Champions of Animal Care
A joint effort between Purdue Extension and Indiana Farm Bureau

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Why Animal Care?

- Animal Welfare Act (AWA, passed in 1966)
  - Since then 5 amendments have strengthened
  - Main focus was dogs and cats
  - Other small animals were also included
  - Current focus covers all animals
    - Prevent abuse and harassment
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

- Established in 1972 by the USDA
- Mission is:
  - protect the health and value of American agriculture and natural resources
  - enforce the AWA to protect animals from inhumane treatment and neglect
What is Animal Care?

- Animal Care is composed of:
  - Practices and Standards in the Animal Facility
  - Animal Welfare
  - Ethical behavior in Relation to Animals
Indiana 4-H Youth

- Indiana 4-H expects each member and volunteer to:
  - Recognize the importance of proper animal welfare
  - Implement proper animal welfare practices
Visitor Security

- Many Facilities:
  - have strict visitor policies
  - often post signs to inform visitors of all the Guidelines
    - Such as “Do Not Enter Disease Prevention Area”
  - have visitors report to designated check-in check-out areas
Practices and Standards in the Animal Facility

- The 7th section of the “Security: Guide for Pork Producers” manual explains what visitors often need to do when entering the premises of an animal facility.


Created by Dr. Sandy Amass, Director of the National Biosecurity Resource Center at Purdue University
Animal Health in the Facility

- The Herd Management Plan written by the PQA Plus Program is a great reference for animals needing care

http://www.pork.org/Producers/YouthPQAPlus/GPP1/1spk.pdf
Animal Health

- PQA states,

  “Prevention is the key! It’s easier to keep your animals disease-free rather than try to cure them once they’re sick.”
The Sick Animal

- When animals become sick it is important to know the proper procedure to obtain treatment.
Treatment is the right action

- Veterinarians are experts in the field and should always be consulted before treating an animal
Transportation

- Transportation from one facility to another is a key to making the industry work.
Transportation

- ...but it is important that animal welfare and safety be taken into consideration when transporting.

The pork and beef industry have set standards in the Trucker Quality Assurance Program (TQA)

http://www.pork.org/Producers/docs/TQA_08.pdf
Trucker Quality Assurance Program

- TQA helps animal handlers understand the key's to success when unloading and loading animals
The Ramp

- TQA explains the importance of using the correct **ramp**
  - the correct angle (normally 20-25°)
  - material that prevents slipping
  - cleats on a ramp that will help the pigs climb
  - smooth curves are better than sharp angles
    - An animal will see a sharp curve as a dead end and may prevent the animal from going any further
Leader of the Pack

- Dr. Temple Grandin states, “Livestock will follow the leader, and handlers need to take advantage of this natural behaviour to move animals easily.”

http://www.grandin.com/behaviour/principles/leader.html
Gates

- Placing gates that narrow to the entrance of the trailer will help guide animals and keep them from turning around.

Overhead View of Loading Dock
Practice Makes Perfect

- Practicing unloading and loading your animal will help:
  - your animal feel more comfortable around you
  - relax your animal when it comes time to hop on the trailer
  - and even hone in on your showmanship skills
Animal Welfare

- The development of the standards were created to maintain a safe environment for the animals
Animal Welfare

- Taking care of your animal is an important responsibility of 4-H
Taking Care of Your Animal

An animal’s living environment requires:

- a shelter for weather
- dry, soft bedding
- enough space for all animals in the pen
- proper fencing to prevent animals from going to unwanted spaces
Animals’ Comfort

- It is important to keep your animals cool and comfortable so keep in mind:
  - Animals need water
  - Fans can create cool air flow when it is hot
  - Work with your animals during a cool time of day
Relax Already!

Animals can often become stressed and it is important to:

• remain calm
• keep the animal calm and take a minute to let them relax
• help a fellow 4-H’er with their permission
Ethical Behavior in Relation to Animals

- “If we choose to look the other way, the unethical few will have free run of the place”
  - Dr. Clint Rusk
Ethical Behavior in Relation to Animals

- Ethics, we must decide
  - Good or Bad?
  - Right or Wrong?

- Is physically altering an animal to meet breed characteristics and allow the animal to show in a purebred class when they may not be a purebred ETHICAL?
Ethics

“When an individual or organization takes the initiative to insure that their programs are honest and ethical, they will be in a much stronger position in the eyes of the general public and the media!”

- Dr. Clint Rusk
Ethics

- Almost 1% of our food comes from 4-H livestock projects.

1 OF EVERY 100 PEOPLE COULD BE AFFECTED

With a population of 3,000,000,000 that’s 3,000,000 people!!
Ethics

...this is a large number of people, and yet a small enough number to drop 4-H if food safety becomes a risk
Guidelines

- Guidelines are set to maintain a safe and fair environment and must be followed
- For example:
  - A medicated feed with a withdraw date should be withdrawn from the animal at the correct date before slaughter or resin could be left in the meat and ultimately harm someone
Guidelines

- Guidelines of the Indiana State Fair can be found at:
Remember.....

“The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it.”

General H. Norman Swartzkopf