

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

WILFUL ACTS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT

All barn personnel have a moral and ethical obligation to provide humane treatment to animals in their care.

1. **WILFUL ACTS OF ABUSE, CRUELTY OR NEGLECT ARE UNACCEPTABLE AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

Wilful acts of abuse include, but are not limited to:

- › intentionally applying prods to sensitive parts of the animal such as the eyes, ears, nose, genitals or rectum.
- › malicious hitting or beating of an animal. This includes forcefully striking an animal with a closed fist, a foot, handling equipment (e.g., sorting board, rattle paddle) or other hard or solid object that can cause pain, bruising or injury.
- › excessive prod use as defined in the Handling Practices section 7.9.
- › driving pigs off high ledges, platforms or steps while moving, loading or unloading, causing the pigs to fall to the ground.
- › dragging a conscious animal by any part of its body except in the rare case where a non-ambulatory animal must be moved from a life-threatening situation. Non-ambulatory pigs may be moved by using a drag mat.
- › purposefully dropping or throwing an animal.
- › causing physical damage to the snout or tusks of a boar as a way to reduce aggression. This excludes tusk trimming.
- › failure to provide sufficient food, water or proper care, resulting in significant harm or death.

2. **NEGLECT IS DEFINED AS INTENTIONAL FAILURE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FOOD, WATER OR CARE, RESULTING IN SIGNIFICANT HARM OR DEATH TO AN ANIMAL.**

If a wilful act of abuse or neglect is observed, the observer should immediately report the incident to the site manager, the production manager or a licensed veterinarian within 24 hours of the incident.

If you are unsure about what constitutes correct and humane animal care, it is your responsibility to seek assistance and guidance from the site manager, the producer or a licensed veterinarian.

WILFUL ACT OF ABUSE OBSERVED DURING VALIDATION

If the validators observe staff committing a wilful act of abuse during validation, this will result in a critical non-compliance and remedial action will need to be implemented as deemed appropriate by the validator. Wilful abuse and neglect are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

