

Lesson Two – Processing Litters

Lesson Overview

This lesson instructs students how to perform the seven management practices discussed in Lesson One. It uses a step-by-step guide to assist them through each process and asks them to perform portions using the pigs provided. At the conclusion of this lesson, students should be able to demonstrate all seven management practices.

Lesson Objectives

After completing this lesson, participants will be able to utilize the piglet simulators provided to:

- Administer iron shots
- Perform correct ear notching
- Clip needle teeth
- Dock tails
- Perform castration
- Perform record-keeping tasks

Lesson at a Glance

Activity	Materials	Preparation	Approximate class time
FOCUS			5-10 minutes
LEARN	• <i>Processing Swine Litters</i> slide presentation • <i>Helpful Reminders for Processing Litters</i> • <i>Helpful Reminders for Processing Litters Teacher Guide</i> • <i>Ear Notching Worksheet</i> • <i>Ear Notching Worksheet – Answer Key</i> • Four stations set up to each include: ○ Swine litter simulator ○ Snipping tool/side cutter ○ Ear notching tool ○ Plastic scalpel • Optional: <i>Farrowing House Record Sheet</i>	1. Prepare to show <i>Processing Swine Litters</i> slide presentation. 2. Print/photocopy <i>Helpful Reminders for Processing Litters</i> and <i>Ear Notching Worksheet</i> (one per participant). 3. Print/photocopy Procedure slides and Situation Cards from the <i>Processing Swine Litters</i> slide presentation (one per participant). 4. Optional: Print/photocopy <i>Farrowing House Record Sheet</i> (one per participant).	30-40 minutes
REVIEW	• <i>Litter Processing Quiz</i> • <i>Litter Processing Quiz – Answer Key</i>	1. Print/photocopy <i>Litter Processing Quiz</i> (one per participant).	10 minutes

Lesson Two – Demonstrating Skills in Litter Processing

FOCUS: Brainstorming

5-10 minutes

Purpose: To gain insight on comfort level in processing litters.

Facilitation Steps:

1. Brainstorm thoughts that students may have related to the question, “Why would these be important skills to be able to perform?”
2. Allow students one minute to create a list on a scratch piece of paper as they brainstorm.
3. Have students share their thoughts as you write them on the board. Possible answers might include saving money, saving time, etc.
4. Next, ask the students, “How many of you have experience with any of the management practices discussed in Lesson One?”
Participants will most likely answer that they do, but do they know what those items might be?
5. Have students share their experiences as an interest approach.

Lesson Two – Demonstrating Skills in Litter Processing

LEARN: Demonstration and Practice

30-40 minutes

Purpose: To demonstrate each management practice with confidence.

Materials:

- *Processing Swine Litters* slide presentation
- *Helpful Reminders for Processing Litters*
- *Helpful Reminders for Processing Litters Teacher Guide*
- *Ear Notching Worksheet*
- *Ear Notching Worksheet – Answer Key*
- Four stations set up to each include:
 - Swine litter simulator
 - Snipping tool
 - Ear notching tool
 - Plastic scalpel
- Optional: *Farrowing House Record Sheet*

Facilitation Steps:

1. Explain that the goal is to make each student skilled in performing all seven of the management practices on the piglet simulator.
2. Utilize the *Processing Swine Litters* slide presentation to discuss and demonstrate each method. *Optional:* Assign students to complete the *Ear Notching Worksheet* to ensure understanding before demonstrating on the piglet. This will save you money on replacement ears.
 - Point out special handling methods for each procedure
 - Remind them of the proper tools to use
 - Review the reason we perform each procedure
 - Use the simulator piglet to walk them through the lab experience you will ask them to do next
 - Talk through the iron shots and reading the underline processes, these cannot be performed on the swine litter simulators
3. After each procedure is properly demonstrated, split the class up into four groups.
4. Hand out the Procedure slides and Situation Cards for student use. You can also use the template Situation Card slide and fill in the blanks with whatever information you desire to change things up for your students. You can also have students complete this and exchange the information as a challenge to another classmate.
5. Instruct each group to read their situation card and to process their pig accordingly. Remind them of the importance of keeping records.
6. Have participants use the *Helpful Reminders for Processing Litters*, either while conducting the lab or as a review to do as a class after the lab is completed.
7. *Optional:* If a visit to a community farm is possible, such an experience will prepare students to conduct processing on a live litter of pigs. Use the *Farrowing House Record Sheet* if this visit is possible.

