

Agricultural and Environmental Systems: Career Field Technical Content Standards Document, 2008; Secondary Level Science

- Animal Science
- Nutrition
- 1.1.1 Identify types, composition, quality and compatibility of feeds, feed additives, and feed byproducts
- Care and Management
- 1.3.3 Describe and implement scientific concepts of animal welfare
- Animal Health
- 1.4.1 Evaluate general condition of animal using diagnostic methods (e.g. visual exam, physical exam, vital signs)
- 1.4.2 Describe diseases/disorders and their symptoms that are caused by microorganisms, parasites, genetic defects and environmental factors
- 1.4.3 Identify signs of pain, distress, disease and allergic reactions

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WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A PIG FARMER

Producers participate in the program Pork Quality Assurance Plus Program (**PQA-Plus**). This is one of the ways that the public can be assured that the food product is safe and wholesome and that the animal is cared for.

The **PQAPlus** program was developed to demonstrate to its customers the commitment of the industry to provide the best possible care for its animals. It is a continuous improvement program with a three-year certification process.

ACTIVITIES

Divide the class into teams and research each of the 10 elements of **PQAPlus**.

- Prepare presentations and allow students to educate classmates on each element. Go to pork.org/Producers/PQA/PQAPlusEdBook.pdf

- A powerpoint was prepared to help a very young audience understand the **PQAPlus** program. Analyze the presentation and have students create another communication tool for another young audience: an illustrated children's book, a pamphlet, a video, or a podcast.

Visit the following sites for existing examples:

pork.org/Producers/YouthPQAPlus/GPP3/Lesson3.ppt

pork.org/Producers/YouthPQAPlus/YPQA_GPPs.pdf

The **PQA**Plus program stresses the importance of producers working together with their veterinarians. The veterinarian/client/patient relationship (VCPR) is key to understanding the process and steps for successful herd management. Dr. Bill Minton is the large animal veterinarian in this story. His background in animal sciences, care and management and pharmaceuticals makes him a valuable partner. He impacts the herd health with information on animal nutrition efficiency, disease prevention and treatment of illness.

ACTIVITIES

- Research an animal sciences nutrition topic or medication topic. Prepare interview questions and then contact a local large animal veterinarian to gain insight and feedback on local practices. Present your findings to the class.
- Protecting the herd from disease: **pork.org**
- Is there really a large animal vet shortage? What is being said in the news? Is there a vet school in your state? Find out what it takes to become a large animal veterinarian. Do a career search.
- American Association of Swine Veterinarians
aasv.org
- Veterinarian Backgrounds
swinevetcenter.com/vets.html
- Read about A Day in the Life of a Large Animal Vet Assistant.
vetmedicine.about.com/library/viewers/uctech9.html

GOOD RECORD KEEPING IS AN IMPORTANT LIFE AND CAREER SKILL

One of the most important skills for students to develop right from the start is that of being a good record keeper. The need for complete and accurate recording of ideas and data has never been more important. Teachers keep records to document pupil progress. In a laboratory setting record keeping is important to preserve intellectual property rights, such as patents and know-how. Doctors keep medical records to provide proper care for patients. Pork Producers keep records to assure animal health and safety and protect consumers.

When students keep records they:

- plan and organize work
- improve written communication
- pay attention to detail
- follow directions
- make decisions

Some rules for record keeping that can be transferred to the world of work include¹:

- Record records in a bound notebook—that way pages cannot be added or subtracted.
- Use ink.
- Sign and date each entry.
- Get co-signers who read and also date the entry.
- Review records and keep them. Experts suggest keeping records for up to 30 years.
- Data generated on a computer should be printed out, permanently bound, signed, dated and collaborated.

ACTIVITIES

- Record Keeping in 4-H: Leader training series
njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/pdfs/4h/e148/309-312.pdf
- Check out the Pork Producer records in PQAPlus
www.Pork.org