



Q: What is the level of participation in Take Care?

A: Following the launch in 2005, the program gained widespread acceptance. Today, more than 50 million pigs are marketed by producers who have signed an endorsement which pledges their commitment to protecting public health, animal health and well-being through the responsible use of antibiotics. With the incorporation of the Take Care principles and guidelines into the PQA Plus program, the program it is expected to become an industry standard observed by virtually all U.S. pork producers.

Q: Was the Take Care Program tested with pork producers?

A: Yes. During the development of the program, producer focus groups were used to help define the principles and guidelines, the scope of the program, delivery methods for the program and even the name.

Following the launch of the program, the National Pork Board initiated and funded a pilot project study that is in process today. Ten veterinary clinics are involved, two each in five states: Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Indiana. Each veterinary clinic is overseeing five producers with approximately 250,000 hogs involved. Three of the five producers have received training on the Take Care Program and two of the producers have not. The goal of the pilot project is to determine the effectiveness of the program in raising awareness and knowledge of the responsible use of antibiotics. The findings of the pilot project will be presented at upcoming industry meetings and through articles in scientific and agricultural publications.

Q: Where can producers learn more about this program?

A: For more information or to request a manual, producers can call (800) 456-PORK or visit pork.org. Producers are also encouraged to work with their veterinarians to implement the program on their operations.

 pork.org or  the **Pork Checkoff Service Center @ (800) 456-PORK**



Q: How can producers participate in the Take Care – Use Antibiotics Responsibly program?

A: Producers can call the Pork Checkoff Service Center at (800) 456-PORK and request a Take Care manual and endorsement form. Producers should read the materials and work with their veterinarian to implement the principles in their operation. After reviewing and implementing the program, producers can sign and return the endorsement form to the National Pork Board. Endorsement forms are used to determine the total number of pigs being raised under the program and to demonstrate the industry's commitment to the responsible use of antibiotics.

 pork.org or  the **Pork Checkoff Service Center @ (800) 456-PORK**

Q: Who can producers contact if they have additional questions on Take Care?

A: Producers can contact Dr. Liz Wagstrom at the National Pork Board. She can be reached via email at lwagstrom@pork.org or by phone at (515) 223 2633.



TAKECARE



Q: What is the Take Care – Use Antibiotics Responsibly™ program?

A: It is a program developed by the National Pork Board, through the Pork Checkoff, that has three main goals for pork producers:

1. To educate producers about the responsible use of antibiotics.
2. To raise producers' awareness of the importance of using antibiotics responsibly and the impact of this on animal and public health.
3. To demonstrate to customers and consumers, pork producers' commitment to preserving public health, animal health and animal well-being through the responsible use of antibiotics.

This program includes responsible use principles and guidelines that producers and their veterinarians can use together to better manage the use of antibiotics.



Q: Why is this program important?

A: Pork producers have the responsibility to protect public health, animal health and food safety. Antibiotics are an important part of a comprehensive herd management program and steps need to be taken to preserve their effectiveness as well as to protect pork producers' ability to use antibiotics. The National Pork Board has taken a proactive stance by establishing the Take Care principles and guidelines for the pork industry. By developing and launching this formalized program, pork producers' positions and practices for antibiotic use are clearly defined. As a result, producers, customers and consumers understand how antibiotics are used in pork production, and the industry is demonstrating its commitment to the responsible use of antibiotics.



Q: How was this program developed?

A: The National Pork Board worked with veterinary and public health experts, pork producers and several national organizations, including:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Food and Drug Administration
- American Veterinary Medical Association
- American Association of Swine Veterinarians
- National Pork Producers Council

Q: What relationship does Take Care have with the Pork Quality Assurance program?

A: The Take Care Responsible Use principles and guidelines will be rolled into PQA Plus, the newest version of Pork Quality Assurance program in 2007. This will ensure even more widespread application of the program throughout the U.S. pork industry.

Q: What are the specific components of the Take Care Program?

A: The program consists of five principles and six guidelines:

Responsible Use Principles:

1. Take appropriate steps to decrease the need for the application of antibiotics.
2. Assess the advantages and disadvantages of all uses of antibiotics.
3. Use antibiotics only when they provide measurable benefits.
4. Complete the Pork Quality Assurance Program and fully implement the management practices described for responsible use of animal health products into daily operations.
5. Follow the Take Care Responsible Use guidelines.

Responsible Use Guidelines:

1. Use professional veterinary input as the basis for all medication decision-making.
2. Antibiotics should be used for treatment only when there is an appropriate clinical diagnosis.
3. Limit antibiotic treatment to ill or at-risk animals, treating the fewest animals indicated.
4. Antibiotics that are important in treating antibiotic-resistant infections in human or veterinary medicine should be used in animals only after careful review and reasonable justification.
5. Mixing together injectable or water medications, including antibiotics, by producers is illegal.
6. Minimize environmental exposure through proper handling and disposal of all animal health products, including antibiotics.