Name: _____ Class: _____

Helpful Reminders for Processing Litters

Use this worksheet to record 2-3 helpful hints or things you will definitely need to remember as you work through the lab today.

Iron Shots • • •	Ear Notching • • •
Clipping Needle Teeth • • •	Docking Tails • • •
Castration • • •	Record Keeping • • •

Name: _____ Class: _____

Helpful Reminders for Processing Litters

Teacher Guide

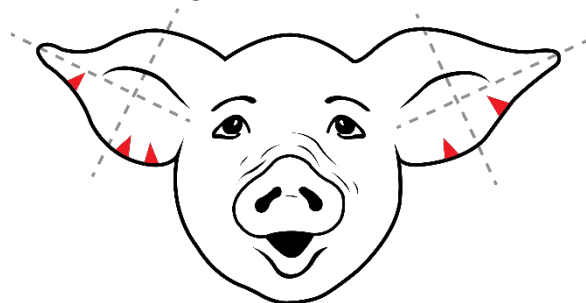
As you work through practicing the skills for processing litters today, record 2-3 helpful hints or things you will definitely need to remember as you work through the lab today.

Iron Shots • Disinfect needle • Administer in neck, NEVER ham • Inject at 45-degree angle	Ear Notching • Correctly identify the number positions • Double check for correct number • Perform quick cut within days after birth
Clipping Needle Teeth • Hold tool parallel with gums • Clip off ½ of tooth • Process within first 1-2 days after birth	Docking Tails • Hold pig secure • Cut off ½" • Spray with disinfectant
Castration • Only trained experts should perform this on live piglets • Be careful not to cut into the thin skin separating the testicles and the intestines • Remove both testicles and disinfect	Record Keeping • Record all data immediately upon performing each practice • Keep all records in a safe location • Take special notes if needed about each piglet for future reference

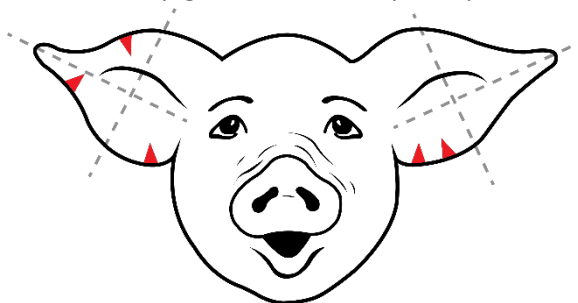
Name: _____ Class: _____

Ear Notching Worksheet

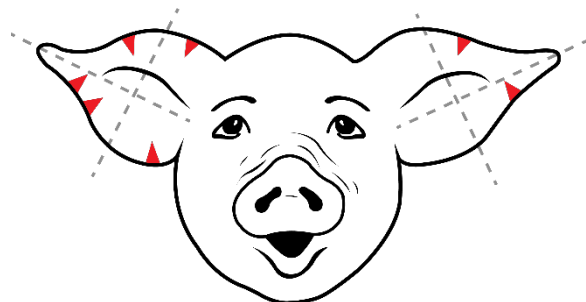
Practice reading ear notches. Indicate the correct litter number-pig number in the spaces provided.



