Section 7.1

Animal Condition
(Animal-Based Measures)

REFERENCED IN THIS SECTION:

Number/Identifier	Name	Importance
RECORD		
R-N	Animal-Based Measures Record	Mandatory, if applicable
FACT SHEET		
F-11	Selecting the Sample for the Animal Based Measures (ABM)	–
F-12	Body Condition Scoring	

SECTION 7.1
ANIMAL CONDITION (ANIMAL-BASED MEASURES)

REQUIREMENTS

1. Pigs must be housed, fed, handled and cared for in a manner that maintains an acceptable body condition, prevents them from becoming lame, and protects them from injuries.

RATIONALE

a. Poor body condition, lameness and injuries can cause pigs to suffer and are often indicative of an underlying issue that is either intrinsic to the pig's health, or related to nutrition, management, housing, or other root cause.

GUIDANCE

1. Criteria for Animal-Based Measures

   a. **Body condition scoring (BCS)** is often conducted using a five-point system in which the lowest score of 1 (or a body score condition of less than 2) refers to a pig that is emaciated, as demonstrated by its ribs, vertebrae, hip and pin bones being easily identifiable through the skin.
      i. Assessing pigs for body condition at each phase of production (weaning, breeding, mid-gestation and farrowing) will help to identify sows requiring an adjustment of feed levels.
      ii. A body score condition of less than 2 suggests an animal welfare issue.
      iii. A body score condition of more than 4 in sows can lead to potential leg problems and difficulties at farrowing.
      iv. Breeding gilts too early, before they achieve adequate body weight and condition, may predispose them to lameness, poor body condition at weaning, and other problems at subsequent parities.

   b. **Severe lameness** is defined as when a pig is non-ambulatory (unable to rise or stand without assistance) or cannot bear any weight on an affected limb when either standing or walking.

   c. **Injuries** come in a variety of forms; for the PigCARE program, the following injuries will be assessed using these definitions:
      i. abscesses and swollen ears: multiple abscesses of any size, a single abscess that is the size of a tennis ball or larger, or a swollen ear.
      ii. prolapses: any vaginal, rectal or uterine prolapse.
      iii. severe hernias: hernias that meet at least one of the following criteria:
         » Impede movement (includes conditions where the hind legs touch the hernia when the animal is walking)
         » Touch the ground when the pig is standing in its natural position
         » Present as an open skin wound, ulceration or obvious infection.
      iv. Shoulder sores: wounds or ulcerations on the shoulders that are unhealed.
      v. Lacerations/open wounds: unhealed wounds or injuries that have completely penetrated through the skin (i.e., more severe than a scratch), including injuries to the vulva or tail, or any other open wounds or lacerations. A wound that has completely scabbed over is not considered open.

2. Objectively Measuring Animal-Based Measures

   a. A randomized animal-based measures sample group needs to be selected from the herd using the fact sheet – Selecting the Sample for the Animal Based Measures. Alternatively, the entire herd can be observed and measured.

   b. Pigs that have been moved into a dedicated sick pen should not be included in the sample. Refer to the fact sheet – Selecting the Sample for the Animal Based Measures for directions on which other pigs should be excluded from the animal-based measures sample.

c.   To properly observe the pigs, an attempt to get every pig standing needs to be made, with the exception of sows in farrowing crates.

d.   Each condition that a pig is observed to have must be recorded. For example, if a pig is severely lame and has a poor body condition, each condition should be recorded, i.e., once for severe lameness and once again for poor body condition.

e.   When a pig in a group pen has been observed, it can be sprayed/marked to prevent recounting.

f.   To get an accurate measure of prevalence in the herd, the actual number of pigs that were observed should be tracked and recorded. However, the total number of suckling pigs can be approximated by multiplying the number of litters that were observed by 11, or by the herd's average litter size.

g.   Once the animal-based measures sample has been completed, the total number of observations made for each condition should be tabulated and compared against the total number of pigs observed. This will determine the percentage/prevalence of that condition within a category of pigs.

3.   Investigating Potential Causes

a.   A pig's poor body condition can indicate an issue with feed or water supply, nutrition, feeding strategies, feed competition (bullying), amount of space provided, or pig health.

b.   Lameness in pigs can indicate an issue with flooring; equipment; amount of space provided; pig aggression; handling, restraint, breeding or mixing practices; or pig health.

c.   Depending on the type, an injury can indicate an issue with flooring; equipment; amount of space provided; husbandry practices; pig aggression; handling, restraint, breeding or mixing practices; or pig health.

