hold a current PQA Plus certification.
- **Training and Examination**
 - Be trained in conducting a PQA Plus Site Self-Assessment by a PQA Plus Advisor.
 - Successfully complete and pass an examination covering PQA Plus Good Production Practice 10 and the on-farm site assessment process. The examination may be retaken twice or another training session will be required.
 - No National Pork Board fees are required.
- **Endorsement**
 - PQA Plus Site Self-Assessment Endorsement is good for up to three years based on the PQA Plus Site Self-Assessment Endorsement training date but is not to extend past the individual's PQA Plus Certification expiration date.
 - Retraining is mandatory for re-endorsement on or after the expiration date of the PQA Plus certification.

Endorsement Process

- Training is equivalent to Advisor assessment training
- **Exam**
 - 25 questions
 - Covers GPP 10 & Assessment Process
 - Passing point is 90% = can only miss 2 questions
 - Generated on PQA Plus website
 - » <http://pqaplus.pork.org>
- Advisor attaches endorsement to PQA Plus Certification following successful training and exam
- No new certification is issued unless requested or reprinted
- Endorsement is valid for length of current PQA Plus certification
- Following a producer self-assessment the Advisor is responsible for submitting information on the PQA Plus website

Site Status



Site Status – Advisor Assessment

- **General**
 - Be identified by a premises ID.
 - Before assessment data can be reported and site status granted there must be a producer-designated PQA Plus Certified individual (the person with the most stable relationship/responsibility with the production on the site) associated with the site.
- **Assessment**
 - Have the Site Assessment conducted by a PQA Plus Advisor.
 - No National Pork Board fees are required.
- **Status**
 - PQA Plus Site Status issued based on confirmation through the NPB database that there has been a PQA Plus Site Assessment **and** a designated producer with a current PQA Plus Certification is linked to the site.
 - Site Status is good for three years from the date of assessment.
 - Confirmation of site reassessment and PQA Plus Certification of a producer linked to the site is mandatory to renew site status.
 - Site Status may be rescinded as a result of the PQA Plus audit process, if appropriate corrective action is not completed.



Site Status – Self-Assessed

- **General**
 - Be identified by a premises ID.
 - Have a PQA Plus Certified individual associated with the site.
- **Assessment**
 - Have the Site Assessment conducted by an individual associated with the site who holds a current PQA Plus Certification and who also has completed self-assessment training with an Advisor and holds a PQA Plus Site Self-Assessment Endorsement.
 - The Advisor must report to the National Pork Board that a site assessment has been done; must report the assessment data into the database; and must report that there is a PQA Plus Certified producer associated with the site
 - No National Pork Board fees are required.
- **Status**
 - PQA Plus Site Status issued based on confirmation through the NPB database that there has been a PQA Plus Site Assessment **and** a designated producer with a current PQA Plus Certification is linked to the site.
 - Site Status is good for three years from the date of assessment.
 - Confirmation of site reassessment and PQA Plus Certification of a producer linked to the site is mandatory to renew site status.
 - Site Status may be rescinded as a result of the PQA Plus audit process, if appropriate corrective action is not completed.

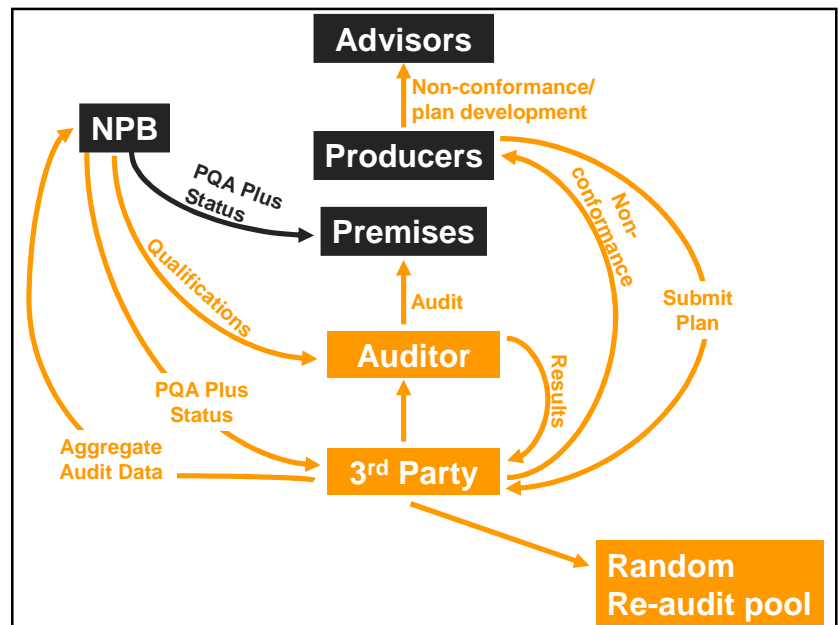


Site Status

- **PQA Plus website, <http://pqaplus.pork.org>**
 - Advisor must submit notice of completed assessment & assessment data to achieve status
 - Advisor may track their assessed sites
- **A hard copy notice of Status will be sent to recognize the site**
- **Notices of expiration will be sent 6-8 weeks prior to expiration date**



