

Standard Operating Procedures
Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Swine Unit

I. TAMUK swine unit overview.

The TAMUK Swine Unit is a farrow to finish operation comprised of five distinct phases of production including breeding, gestation, farrowing-nursery, growing and finishing. Our breeding herd consists of approximately 10 sows; among the breeds used are the Hereford, Blue Butt, and Hampshire. It is also intended to utilize Duroc and Yorkshire genetics for teaching purposes. The farrowing house consists of seven farrowing crates. Piglets are weaned at 28 days of age and moved to the nursery pen. Once a 30 lb body weight is achieved, they are moved to the growing-finishing pens.

II. Biosecurity.

- 1.-Visitors entering the swine unit must report to the main office and there are no exceptions to this rule even for brief visits. Individuals who have worked with farm animals at other locations must have taken a shower before entering the unit.
2. - All visitors must use footbaths placed at the entry points of the unit. Suitable footwear such as disposable boots and rubber boots are available for all personnel and visitors.

III. Farrowing room management.

- 1.-All areas between each group of pigs, within the room, around equipment and farrowing crates, are thoroughly cleaned using water, soap and disinfectants.
- 2.-Sows are moved to clean farrowing crates 3 to 5 days before farrowing. All sows are washed with disinfectant soap before entering the farrowing room.
- 3.-Sows are fed a lactation ration, up to approximately 6 pounds per day.

4.-Processing of piglets involves clipping needle teeth, notching ears, giving injections of iron, and docking tails. Boars are castrated before 10 days of age.

5.-Sows are fed ad libitum during lactation at least three times per day.

6.-Piglets are weaned at 28 days after birth.

IV. Breeding.

Sows are bred according to the teaching needs of students and professors. In order to have some sows farrowing in January for the ANSC 2310 class during Spring a group of 5 to 7 sows are bred in September and October. In order to have some sows farrowing in October-November for the ANSC 2310 class a group of sows are bred in June and July.

V. Treating sick Pigs.

Treatment of sick animals is performed with the assistance and advice of the TAMUK Farm Attending Veterinarian. Records for treated animals are maintained in a treatment log located in the Farm Manager's office.

VI. Herd Health Management.

A. Vaccination Program

- 1.- All healthy gestating sows/gilts are vaccinated with Suvaxyn® (or similar vaccine) at 5 and 2 weeks prior to farrowing.
2. - All healthy breeding stock is vaccinated 2 weeks prior to breeding in order to prevent diseases caused by porcine parvovirus, Erysipelothrix, and the six strains of Leptospira.
3. - Healthy piglets are vaccinated at two and four weeks post-weaning to prevent atrophic rhinitis.
4. - Boars are vaccinated every 6 - 6.5 months with Suvaxyn.

B. Internal/External Parasite Control

1. - Antiparasitics are administered subcutaneously for treatment and control of gastrointestinal roundworms, lungworms, kidney worms, suckling lice and mange mites.
2. - Gestating sows are treated with an antiparasitic two weeks prior to farrowing.

3. - Boars and other breeding stock are treated with an antiparasitic every 60 days.

D. Quarantine Procedures

1. - New additions to the herd are isolated for a minimum of 30 days in isolation pens located 50 yards away from main herd.

VII. Animal inventory (identification).

Identification: All animals housed in the swine unit are given an identification number via an ear tag or using an individually identifiable series of ear notches.

VIII. Sale of animals policy.

1. - The Farm manager determines which animals are to be sold.
2. - According to TAMUK business office policy, animals sold by private treaty can be paid for with cash, personal check or money order made payable to "TAMUK" before leaving the farm.
3. Hogs are priced based on current market prices obtained at livestock auctions close to Kingsville such as Karnes City or Seguin TX or at the U.S.D.A. Agriculture marketing service website www.ams.usda.gov.
4. - All buyers must receive a sundry receipt in order to remove hogs from the farm.

IX. Animal waste management.

One of the major problems associated with a farrow-to-finish operation is the large amount of effluent produced on a daily basis. The TAMUK farm utilizes this waste product by spraying it as fertilizer on the farm coastal fields on a rotational schedule. Swine effluent is pumped at least twice a week from each of the three effluent-containing tanks located under the following floors: gestation/breeding, grower, and finishing floor.

X. Animal Carcass Disposal

1. All deceased animals are transported and discarded into a death pit following USDA and TAMUK IACUC rules and procedures.