

SWINE

WELFARE

FACT SHEET


**NATIONAL
PORK BOARD**

P.O. BOX 9114
DES MOINES, IA 50306
515 223 2600
FAX 515 223 2646
porkboard@porkboard.org


**AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF SWINE
VETERINARIANS**

902 1ST STREET
PERRY, IA 50220
515 465 5255
FAX 515 465 3832
www.aasv.org

Animal Welfare Resolution National Pork Board January 2002

Background:

- Food animal producers' livelihoods depend on the well being and performance of their livestock. To do anything short of providing the best, humane care possible would be self-defeating.
- Producers must use science as a basis for their animal husbandry practices because of the significant costs associated with housing facilities, feeding systems and other items of infrastructure. While they must recognize that science evolves and new welfare information may come to light, they also must rely on the relative stability of the scientific process to formulate their animal welfare policies.
- Addressing animal welfare in isolation without consideration of animal health, food safety, and the environment is not wise and will lead to unintended consequences. Each of these other areas must also be addressed simultaneously in a way that ensures an effective balance without sacrificing their individual critical points and that maintains the pork operation's sustainability.
- Specific treatments and procedures (i.e., vaccination, weaning, tail docking, etc.) are performed for specific health and welfare benefits for the animal. They can be short-term stressors, however they provide long-term welfare, health and management benefits to individual animals and their herd mates.
- The National Pork Board has an Animal Welfare Committee that is charged with using producer checkoff funds to review the science of animal welfare, to relate that science to production practices and to inform the producer about the latest, scientifically sound swine husbandry practices that can be implemented on the farm. The National Pork Board has been fully supportive of adding to the scientific knowledge about animal welfare in all phases of pork production.
- The industry has a "Swine Care Handbook" that is the guideline for producers regarding animal care. The Swine Care Handbook is based on the current scientific research and extension literature for animal science, veterinary medicine, and agricultural engineering.

Resolution:

Animal welfare guidelines developed without a sound scientific basis puts the welfare of the animal and the sustainability of the producer's operation at risk. Therefore, the National Pork Board continues to support sound science as the only basis for animal welfare guideline decision-making.