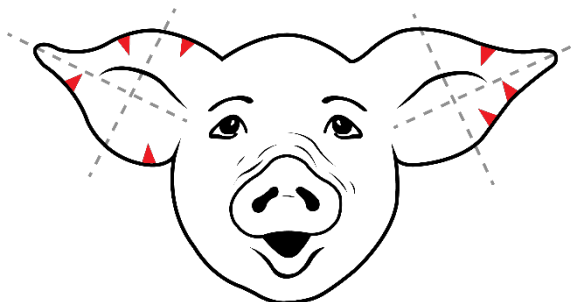
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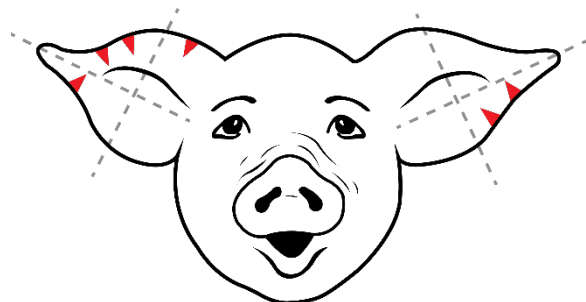
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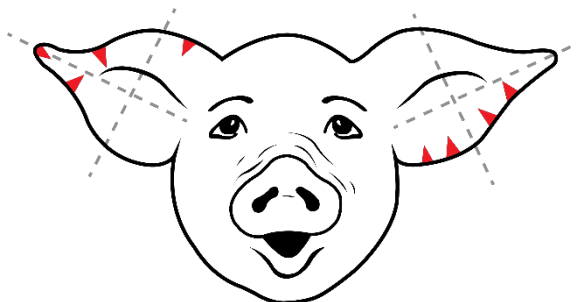
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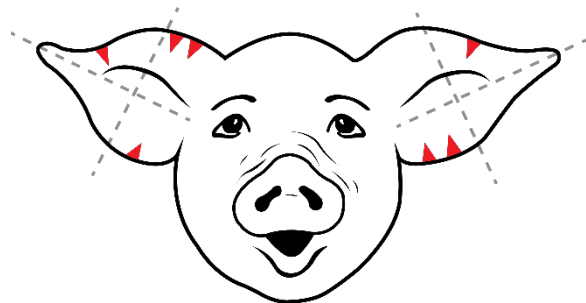
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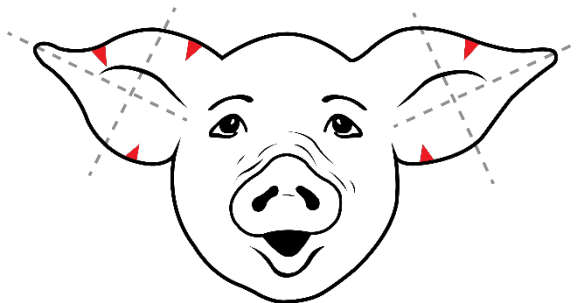
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6. _____

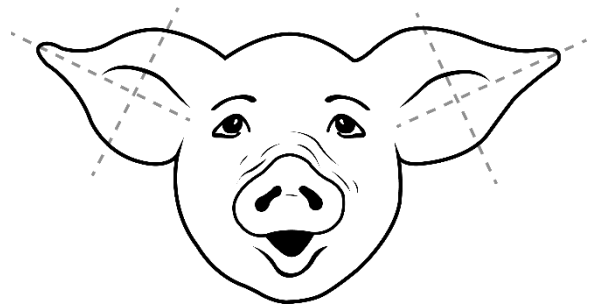


7. _____

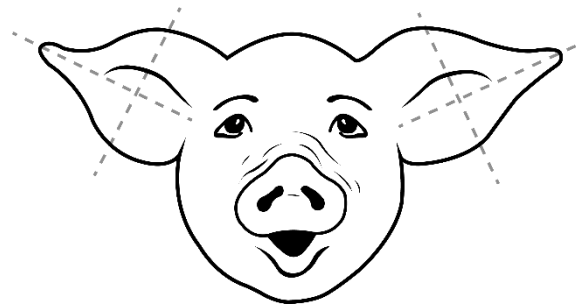


8. _____

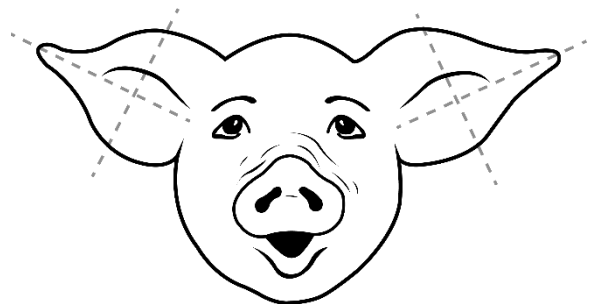
Practice reading the litter number-pig number. Indicate the proper placement of each ear notch on the drawing.



