

Scan and Gap Analysis of Training Tools for Swine Large Depopulation Available in Canada for African Swine Fever National Coordination Project

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Methodology

- Established contact list
- 27 Interviews
- Over 150 documents, videos, websites reviewed
- Final Report – with Gaps and Recommendations
- Excel file with appropriate resources



Gap #1

Subject Matter
Experts

Recommendation:

Convene a Canadian Depopulation Workshop potentially using the European Commission's Better Training for Safer Food (**BTSF**) workshop as a model, inviting international people with experience to act as resources, to build an information network and to provide the expertise to enhance a Canadian response.

🔄 Animal welfare at slaughter and depopulation (basic)



Summary fiche

BTSF Training Programme on **Animal welfare at slaughter and depopulation (basic)**.

Organisation and implementation of training activities on animal welfare on the farm, animal welfare at the time of killing of animals (at slaughterhouses and for disease control purposes) and animal welfare during transport under the Better Training for Safer Food initiative.

- Objectives

The overall objectives of the **BTSF** Training Course on **Animal welfare at slaughter and depopulation (basic)** are:

- ✓ Improving awareness of rules and how to control that these are respected in the areas covered by the EU legislation in force, as concerns poultry and pig productions, slaughtering practices and long distance transportation.
- ✓ Ensuring consistent and high implementation standards across the Union.
- ✓ Promoting the exchange of good and best practices among EU Member States as regards control activities at farm.
- ✓ Improving the welfare conditions of live farmed animals in Europe.
- ✓ Improving awareness of the EU legislation on animal welfare in selected non-EU Countries.
- ✓ Stimulating a constructive dialogue among the interested parties (including business operators, NGOs and their umbrella organisations), and also a collaborative climate among EU and Non-EU National Competent Authorities towards common achievements concerning the most controversial aspects in the interpretation of the relevant pieces of legislation.

+ Calendar and locations

Gap #2

Operations
Training

Recommendation:

Information network of subject matter experts develop a One Welfare Safe Work Protocol.



HOW TO HANDLE AND RESTRAIN PIGS

When you handle pigs poorly, you can stress or even injure them. This can make pigs difficult to move. You can also put yourself, and other handlers at risk. If a pig is stressed at slaughter, their meat may be lower quality. These tips will help you move pigs efficiently.

Only workers holding a certificate of competence are allowed to handle or restrain pigs.

DO 

- ✦ Let pigs move side by side
- ✦ Keep the way ahead clear
- ✦ Keep the path well lit, but don't shine lights directly at the pigs
- ✦ Use flags, plastic paddles, rattles or pig boards 

ABOUT PIGS

- ✦ Pigs are social, sensitive and expressive animals
- ✦ They **don't have good eyesight**, but can hear very well
- ✦ Sows and boars can be aggressive
- ✦ **Like:** well-lit areas
- ✦ **Dislike:** darkness and shadows, reflections, moving objects, strong drafts, loud noises, sudden movement, being on their own and in a corner, slippery floors, being hurried
- ✦ Each pig can act in a different way

REMEMBER

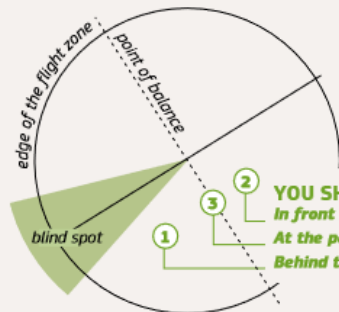
- ✦ If you can't move the pig easily and without causing it pain, **you shouldn't move it**
- ✦ You should **keep the group together** – only separate the pigs when you restrain them

MOVING THEM IN GROUPS

- ✦ Unload and **move the pigs in groups** of 5-6
 - ✦ Bigger groups (up to 18 pigs) can be moved to stunning, depending on slaughter line speed
- Special considerations for:**
- ✦ Adult sows: move in groups of 3-4
 - ✦ Adult boars: move individually
 - ✦ Piglets can be herded (30-40 max.) or carried individually

DON'T 

- ✦ Hit or kick the pig
- ✦ Put pressure on sensitive parts of the body
- ✦ Lift the pig by the head, ears, legs or tail
- ✦ Twist or crush the pig's tail
- ✦ Hold the pig by the eyes
- ✦ Handle the pig in any other way that could hurt it

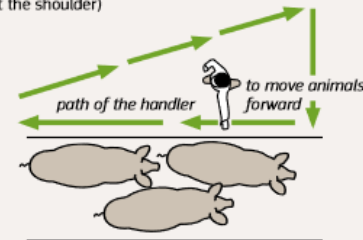


YOU SHOULD STAND:

- 1 **In front of the point of balance** to make the pig go backwards.
- 2 **At the point of balance** to make it stop.
- 3 **Behind the point of balance** to make it go forwards.

USE THE FLIGHT ZONE

The area around a pig is called the flight zone. When you walk into the area, the pig moves. To help move the pig, you can use the **point of balance** (usually at the shoulder) while standing at the right distance away from it. **Move slowly.** You should be able to move the pigs without hitting them.



Gap #3

Humane Health and Welfare

Recommendations:

1. Work with mental health practitioner(s) to develop a targeted course for the swine industry.
2. Establish tools for developing and fostering mental health resiliency as part of the One Welfare Safe Work Procedure includes all aspects of worker welfare, including mental health.



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ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Gap #4

Communications

Recommendations:

1. Work with stakeholders to identify messaging around the need for depopulation.
2. Tap into the ASF EMB Communications pillar to develop an FPTI communications strategy around depopulation, with a focus on comms for operational staff, producers, and the public.

Communications

1. To make sure that people on the ground are heard and feel heard, so that operations challenges are effectively communicated up to (and responded to) by decision makers in real time.
2. To ensure that messages are consistent at all levels and that misunderstandings are identified and rectified early.
3. There will be many stakeholders, multiple organizations with different mandates, levels of government, and jurisdictions involved.

Gap #5

Animal Welfare

Recommendation:

AHC support the development of an approved list of depopulation methods so that producers and others have a reliable reference.

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Questions? Comments?

THANK YOU!

