

ProHand Pigs:

What is it?

Training of stockpeople as professional managers of animals has generally been ignored. **ProHand**, Pigs was designed in recognition of the vital role that stockpeople have in the overall productivity, welfare and health of the livestock under their care and control.

ProHand Pigs builds upon the key findings from extensive international research, both in livestock industries and research laboratories, on factors which affect the productivity and welfare of farm animals.

This proven training program has been designed and tested on actual stockpeople at commercial farms around the world.

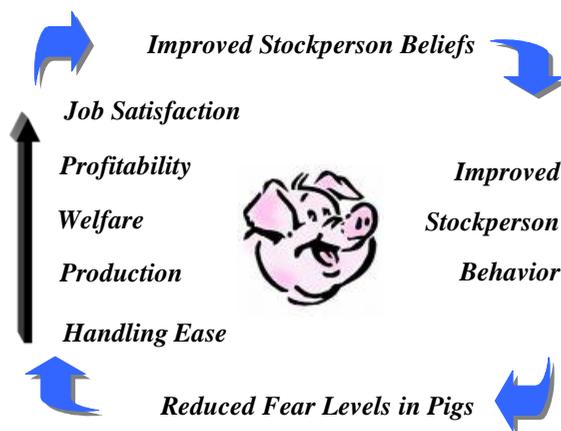
ProHand Pigs:

- Improves the quality of human-animal interactions (minimizes handling stress),
- Improves animal performance and welfare, and
- Improves stockperson work motivation and performance, and job satisfaction.



Objectives of ProHand Pigs:

- Develop an understanding of the *impact of the interactions between stockpeople and farm animals* on farm animal behavior, welfare, and productivity,
- Outline *why* farm animals become fearful of humans and *how this fear can markedly affect animal productivity and welfare*,
- *Identify appropriate and inappropriate behaviors* of stockpeople towards farm animals and how to *recognize fear responses in farm animals*,
- Conduct the *Stockperson Handling Questionnaire*, which allows stockpeople to compare their attitudes with others in the industry and provides individually tailored feedback on opportunities to improve handling,
- Provide *Professional Handling Guidelines*, which are designed to maximize animal productivity and welfare, as well as to ensure that farm animals are easy to handle and to move, and
- Provide *material to aid acceptance and retention* of the **ProHand** message, including *posters* and *newsletters* delivered in the months following participation in the training.



Structure of ProHand Pigs:

A small group (4 to 10) of stockpeople are trained together. The program is divided into two days, which are run about a month apart. The first day consists of three, 2-h sessions, while the second day comprises a 2 hour, facilitated group discussion with a variety of videos and PowerPoint presentations..

The computer-based training allows stockpeople to progress through the program at their own pace in a non-threatening setting, and provides summaries and reviews to check progress. Group discussions are also included in the program.

- The training package specifically targets those key attitudes and behaviors of stockpeople that have been shown to have a direct effect on the pigs' fear of humans.
- The program provides specific advice on when, where, and how behavioral change should occur, plus strategies to maintain this behavioral change.

Benefits of ProHand Pigs:

- Minimize animal handling stress and thus improve animal productivity and welfare, and
- Improved stockperson job satisfaction, work ethic, and motivation to learn.

Potential for 5% increase in ADG & extra 1 pig/sow/yr without additional capital investment.

The Australian Animal Welfare Science Centre (AWSC) has developed a number of ProHand training packages for stockpeople in several livestock industries, including the pork industry. The AWSC is now working its colleagues at The Ohio State University to introduce these programs into Ohio and other US farms.

ProHand Pigs:

What do others say about it?

“It really shows the benefits of good behavior and the cost of negative interactions.”

“It was very in-depth in how proper handling of animals could be beneficial in the long run on animal health and production.”



Provided information (facts) that a positive attitude around pigs is profitable.”

“Encourage producers/owners to send their entire workforce at a similar time.”

For more information about the ProHand Pigs training program contact:

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ProHand Pigs:

A training program targeting the attitudes and behaviors of stockpeople