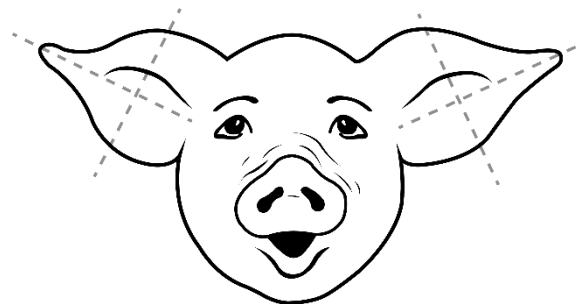
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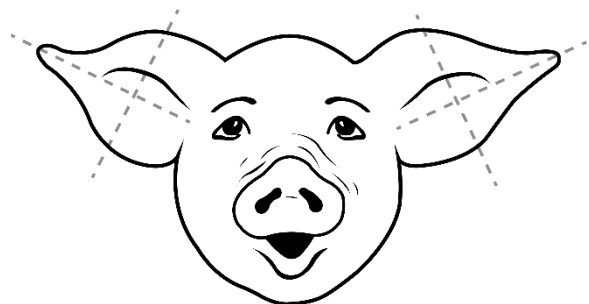
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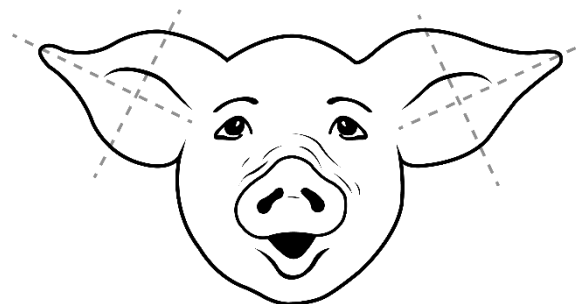
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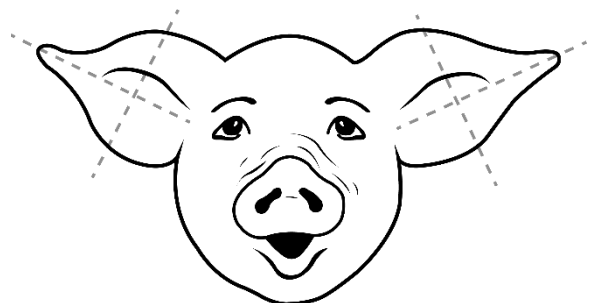
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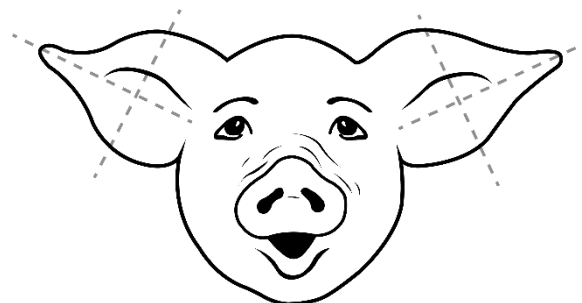
5. 32-8