? AUDIT QUESTIONS

Q#	Audit Questions and Interpretations	Verification			
		Compliant	NC-Minor	NC-Major	N/A
Breeding stock (sows, mature gilts, mature boars)					
Q7.1.1	Verify that no more than 1% of sampled breeding stock are emaciated (body condition score = 1) as demonstrated by their ribs, vertebrae, hip and pin bones being easily identifiable through the skin.	Full Validation: › Complete Animal-Based Measures			
	Does 1% or less of the sampled breeding stock have a body condition score of less than 2?	☐	⊠	☐	☐
Q7.1.2	Verify that no more than 1% of sampled breeding stock are severely lame, defined as non-ambulatory (unable to rise or stand without assistance) or unable to bear any weight on an affected limb when either standing or walking.	Full Validation: › Complete Animal-Based Measures			
	Is 1% or less of the sampled breeding stock severely lame?	☐	⊠	☐	☐
Q7.1.3	Verify that no more than 5% of sampled breeding stock have injuries, including abscesses and swollen ears, prolapses, severe hernias, shoulder sores, or lacerations/open wounds.	Full Validation: › Complete Animal-Based Measures			
	Does 5% or less of the sampled breeding stock have injuries?	☐	⊠	☐	☐

Q#	Audit Questions and Interpretations	Verification			
		Compliant	NC-Minor	NC-Major	N/A
Suckling pigs					
Q7.1.4	Verify that no more than 1% of sampled suckling pigs are emaciated (body condition score = 1) as demonstrated by its ribs, vertebrae, hip and pin bones being easily identifiable through the skin.	**Full Validation:** ❯ Complete Animal-Based Measures			
	Do 1% or less of the sampled suckling pigs have a body condition score of less than 2?	☐	◻	☐	☐
Q7.1.5	Verify that no more than 1% of sampled suckling pigs are severely lame, defined as non-ambulatory (unable to rise or stand without assistance) or unable to bear any weight on an affected limb when either standing or walking.	**Full Validation:** ❯ Complete Animal-Based Measures			
	Are 1% or less of the sampled suckling pigs severely lame?	☐	◻	☐	☐
Q7.1.6	Verify that no more than 5% of sampled suckling pigs have injuries, including abscesses and swollen ears, prolapses, severe hernias, shoulder sores, or lacerations/open wounds.	**Full Validation:** ❯ Complete Animal-Based Measures			
	Do 5% or less of the sampled suckling pigs have injuries?	☐	◻	☐	☐
Non-breeding pigs (nursery, grow/finish, immature boars and gilts, barrows)					
Q7.1.7	Verify that no more than 1% of sampled non-breeding pigs are emaciated (body condition score = 1) as demonstrated by its ribs, vertebrae, hip and pin bones being easily identifiable through the skin.	**Full Validation:** ❯ Complete Animal-Based Measures			
	Do 1% or less of the sampled non-breeding pigs have a body condition score of less than 2?	☐	◻	☐	☐
Q7.1.8	Verify that no more than 1% of sampled non-breeding pigs are severely lame, defined as non-ambulatory (unable to rise or stand without assistance) or unable to bear any weight on an affected limb when either standing or walking.	**Full Validation:** ❯ Complete Animal-Based Measures			
	Are 1% or less of the sampled non-breeding pigs severely lame?	☐	◻	☐	☐
Q7.1.9	Verify that no more than 5% of sampled non-breeding pigs have injuries, including abscesses and swollen ears, prolapses, severe hernias, shoulder sores, or lacerations/open wounds.	**Full Validation:** ❯ Complete Animal-Based Measures			
	Do 5% or less of the sampled non-breeding pigs have injuries?	☐	◻	☐	☐

N/A = not applicable

⚠ LEVELS OF COMPLIANCE – EXAMPLES

COMPLIANT

› 1% or less of sampled pigs in any major category have a body condition score below 2.

› 1% or less of sampled pigs in any major category are severely lame.

› 5% or less of sampled pigs in any major category have injuries.

MINOR NON-COMPLIANCE – Not applicable.

MAJOR NON-COMPLIANCE   Timeline: 60 days

› More than 1% of sampled pigs in any major category have a body condition score below 2.

› More than 1% of sampled pigs in any major category are severely lame.

› More than 5% of sampled pigs in any major category have injuries.