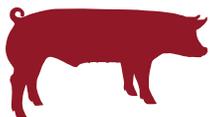


# 2021 UPDATES TO THE COMMON SWINE INDUSTRY AUDIT

The U.S. pork industry has successfully implemented the Common Swine Industry Audit since its introduction in October 2014. Every year, the Industry Audit Task Force has reviewed helpful feedback from producers, packers, auditors and customers as a way to help clarify and revise portions of the audit. As before, the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization (PAACO) has certified the new edition of the audit, which is now available to the public.

The Common Swine Industry Audit serves as a single, common audit platform for the pork industry. The overarching goal of the common audit process remains the same in the revised edition: to provide consumers greater assurance of the care taken by farmers and pork processors to improve animal well-being and food safety. The audit tool builds on the existing Pork Quality Assurance® Plus (PQA Plus®) program and is an integral component of the continuous improvement process. The standards within the Common Swine Industry Audit include 27 key aspects of swine care and pre-harvest pork safety through all phases of production. The four areas reviewed during an audit are records, animals, facilities and caretakers. These principles have not changed with the 2021 version of the Common Swine Industry Audit.

The changes to the Common Swine Industry Audit for 2021 include updates and clarifications to the audit standard and audit tool. Three questions have been updated. The details of the updated document include:



## Animal Observations:

- The description of scratches will be replaced with criteria on severe scratches. The description will read: “Scratches are injuries to the skin that go into the skin but do not go all the way through. Animals with scratches that have scabbed over must be counted. The number of pigs with severe scratches must be noted. No more than 2% of the pigs are observed with severe scratches. Scratches must be reported for each phase of production (breeding and non-breeding) and for total pigs observed. Audit score is based on total animal percentage. If zero animals are observed with severe scratches, question 21 must be marked as “Not Applicable” or NA.”
- To reflect these changes, question 20 will read: “Do 2% or less of the pigs observed have severe scratches?” and question 21 will read: “Have these pigs observed with severer scratches been identified by caretakers and receiving attention? NA if zero pigs observed with severe scratches.”
- The phrase “per AASV Guidelines” was added to the question number 5 and the Humane Euthanasia section to provide additional clarity on the timeliness of checking for insensibility and death during euthanasia.



## Animal Handling:

- The description in the Animal Handling section on page 13 to read “Before releasing a pig to the ground the pig must have at least two points of contact before the handler lets go (i.e. two front legs).” The standard for needle usage was modified to clearly indicate that needles found on-farm that do not meet the PQA Plus recommendations require a written SOP or written veterinarian recommendation.
- The phrase “striking an animal with the corner of a sorting board” was added to the Animal Handling description of Rough Physical Contact to better describe improper use of handling tools that are not electric prods.

Visit [www.pork.org/commonaudit](http://www.pork.org/commonaudit) for access to all of the current Common Swine Industry Audit materials. In addition to the English and Spanish versions of the audit documents, producers will find several resources and training materials to help them prepare for an audit under the Resources tab on [www.pork.org/commonaudit](http://www.pork.org/commonaudit). For questions related to the Common Swine Industry Audit, please call the National Pork Board Service Center at 1-800-456-7675.