6. 22-6



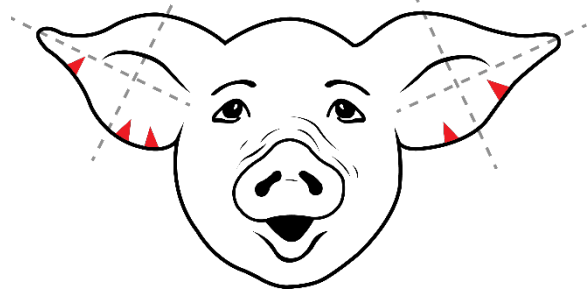
7. 16-1



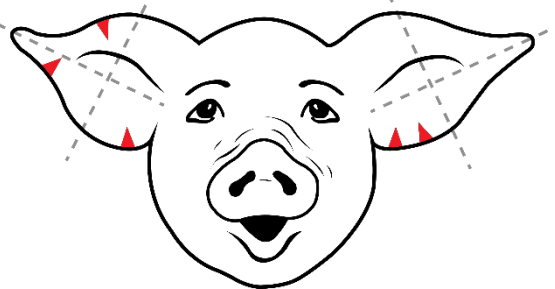
8. 10-2

Ear Notching Worksheet – Answer Key

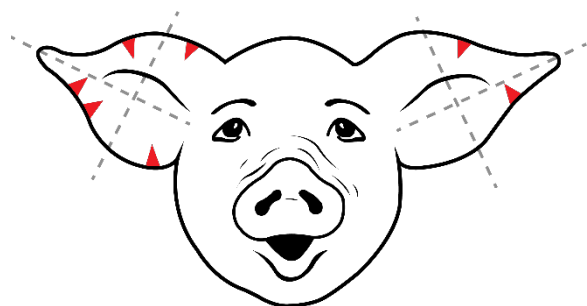
Practice reading ear notches. Indicate the correct litter number-pig number in the spaces provided.



