Training & Handling Boars
Training Checklist & Key Learning Points

Show the employee a group of boars and how to move a boar from one stall to another.
- Never assume a boar is safe.
- As boars age, they can become unpredictable and dangerous.

Take a boar to a pen of gilts and explain to the employee why it is safest for two people to work together around boars.
- Two people can share tasks and look out for each other to make handling the boar safer and easier for everyone.
- If someone needs help or is injured, there is someone present to respond and assist.

Show the employee the most dangerous part of the boar.
- Boar tusks are sharp and can cause serious injury if the boar jerks his head suddenly and catches a handler off-guard.
- Always pay attention and avoid working around a boar's head.

Demonstrate the importance of the sort board to handler safety. Move a boar from one pen of gilts to another pen using the sort board.
- Properly position the sort board between yourself and the boar.
- Keep knees slightly bent to absorb any impact and provide balance.

Show the employee how to remove a mounted boar from a sow during an in-pen heat check.
- Place sort board correctly under boar's chin and lift upwards to push boar off of the sow.
- Keep boars from remounting the sow by using a sort board as a barrier between the boar and the sow.

Show the employee a boar ready to be culled so they can see how large boars can get.
- A boar culling program is essential for employee safety.
- Older boars can be large and more unpredictable.

Show the employee devices and tools that allow for safer heat-checking and movement of boars.
- How to hook a boar up to a boar bot or load a boar onto a boar limo.
- How to harness a boar.
- How to safely lead a boar.

Visit a pen of young boars and discuss the importance of positive human-boar interaction from a young age to make handling of boars easier as they grow.
- Entering the pen and allowing boars to approach; walking young boars up and down a hallway; scratching behind boar's ears; walking boars pen calmly will get them used to responding to handlers safely.

Discuss your farm’s routine to reward positive behavior in boars.
- Routine rewards for boars will improve boar movement between sows.

Discuss what to do if two boars begin to fight.
- At times, the safest thing to do is not intervene.
- Less dominant boar will typically give up and by staying out of the way the employee remains unhurt.