Audit

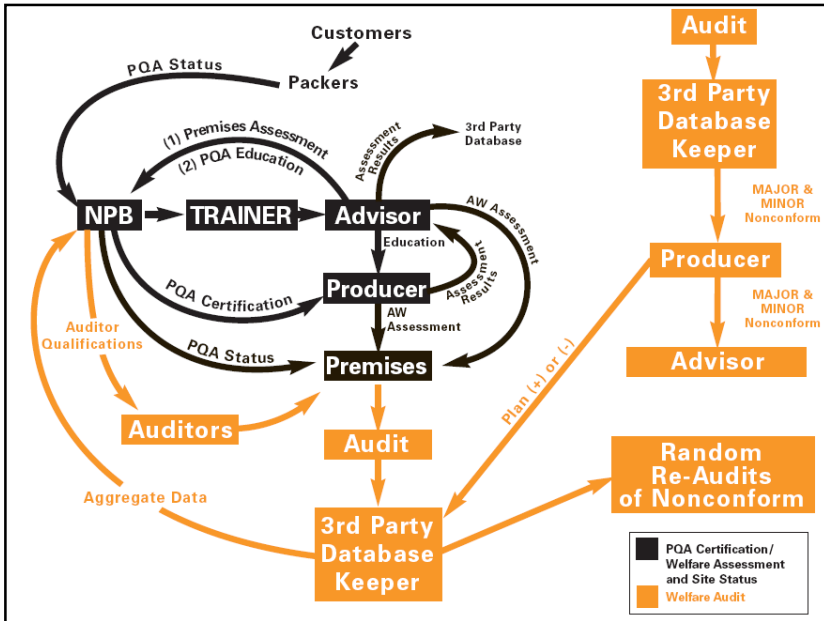


Common Audit Questions

- **Who can be an auditor?**
 - Auditor must be PAACO Certified
- **When will audits start?**
 - Audits will be initiated 12 months after June 2007
- **How will sites be picked for an audit?**
 - Sites to be audited will be picked at random
- **Will there be an audit appeal process?**
 - A process for a producer to appeal a non-conformance will exist

Advisor's Role in the Audit Process

- **Advisor will help the producer with corrective action or developing a plan for corrective action**
- **Advisor must sign off that corrective action has been completed or that a plan that is workable and credible is in place**
 - Must use professional judgment as situations will vary
 - General templates and guidelines will be provided
- **Producer is responsible for submitting proof of corrective action or a plan for corrective action**



Conducting the Site Assessment - Assessment Points

Recordkeeping

- Does the site have a VCPR?
 - **Yes**- Mark "Acceptable" on the Assessment Form.
 - **No** - Mark "Develop and Implement an Action Plan" on the Assessment Form.
- Link the veterinarian to the site within the past 12 months, for example:
 - A letter
 - Veterinary bills
 - Phone call
 - Prescription labels

Recordkeeping

- Does the site have 12 months of medication and treatment records?
 - **Yes**- Mark "Acceptable" on the Assessment Form.
 - **No** - Mark "Develop and Implement an Action Plan" on the Assessment Form.
- PQA Plus or equivalent forms
- 12 months of records

Recordkeeping

- **Does the site have documentation of caretaker training?**
 - » **Yes-** Mark “Acceptable” on the Assessment Form.
 - » **No** – Mark “Develop and Implement an Action Plan” on the Assessment Form.
- Documentation should include:
 - » *Trainee name*
 - » *Trainer name*
 - » *Date*



Emergency Support

- Does the site have a written emergency action plan?
 - **Yes-** Mark “Acceptable” on the Assessment Form.
 - **No** – Mark “Develop and Implement an Action Plan” on the Assessment Form.
- **Written action plan**
 - Covers various emergencies – fire, weather, power outage, etc...
 - Telephone numbers for owner, veterinarian, fire and police posted near telephone