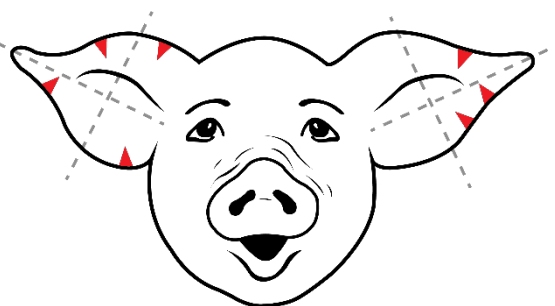
1. **5-4**



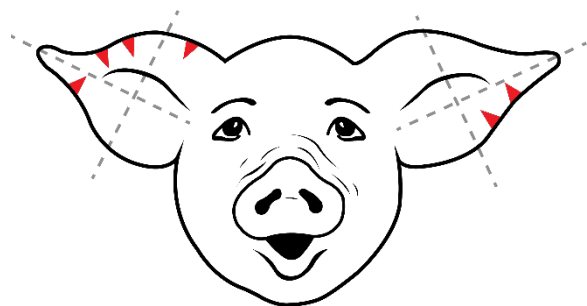
2. **13-2**



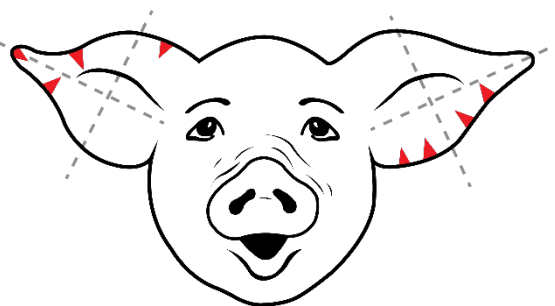
3. **43-12**



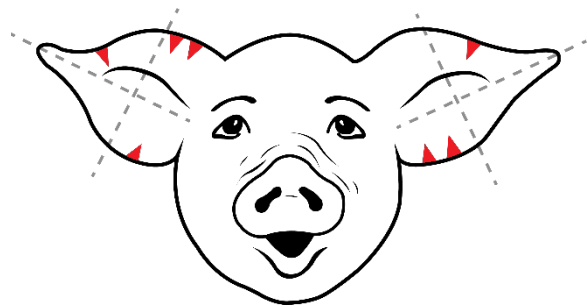
4. **40-15**



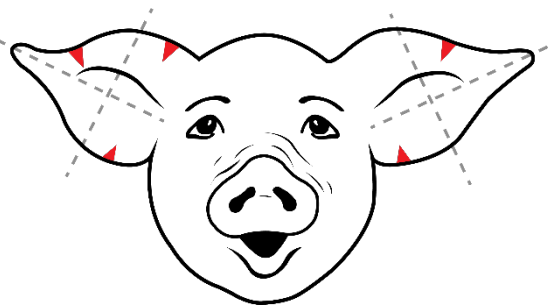
5. **48-6**



6. **120-8**

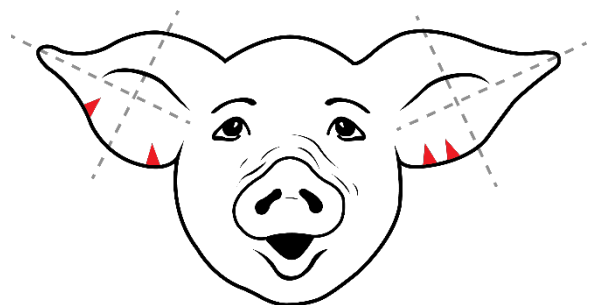


7. **64-11**

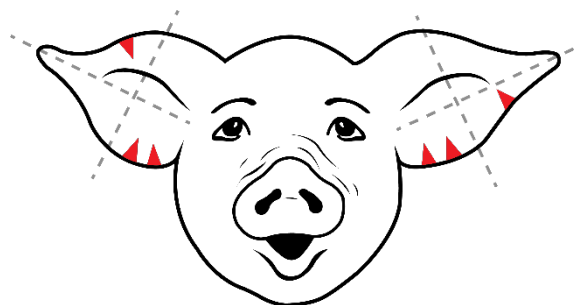


8. **37-10**

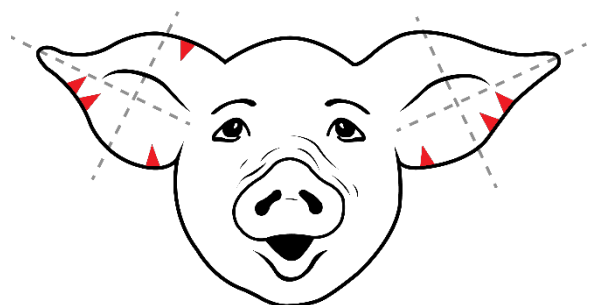
Practice reading the litter number-pig number. Indicate the proper placement of each ear notch on the drawing.



