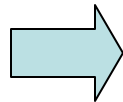
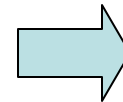


# Connecting The Swine Welfare Chain

On hog farms, the National Pork Board's Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA Plus) Program provides guidelines for proper care of animals to ensure optimal health and welfare. PQA Plus helps pork producers benchmark the care and welfare of their pigs through on-farm assessments. PQA Plus also has a third party verification process to show that care and well-being principles are being implemented.



Transportation is a very important part of the welfare chain. The National Pork Board's Transport Quality Assurance (TQA) guidelines specify how to handle and transport pigs of all ages to ensure that their welfare is maintained. The American Trucking Association encourages its members to comply with these guidelines. The American Meat Institute will add a transportation audit to its existing audit program in Spring 2008 to ensure compliance.



The American Meat Institute Animal Care & Handling Guidelines provide detailed recommendations for handling livestock in a way that works with their natural instincts and minimizes stress. AMI's audit program, done by both plants and by outside third parties, measures key criteria like how often livestock vocalize, how often animals slip and fall and how often they are prodded. By measuring regularly, we manage more effectively.



*Not only is humane handling of livestock ethically appropriate, it also has distinct economic benefits in the form of higher quality meat products.*