

MAKING A DIFFERENCE *for Iowans*

Clippings



Lyon • O'Brien • Osceola • Sioux Counties

A Weekly Column from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Week of December 7, 2015

For Immediate Release

What's happening in the pork industry?

Dave Stender, ISU Extension and Outreach Swine Program Specialist



Our area pork producers have a new way of doing business. Pork producers today need to participate in an audit program called the Common Swine Industry Audit. According to the National Pork Board, the overarching goal of the common audit process is to provide you – the consumer - greater assurance of the care taken by farmers and pork processors to improve animal well-being and food safety.

The audit builds on the existing Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA Plus) program that all producers are required to know and serves as a single, common audit platform. The purpose of a one platform audit is also to avoid the problem that European swine producers are facing. They have multiple audits from different packers for the same pig farm each year and those audits tend to judge similar questions differently between the different audits. In October 2014, the National Pork Board officially announced that a new common swine industry audit platform for pork producers, packers and processors will be finalized by a Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization. The audit is currently available to the public and packer employed auditors are already using the audit system. By summer the official auditors will be trained and started

The common audit requires more records and documentation than previous certification programs. ISU Extension and Outreach has developed a notebook and a system to help producers organize their document and records. The workshop also helps producers prepare for an audit.

There are 89 questions on the audit; many are not intuitive. Producers that have attended the workshops report that they now have the tools and information they need to successfully pass the audit. One of the new sections of the audit some producers have the most difficulty completing is the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) sections. The requirement is producers must write ten standard operating SOP procedures for various parts of their operation. Additionally, the producer must write a welfare policy statement and develop a reporting system. Each SOP must list the person in charge of maintaining and modifying the SOP.

ISU Extension and Outreach holds workshops for local producers to help with their personal common swine industry audits. Call your local county Extension and Outreach office to find out when the next workshops are scheduled. Visit www.extension.iastate.edu. Click on "Locate a county office" to find the office nearest you.

Local Producer President of The National Pork Board

In case you didn't realize, we have a local pork producer who is president of the National Pork Board. Derrick Sleezer, a pork producer from Cherokee is serving his second three-year term and just concluded two years as the board's treasurer.

Sleezer is an owner and employee of Sleezer, Inc., a farrow-to-finish, farrow-to-wean and farrow-to-feeder operation. He also works for Kerber Companies in product design/implementation, safety and compliance. Sleezer chairs the Finance Committee, and serves on the Animal Welfare and Trade committees and represents the Pork Board on the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence board.

-30-

Dave Stender, Swine Program Specialist
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
712-225-6196 or dstender@iastate.edu