FOOD SAFETY

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Pork Producers, including youth producers, supply food to consumers. They are the first link in the Pork Chain. Label use may require an extended withdrawal period. A veterinarian should determine that withdrawal period.

3. Pathogen reduction. It is important for producers to do everything practically possible to minimize pathogens in pork that could cause foodborne illness in people. These pathogens include both parasites (worms) and bacteria. Rodents, birds, wildlife, and/or domestic animals can introduce many of these pathogens to swine facilities, so take precautions to keep them out of barns. The following practices can reduce pathogens:

- Control rodents
- Remove garbage
- Store feed in rodent-proof containers
- Implement a swine health biosecurity program
- Properly clean, disinfect and dry facilities between groups of pigs

4. Antibiotic Resistance. Antibiotics are important for treating diseases. Bacteria that cause these diseases can become resistant and cannot be controlled by antibiotics used both in humans and animals. This can affect humans when antibiotics don’t work to treat infections from contaminated food. Pork producers need to be responsible when using antibiotics for this reason. Help minimize antibiotic resistance by:

- Establishing a good relationship with your veterinarian
- Getting a veterinarian’s input before using antibiotics
- Following the guidelines for Judicious Use outlined in GPP #4

By carefully using antibiotics, it will be possible for producers to minimize antibiotic resistance. This is beneficial for producers as well as for consumers.

Summary: Many of the steps that producers take to improve pork safety are also beneficial to swine health. Consumers expect the pork they buy to be safe. Providing a safe product is essential to maintaining consumer trust. Producers have the responsibility to follow these steps to minimize food safety hazards.

- Follow ownership and registration deadlines
- Know and follow show rules

pork.org or the Pork Checkoff Service Center @ (800) 456-PORK