



# Ag Project Center Safety Practices for Swine

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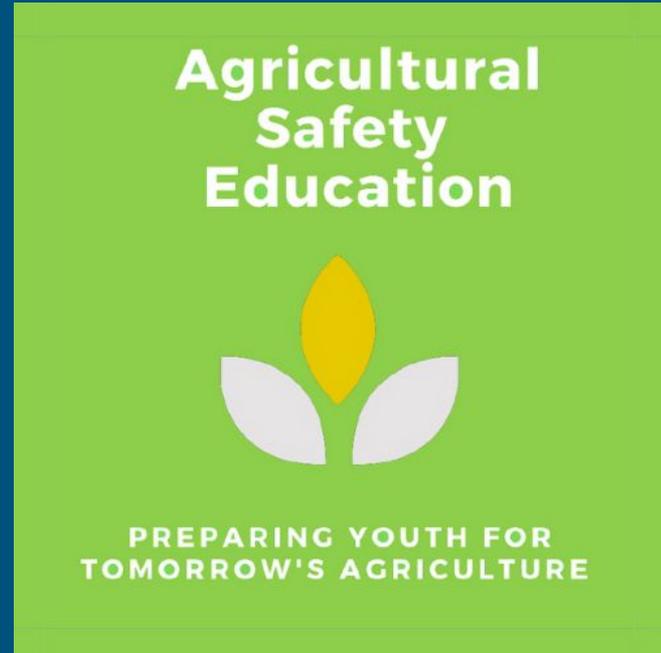
Objective: Understand the importance of safety  
and management practices while raising a  
livestock project



# Why Safety Matters in Agriculture

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- Being safe prevents accidents and injuries from occurring
- 1 out of every 5 agricultural injuries to youth is animal related



# Common Hazards in the Barn

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## Machinery:

- *Clipping Lift:* Do not operate without ag teacher present and permission.
- *Scale:* Avoid slamming the scale doors, watch your fingers, and gently work pigs into scales to avoid injury.

## Chemicals:

- *Bleach, wormer, insecticides, etc.* - follow proper instructions per each product. Always follow ag teacher instructions for use around livestock.

## Animals:

- *Lock Gates & Check Paneling:* Always check your gates to make sure they are locked in order to avoid animal getting loose and wandering. Check paneling for broken pieces, sharp edges, and escape routes.
- *Product Storage:* Always make sure your products are locked and stored away so that the pigs do not get into them.
- *Trenches, dips, & drop offs:* When walking your pig, make sure you watch the terrain for sudden drop off, trenches, etc to avoid injury.

# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

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PPE is equipment worn to minimize exposure to a variety of hazards

- Close-toed shoes: NO Crocs or flip flops
- School Appropriate Clothes



# Project Center Equipment

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All equipment is property of Klein ISD or the FFA chapter and should be treated with respect. If you notice that something isn't working please report it to the ag teacher.



- Don't use broken wheelbarrows.
- Don't fill the wheelbarrow so high that you can't push it up the ramp.
- Don't use something if you aren't sure how to use it.
- Pick up animal waste when done using scales and wash racks.
- Clean up your personal belongings after using equipment.

# Animal Handling Safety

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## Understanding Pig Behavior:

- *Study and Know Your Pigs:* Each pig has a unique personality. Spend time observing and understanding their behavior to anticipate their reactions.
- *Approach Slowly:* Avoid sudden movements or loud noises, which can startle pigs.

## Proper Handling Methods:

- *Use Appropriate Tools:* Invest in well-designed show sticks and ensure they are in good-condition.
- *Avoid Restraint:* Use gentle pressure and guide the pig rather than pulling or pushing forcefully. The show stick is a valuable tool that should be used thoughtfully, without resorting to excessive force that could result in visible marks on the pig.

## Training and Familiarization:

- *Positive Reinforcement:* Train pigs with positive reinforcement techniques. Reward desired behaviors to create a positive association.
- *Familiarity with Human Touch:* Regularly touch and handle pigs from a young age to familiarize them with human contact. Brushing them and using skin/hair care products is great for this.

# Animal Handling Safety

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## Safe Loading and Unloading:

- *Well-Designed Ramps:* Use well-constructed loading ramps with non-slip surfaces to prevent injuries during loading and unloading.
- *Quiet Environment:* Keep the loading and unloading areas calm and quiet to reduce stress on the pigs.

