

# Provide Proper Animal Handling and Care

## Good Production Practice #9

### Assuring Quality Care for Animals Food Animal Quality Assurance

[go.osu.edu/AQCA](http://go.osu.edu/AQCA)

Adapted from National Pork Board, *Youth Pork Quality Assurance Plus Handbook*  
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# Proper Animal Care and Well-Being

- Every caretaker (youth exhibitor, parent, guardian, producer, etc.) has ethical responsibility to protect and promote well-being of animals in his/her care by
  - Providing feed, water, and shelter (environment)
  - Providing proper care, handling and transportation
  - Protecting animal health and providing appropriate treatment, including veterinary care
  - Using approved practices to euthanize in timely manner and properly dispose of carcass



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# Three Basic Needs

- Water
- Food
- Shelter
  - Environment



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# Water

- Provide clean, fresh, cool water DAILY
- Sufficient water for all animals
- Clean waterers on regular basis
- Know water requirements for your animals
- Water requirements change based on
  - Weather/environment
  - Maturity of animal
  - Feed consumption
  - Species
  - Stage of production



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# Feed

- Know nutrient needs of the animals
- Feed proper amount of feed
- Avoid restricting feed to maintain a weight or lose weight for show
- GPP #5 covers proper feed processing protocols



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# Shelter – Animal's Environment

- Needed to provide animals escape from harsh environments
- Animals at different ages require different amounts of space
- Animals at different stages of production require different amounts of space
- Provide sufficient space for animal based on animal's weight at end of project or to a mature weight



# Sanitation

- Provide clean bedding
- Remove waste in timely manner
  - Prevents spread of disease
  - Reduces fly problems and odors
- Clean and disinfect facilities before new animals arrive



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# Pens, Floors, Alleyways

- Sharp or protruding objects may cause skin lesions
- Broken slats or uneven flooring may cause lameness or leg injuries
- Floors should be rough enough to minimize slips and falls, but not so much as to injure pad or sole of hoof
- Need non-slip flooring where animals are handled





# Body Space

- Animals must have enough space to
  - Spread wings comfortably within coop or pen
  - Move around and get away from each other if needed
- Refer to species Resource Handbooks for space requirements
- Refer to Ohio Livestock Care Standards



# Animal Evaluation

- Helps verify that other aspects of well-being program have positive effects on animals
- Production Performance
  - Indicator of animal's well-being
  - May be compromised if animal's well-being is compromised
  - Production performance measures to track include
    - Average Daily Gain
    - Feed Efficiency
    - Mortality Rates



# Safe Animal Handling

- Use best animal handling and movement practices for the good well-being of animal and safety of handler
- Improperly handled animals become distressed which can lead to
  - Physical injury to animal
  - Physical injury to handler
  - Increase in incidence of non-ambulatory animals
  - Increase in time to load and unload animals
  - Reduced growth rates and performance
  - Significantly contributing to carcass shrink, trim loss and poor meat quality



# Following/Herding Instinct

- Not using or incorrect use of following/herding concepts can cause injury to animal if trying to escape
- Visual gaps between pens, alleys, ramps, gates, chutes, etc. can be seen as escape route for animal and can result in injuries
- Not using or incorrect use puts handler and other people at risk for injury