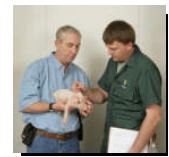
Emergency Support

- Does the site have an operational emergency backup system?
 - **Yes-** Mark “Acceptable” on the Assessment Form.
 - **No** – Mark “Develop and Implement an Action Plan” on the Assessment Form.
- **Emergency backup system**
 - Backup system for mechanical ventilation failure
 - » Manual procedures in place
 - » Automated intervention



PQA Plus Site Assessment

- Has the site had a PQA Plus Site Assessment in the past three years?
 - **Yes-** Mark “Acceptable” on the Assessment Form.
 - **No** – Mark “Develop and Implement an Action Plan” on the Assessment Form.
- **Sites should be assessed and registered at least every 3 years**



Daily Observation

- Does the site have daily observation records?
 - Yes**- Mark "Acceptable" on the Assessment Form.
 - No** – Mark "Develop and Implement an Action Plan" on the Assessment Form.



- Date, caretaker name or initials, building ID
- Records should be kept for 12 months
- Examples of daily observation
 - Log, calendar, water usage, high/low temperatures, sow cards



Body Condition Score (BCS)

- Is the body condition score for healthy animals in the Breeding Herd 1% or less BCS 1?
 - Review the table and make appropriate marking on the Assessment Form.

Is the BCS calculation:

Less than 1% BCS 1
Greater than 1% BCS 1

Mark this:

Acceptable
Develop and implement action plan

- Is the body condition score for healthy animals in the Non-Breeding Herd 3% or less BCS 1?
 - Review the table and make appropriate marking on the Assessment Form.

Is the BCS calculation:

Less than 3% BCS 1
Greater than 3% BCS 1

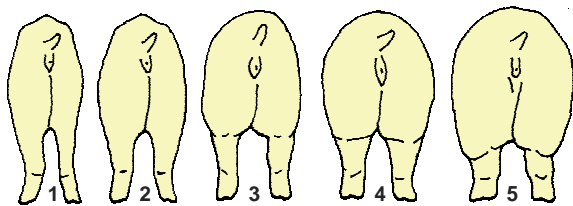
Mark this:

Acceptable
Develop and implement action plan



Body Condition Score (BCS)

- Indicator of management and animal well-being



Score	Condition	Detection of ribs, back bone, "H" bones, and pin bones
1	Emaciated	Obvious
2	Thin	Easily detected with pressure
3	Ideal	Barely felt with firm pressure
4	Fat	None
5	Overly fat	None



Body Space

- Do 90% of pigs in the breeding herd have adequate body space?
- Do 90% of pigs in the non-breeding herd have adequate body space?

Is the Body Space calculation result:

Greater than 90% meeting space requirements
Less than 90% meeting space requirements

Mark this:

Acceptable
Develop and implement action plan



Body Space

- Adequate space to accommodate a pig's body requires that the pig can:

- Easily lie down fully on its side (full lateral recumbency) without having to lie on another pig and easily stand back up;
- Lie down without the head having to rest on a raised feeder;
- Additionally, a sow housed in a stall must be able to lie down fully on its side (full lateral recumbency) without the head having to rest on a raised feeder and the rear quarters coming in contact with the back of the stall at the same time.



Body Space

- Complete the calculation and record on the Assessment Form.

- **Example:**

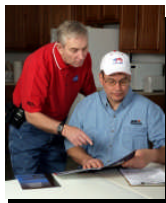
#1 Number of pigs not meeting space requirements	= 5
#2 Total pigs observed	= 63
$(\#1 \div \#2) \times 100$	= 7.9%



Euthanasia

- Does the site have a written euthanasia action plan?

- **Yes**- Mark "Acceptable" on the Assessment Form.
- **No** - Mark "Develop and Implement an Action Plan" on the Assessment Form.



- Written euthanasia plan which conforms to AASV guidelines

- Available to all caretakers



Euthanasia

- Are pigs euthanized in a timely manner?

- **Yes**- Mark "Acceptable" on the Assessment Form.
- **No** - Mark "Develop and Implement an Action Plan" on the Assessment Form.

- Timely euthanasia

- Animals showing no improvement or having no prospect for improvement after two days of intensive care are euthanized, unless there are special circumstances
- Severely injured or non-ambulatory pigs with the inability to recover are euthanized immediately
- Animals immobilized with a BCS of 1 are euthanized immediately



Facilities

- Are the facilities in a good state of repair?
 - **Yes**- Mark "Acceptable" on the Assessment Form.
 - **No** – Mark "Develop and Implement an Action Plan" on the Assessment Form.
- The facilities are defined as barn structural components, penning, feeders, waterers, flooring, chutes, and alleyways.
- Penning, floors, chutes and alleyways should be appropriate for the phase of production and has not caused injury to the animals.
- Penning, floors, chutes and alleyways should be in a good state of repair and has not caused injury to the animals.
- Feeders and waterers give unobstructed feed or water delivery to the pigs.