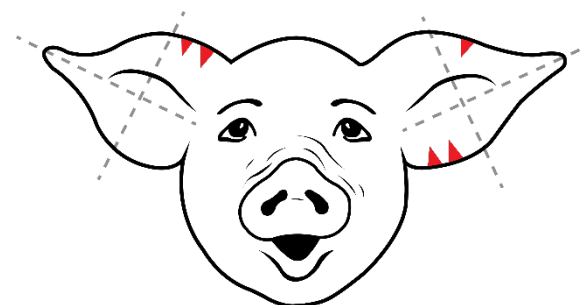
1. 4-2



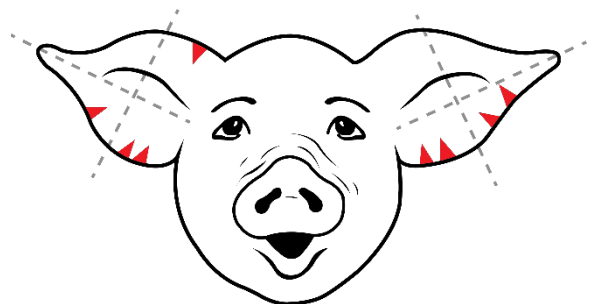
2. 11-5



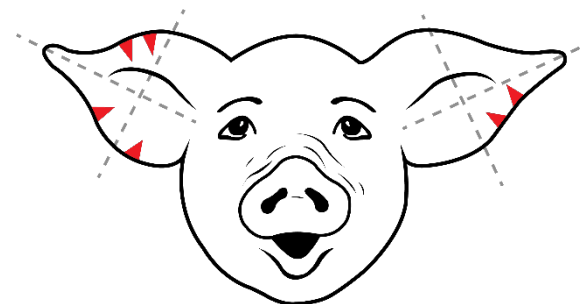
3. 34-7



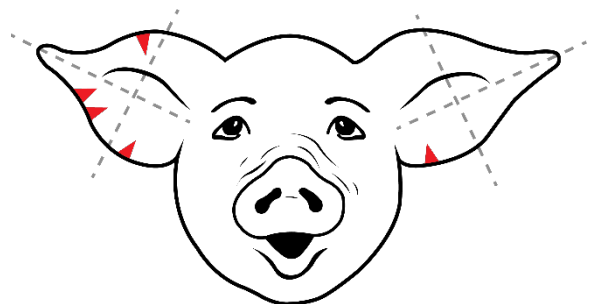
4. 54-11



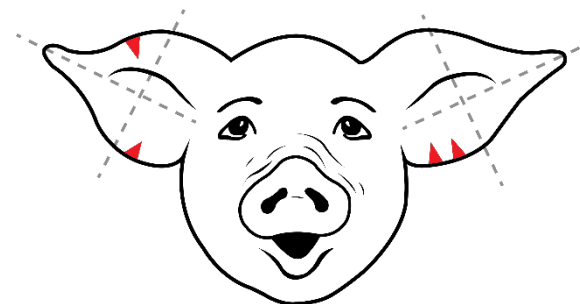
5. 32-8



6. 22-6



7. 16-1



8. 10-2

Farrowing House Record Sheet

Litter Number: _____ Sow Tag #/Name: _____ Sow Ear Notch: _____

Farrowing Date: _____ Sire ID: _____

born: _____ # alive: _____ # dead: _____

weaned: _____ # weighed _____

Litter Weight: _____ Date Weighed: _____

Checklist: (indicate a X or check mark next to each practice after completion)

Needle Teeth	_____	Iodine Navel	_____	Tail Dock	_____
Iron Shot	_____	Ear Notch	_____	Castrate	_____

Piglet Identification:

	Ear Notch	Gender	# Teats (underline)	Notes:
1	_____	_____	_____	
2	_____	_____	_____	
3	_____	_____	_____	
4	_____	_____	_____	
5	_____	_____	_____	
6	_____	_____	_____	
7	_____	_____	_____	
8	_____	_____	_____	
9	_____	_____	_____	
10	_____	_____	_____	

Lesson Two – Demonstrating Skills in Litter Processing

REVIEW: Litter Processing Quiz

10 minutes

Purpose:

To review what the students have learned about demonstrating management practices.

Materials:

- *Litter Processing Quiz*
- *Litter Processing Quiz – Answer Key*

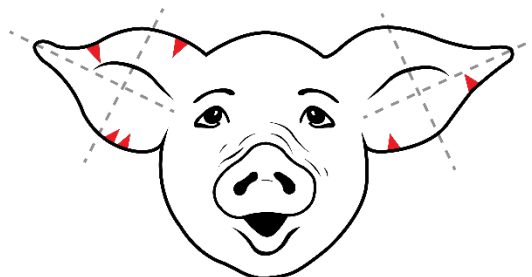
Facilitation Steps:

1. Hand out the *Litter Processing Quiz*. Give students 10 minutes to complete it in class or assign it to take home and return.
2. Use the *Litter Processing Quiz – Answer Key* to correct the quiz.

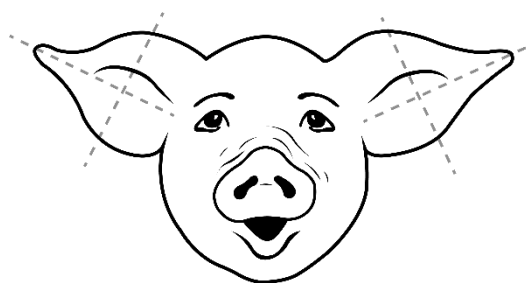
Name: _____ Class: _____

Litter Processing Quiz

1. What is the correct ear notch for this pig? _____



2. Properly identify this pig as 15-11 by placing the notches in the correct place.



True or False: Place a "T" or "F" in the space provided.