## Proper Transportation Practices:

- *Adequate Ventilation:* Ensure proper ventilation in transport vehicles to prevent heat stress.
- *Secure Enclosures:* Use secure and well-ventilated trailers with appropriate dividers to prevent injuries during transport.

## Health Monitoring and Biosecurity:

- *Regular Health Checks:* Monitor pigs for signs of stress or illness. Address health concerns promptly.
- *Disease Prevention:* Implement practices to prevent the spread of diseases within and between groups of pigs.

# Animal Product Safety

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## Storage Conditions:

- *Temperature:* Store products (shampoos, supplements, medications, etc) in a cool, dry place unless specified otherwise on the product label. Avoid exposure to extreme temperatures.
- *Light Exposure:* Keep these products away from direct sunlight, as light can degrade certain compounds and reduce their effectiveness.
- *Moisture:* Protect them from moisture to prevent degradation or contamination. Consider using airtight containers or packaging for supplements and medications.



## Labeling and Organization:

- *Read Labels:* Always read and follow the product labels and instructions for storage and usage.
- *Expiry Dates:* Check expiration dates regularly, and discard any products that have passed their expiration date. Expired products may not be effective and could potentially be harmful.

# Animal Product Safety

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## Proper Dispensing:

- *Use Measuring Devices:* When administering supplements or medications, use the provided measuring devices to ensure accurate dosages.
- *Follow Guidelines:* Adhere to recommended dosages and frequencies specified on the product label or as directed by a veterinarian AND your ag teacher.
- DO NOT USE MEDICATIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING YOUR AG TEACHER FIRST.

## Communicating with an Ag Teacher/Veterinarian:

- *Professional Guidance:* Always seek advice from your ag teacher FIRST, and then from a veterinarian, if needed, regarding the proper use, storage, and handling of pig shampoos, supplements, and medications. They can provide specific recommendations based on your pig's health and needs.

# Fire/Electrical Safety in the Barn

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## How we Prevent Fires

- Fire extinguishers at the front of the barn
- Extension cords must meet NED and UL codes
  - Must be outdoor, heavy duty rated
  - No decorative lighting
  - Multiple cords from 1 outlet with use of a splitter is not allowed
  - You must have prior approval from an ag teacher to run an extension cord.



# Emergency Preparedness

## Follow these steps in case of emergency:

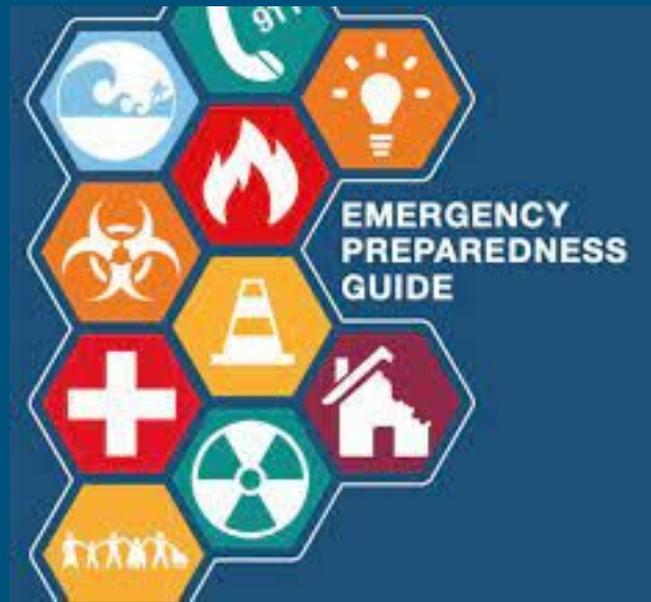
1. 911 or Klein PD (832-249-4266)
2. Make contact with any ag teacher

## First Aid for Humans:

- If there is an injury that needs first-aid administration, find a first aid kit and use what is needed.

## Animal Injuries & Sickness:

- If you notice an injured animal call the owner of the animal immediately
- If there is an emergency with an animal, follow your school's vet protocol
- All veterinary expenses are the responsibility of the student/family to pay



# Reporting & Communication

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- Report safety hazards to the ag teacher immediately
- Your teacher will tell you how to remove the hazard

