

Swine Jobs School Prepares You for Employment in Pork Production

Swine Jobs School is designed to provide on-farm supervised training and work experience in modern, environmentally-controlled, production facilities. With these experiences, participants will be better prepared for employment in pork production.

Hands-on learning experiences for Swine Jobs School participants will include, but not be limited to: observation and physical participation in using mechanical equipment, power tools, and manual tools related to swine production; walking aisles, among animals, around fencing, feeders and gates; moving swine of all sizes including new born pigs weighing less than 5 pounds to sows and boars weighing over 500 pounds; lifting of up to 75 lbs.; bending; and climbing; assisting with reproductive procedures at the time of breeding and farrowing, and administering animal medications.

Typical responsibilities of entry-level swine farm employees:

Breeding and gestation

- Make sure each animal has adequate feed and water daily
- Monitor feed reserves and insure feed is delivered in a timely manner
- Heat check sows and gilts
- Assist with moving boar during daily heat checks
- Assist with artificial insemination
- Monitor pregnancy and insure non-pregnant animals are detected
- Maintain accurate records
- Assist with moving sows and gilts from one production area to the next
- Monitor building heat and ventilation systems to maintain correct room temperature and air quality to meet the needs of the animal
- Keep production area neat and fit for animals

Farrowing

- Make sure each animal has adequate feed and water daily
- Monitor feed intake to insure sow and/or gilt maintains body condition
- Monitor feed reserves and insure feed is delivered in a timely manner
- Monitor and assist sows in birth of piglets
- Process new born piglets including castration, ear notching and administering both oral and injectable medication
- Assist with cross-fostering to provide equal opportunity for each pig
- Administer oral and injectable medication to sows when needed
- Maintain accurate records
- Monitor building heat and ventilation systems to maintain correct room temperature and air quality to meet the needs of sow and young pigs
- Move sows and gilts in and out of farrowing room
- Completely clean (power wash) farrowing room between farrowing groups

Nursery

- Make sure each animal has adequate feed and water daily
- Monitor feed reserves and insure feed is delivered in a timely manner
- Closely monitor newly arrived animals to insure they are eating and drinking

Administer oral and injectable medications to maintain health of animals
Monitor building heat and ventilation systems to maintain correct room temperature and air quality to meet the needs of the animal
Move new pigs in (about a 12 pound animal) and sort according to instructions
Move older pigs out (about a 50 pound animal)
Maintain accurate records
Completely clean (power wash) nursery room between groups of pigs

Finishing

Make sure each animal has adequate feed and water daily
Closely monitor newly arrived animals to insure they are eating and drinking
Monitor feed reserves and insure feed is delivered in a timely manner
Administer medications and vaccinations as instructed to maintain health of animals
Monitor building heat and ventilation systems to maintain correct room temperature and air quality to meet the needs of the animal
Move new pigs in (about a 12 pound animal in wean-to-finish barns and about a 50 pound animal in grow/finish barns) and sort into pens according to instructions
Assist with sorting and loading market animals, including animals weighing over 265 pounds
Maintain accurate records
Completely clean (power wash) rooms between groups of pigs