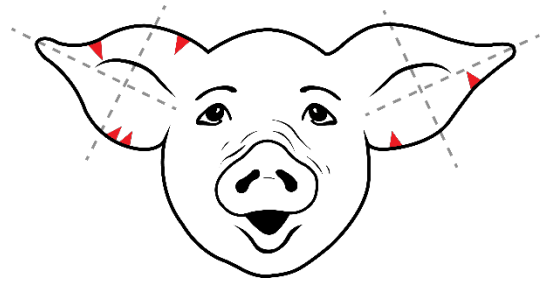
3. _____ Iron shots should be given in the hindquarters.
4. _____ When clipping needle teeth, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the tooth is removed.
5. _____ Docking tails is done to prevent them from being chewed on due to boredom.
6. _____ A purebred pig must have an underline of 8 in order to be registered.

Essay: Use complete sentences to complete the answers to the following questions. Make sure to give specific details with examples to support your ideas and thoughts.

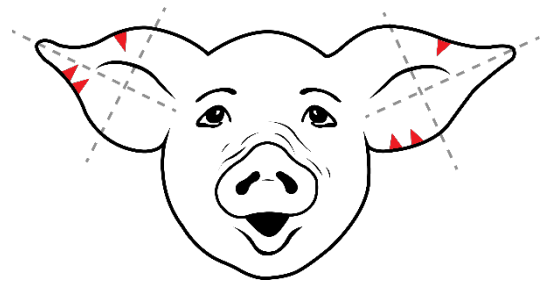
7. You are processing pigs with a friend who is not familiar with these methods. They seem quite concerned and ask you why it is necessary to castrate the male pigs. What do you tell them?
8. As you proceed to move on with the litter processing, your friend asks you to explain the purpose of clipping needle teeth. They are concerned about this hurting the piglet. What do you tell them?

Litter Processing Quiz – Answer Key

1. What is the correct ear notch for this pig? 38-4



2. Properly identify this pig as 15-11 by placing the notches in the correct place.



True or False: Place a “T” or “F” in the space provided.

3. **F** Iron shots should be given in the hind quarters.
4. **F** When clipping needle teeth, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the tooth is removed.
5. **T** Docking tails is done to prevent them from being chewed on due to boredom.
6. **F** A purebred pig must have an underline of 8 in order to be registered.

Essay: Use complete sentences to complete the answers to the following questions. Make sure to give specific details with examples to support your ideas and thoughts.

7. You are processing pigs with a friend who is not familiar with these methods. They seem quite concerned and ask you why it is necessary to castrate the male pigs. What do you tell them?

Various answers could include: Castration prevents tainted meat flavor and aggressive males, better rate of gain, and increases genetic quality because only the best quality boars are kept for breeding purposes. This practice keeps the producer safe from aggressive boars, results in better taste in the meat (which is gained faster), keeping feed costs lower and increases the genetic potential because only the best quality boars are kept for breeding purposes.

8. As you proceed to move on with the litter processing, your friend asks you to explain the purpose of clipping needle teeth? They are very concerned about this hurting the baby pig. What do you tell them?

Various answers could include: Piglets are born with 8 sharp canine/needle teeth, which can cause injury that leads to infection on the mammary system of the sow during nursing. If the sow is in pain, she will refuse to nurse, and the piglets will lose weight and possibly die. Infection of the mammary system can also lead to veterinary costs, lower milk production, and unhealthy sows.

Sources

- Brady, S. E., & Reese, D. E. (2008, September). *Proper Way to Notch Pigs*. Extension Publications.
<https://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/html/g1880/build/g1880.htm#:~:text=Ear%2Dnotching%20helps%20identify%20a,show%20the%20individual%20pig%20number>
- Swine. (2019, August 28). *What methods and tools do you use to castrate a pig? – Hogs, Pigs, and Pork*. Swine Extension. <https://swine.extension.org/what-methods-and-tools-do-you-use-to-castrate-a-pig/>
- Dr. Harper, Allen. (2008, January 25). *Castration of Pigs*. The Pig Site.
<https://www.thepigsite.com/articles/castration-of-pigs>
- Clipping Needle Teeth* (n.d.). PennState Extension.
<https://extension.psu.edu/programs/courses/swine/reproduction/processing-procedures-for-baby-pigs/clipping-needle-teeth#:~:text=Pigs%20have%208%20canine%20teeth,littermates%20and%20the%20sow's%20udder.>