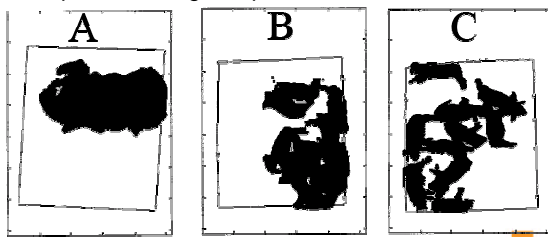
Ventilation

- Do the pigs show any thermoregulatory behaviors that indicate they are too hot or too cold?
 - **Yes**- Mark "Develop and Implement an Action Plan" on the Assessment Form.
 - **No** – Mark "Acceptable" on the Assessment Form.



Ventilation

- Pig thermoregulatory behavior is good indicator of thermal conditions
 - Cold- Shivering, huddling, piling
 - Hot – Spread out, high respiration rates



Shao et al., 1997



Ventilation

- If there is a question about the air temperature in the barn or thermoregulatory behaviors, take temperature measurements.
 - When evaluating air temperature, take measurements at pig height (approximately 1 ft above the floor) where pigs are located.
- Compare the measured temperature to the building thermostat



Ventilation

- ▲ Do the majority of the pigs display physical signs consistent with exposure to poor air quality?
 - **Yes**- Take a 2 hour Time Weighted Average (TWA) measurement.
 - **No** – Mark “Acceptable” on the Assessment Form.
- **Signs of poor air quality**
 - Watery and mattery eyes
 - Bloodshot eyes
 - Difficulty breathing
- Does the 2 hour TWA measurement exceed 25 ppm?
 - **Yes**- Mark “Develop and Implement an Action Plan” on the Assessment Form.
 - **No** – Mark “Acceptable” on the Assessment Form.



Ventilation

■ 2-hour Time Weighted Average (TWA) Ammonia reading

- Record ammonia measurements at pig height (approximately 1ft above the floor) in the center (center from side-to-side) at one-third intervals down the length of the barn.
- Record the start time and snap off the end of each gas diffusion tube. Secure them out of reach of any pigs nearby.



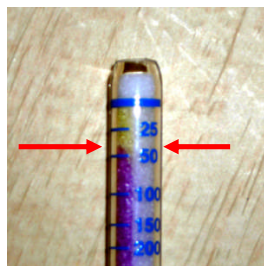
Ventilation

- Read the markings on the diffusion tubes and divide by the number of hours the tube was open. (suggested 2 hours)

- Example: The purple line changed to yellow up to about 40 on the tube shown here.
 $40 \div 2 \text{ hours} = 20 \text{ ppm}$

- Repeat the reading and calculation for the second tube in the barn.

- Average the two TWA readings together for a barn average



Ventilation

Example TWA calculation:

1 st tube reading	= 40 ppm
$40 \text{ ppm} \div 2 \text{ hours}$	= 20 ppm TWA
2 nd tube reading	= 32 ppm
$32 \text{ ppm} \div 2 \text{ hours}$	= 16 ppm TWA
$(1^{\text{st}} + 2^{\text{nd}}) \div 2 \text{ tubes}$	= ppm TWA
$(20 \text{ ppm} + 16 \text{ ppm}) \div 2 \text{ tubes}$	= 18 ppm TWA



Willful Acts of Abuse

- Did you observe any Willful Acts of Abuse?
 - **Yes-** Mark "Develop and Implement an Action Plan" on the Assessment Form.
 - **No** – Mark "Acceptable" on the Assessment Form.
- Willful abuse is defined as acts outside of normally accepted production practices that intentionally cause pain and suffering including, but not limited to:
 - Applying prods to sensitive areas like: eyes, ears, nose, rectum
 - Malicious hitting/beatings
 - Purposeful failure to provide minimal food, water and care that results in significant harm or death to animals



Conducting the Site Assessment - Benchmarking Points



Animal Evaluation

- **Production Performance**
 - Average Daily Gain
 - Farrowing Rate
 - Mortality



Final steps

- Complete the Assessment Form and Benchmarking Appendix
- Work with a PQA Plus Advisor to develop action plans as needed
- Implement the action plans



Thank You

- Questions?



POA
checkoff

PQAPLUS
Our Responsibility. Our Promise.