



Sanitation and Building Design

(See the Sanitation and Building Design section of the Producer Manual.)

Good sanitation practices help to reduce disease and decrease the need for antibacterial agents. Infectious agents in nasal secretions, saliva, urine, and manure enable pig-to-pig spread of disease. Removal of these elements is key to sanitation programs. Examples of removal procedures might include sweeping alleyways to remove any grain that could feed disease-spreading mice or rats, eliminating manure that might serve as a breeding ground for flies and removing dead pigs before they are cannibalized by pen mates or other animals.

Humidity is crucial to the survival of microbes. Poorly functioning drains, which allow pens and feeding areas to become flooded, invite contamination problems. Water leaks and the housing of more animals than your building's ventilation system can cope with also readily increase humidity.

23. Is the building used to house your hogs free of obvious deterioration that could interfere with the production of safe pork?

Yes No

24. Are there any areas in your barn with drainage problems sufficient to cause manure or water to pool in pen areas?

Yes No

Occasionally, your manure pits will fill and some will come through the slats, or you may have minor flooding in a section of your barn/hoop structure/shelter during the spring thaw. These are anticipated instances of manure or water pooling in an area that pigs can access.

A broken water line is unanticipated, but it is expected that you would rectify that problem quickly.

An important point about these examples is that they are short term. You are probably already doing things to rectify or to manage them. This question particularly addresses the issue of standing water or manure in the pen areas that is almost always present or is present for extended periods of time. Moisture is the most important factor in the survival of microorganisms. Standing water or manure pooling in the pen area is a real concern and must be rectified.

25a) i) Does your barn sanitation protocol include cleaning, washing and disinfection?

Yes No



If your barn sanitation program does not include these steps, answer “No” and proceed to 25a(ii). If you answer “Yes”, go to (b).

25a) ii) Do you have an effective alternative barn sanitation protocol?

Note: The CQA® validator or delivery agent must approve alternative protocols

Yes No

Any alternative sanitation protocol used will depend on your production system. No matter what type of production system you are using, your sanitation protocol must be designed to minimize the risk of spreading foodborne pathogens that pigs can carry and which can contaminate their meat.

Aspects to consider as part of alternative protocols include, but are not limited to:

- Sweeping
- Cleaning air inlets and fans
- Scraping pens
- Using lime
- Managing stocking density in a continuous flow system so that every pen is empty at some point during a calendar year. For example, when a pen is empty, it can be thoroughly scraped, washed down using a garden hose and detergent, if possible, and disinfectant can be applied with a backpack sprayer.
- Pressure washing without a detergent and/or disinfectant, including an extended drying period.

Pressure spraying in a room where pigs are still housed is discouraged. The action of pressure washing aerosolizes manure and microorganisms can be inhaled by the pigs. These aerosolized particles may introduce pathogens which are important from a food safety perspective (such as *Salmonella*) to pigs that were previously uninfected, or can cause other health problems in the animals.

If you are using a bedded system, all bedding must be removed at least once per year and the facilities cleaned. This is a requirement of the CQA® program. If you are using bedding in a confined barn, consider the suggestion made previously regarding cleaning in a continuous flow barn. If you are using quonsets, hoop structures, pole barns or other bedded facilities, consider using lime. Discuss disinfectant options with your veterinarian.

