Weaning Sows

Weaning sows is a stressful event. Stay calm and patient and allow the sows to move at their own pace.

- Positive interactions with sows on a daily basis will make the weaning process easier.
- Prepare the path of movement by removing all obstacles and distractions and securing all gates.
- Items leaning against a wall could fall and hit a sow. Debris on the floor could cause sows to slip or trip.
- If the pigs are weaned before the sow, be aware of the sow's behavior as she may become aggressive protecting her litter.
- If sows are weaned before the pigs, be aware the sow may become protective and aggressive as she will try to go back to her piglets.

- Be patient when moving sows, especially around 90 degree turns. Allow them to move at their own pace and give ample time for her to explore the area.
- Move sows in small, manageable groups. Small groups will move more efficiently than larger groups.
- Know where your coworkers are. Don't push sows into the person in front of you.
- Use gentle pressure to get a sow to enter a gestation stall. Younger sows may be reluctant to enter the stall.
- Secure all gates and latches. Unsecured latches may allow a sow to back up and exit her stall. Loose gates can be knocked down, causing injury.