



Our General Standards:

Qualified Niman Ranch pigs must meet these standards:

- **Have never been given antibiotics of any kind - ever;**
- **Have never been given added hormones or artificial growth promotants - ever;**
- **Have been fed all-vegetarian diets;**
- **Have been raised according to Niman Ranch's Pig Husbandry Protocols;**
- **And meet our high pork and carcass quality standards.**

Additionally, Niman Ranch Farmers are responsible for:

- **Following Niman Ranch Protocols at all times;**
- **And accurately reporting their market hog numbers to Niman Ranch.**

(Note: The following is only a summary version of the Niman Ranch Protocol. Farmers must follow our complete guidelines and policies at all times. For the complete version, please contact Niman Ranch).

Section A: Niman Ranch Pig Husbandry Protocols

1. ENVIRONMENT

1.1 General Standards of a Good Environment

1.1.1) Pigs must be raised on pasture or in bedded pens. Pasture must have adequate vegetation or bedding is needed.

1.1.2) There must always be a dry area where all animals can lie down.

1.1.3) Animal must be protected from regional climate extremes (for example: shelter, wallows, sprinkler, etc.)

1.2. Bedding Requirements

1.2.2.) Bedding must be clean, dry, safe, and allow pigs to play, forage, explore, root, and chew.

1.2.4.) Sows, must have ample bedding and be able to pick it up in her mouth and manipulate it to build a nest.

1.2.5.) Pigs may be raised in deep-bedded systems, such as a hoop building. The minimum bedding pack depth recommended in a deep bedded system is **12 inches**.

1.2.6.) Minimum bedding depth in non-deep bedded systems, without pasture, is:

1.2.6.1.) 39° F and below*: **8 inches**

1.2.6.2.) 40-59 ° F*: **6 inches**

1.2.6.3.) 60 ° F and above*: **2 inches**

* Temperature shall be a daily average temperature measured inside the shelter.

1.3.) Housing and Space Requirements

1.3.1.) Sufficient shelter must be provided so that all hogs can be protected from snow, rain or sun, etc.

1.3.3.) Air quality must enable animals to breathe comfortably.

1.3.4.) Totally slatted or perforated flooring without bedding is prohibited. Square footage requirements must be met on solid flooring.

NOTE: For all market and breeding hogs on the farm, animals must all be able to lie down in the bedded area on their sides comfortably with legs extended and without being on top of each other, and move about freely. Specific requirements and recommendations are as follows:

1.3.5.) Gestation

1.3.5.1.) For an adult sow, 16 sq. ft. of bedded lying area, with 35 sq. ft. total recommended.

1.3.5.3.) Gestation stalls and tethers are prohibited.

1.3.6.) Boars

1.3.6.1.) When not grouped with sows, 64 sq. ft. is recommended per boar.

1.3.7.) Farrowing and Lactation

1.3.7.2.) In all farrowing facilities, the sow must be able to build a nest, turn around and move about easily and freely.

1.3.7.3.) **Pens:** Recommended pen size is 64 square feet.

1.3.7.4.) **Free Stalls and Huts:** Recommended free-stall size is 33 square feet or larger.

1.3.7.5.) **Group Lactation:** 81 square feet per sow and litter is recommended.

1.3.7.6.) Farrowing crates are prohibited.

1.3.8.) Growing and Finishing Hogs

1.3.8.2.) Requirements for pigs with outdoor access:

1.3.8.2.1.) For weaned hogs less than 60 lbs.: **8 sq. ft.** total per hog required

1.3.8.2.2.) 60-120 lbs.: **12 sq. ft.** total per hog required.

1.3.8.2.3.) 120-180 lbs.: **15 sq. ft.** total per hog required.

1.3.8.2.4.) 180 lbs. to market: **18 sq. ft.** total per hog required.

- 1.3.8.3.) Requirements for pigs that are loose housed (like hoop buildings), without outdoor access:
 - 1.3.8.3.1.) For weaned hogs less than 60 lbs.: **5 sq. ft.** total per hog required
 - 1.3.8.3.2.) 60-120 lbs.: **10 sq. ft.** total per hog required.
 - 1.3.8.3.3.) 120 to market: **14 sq. ft.** total per hog required

2. FEED AND WATER

- 2.1) All hogs must be fed a 100% vegetarian diet. The feeding of animal flesh is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to meat, bone meal, blood meal, animal fat, eggs and fishmeal. Dairy products are permitted.
- 2.6) Sows and boars that are limit-fed shall be provided continuous access to clean hay or similar fiber source to satisfy hunger between meals.
- 2.7) All hogs shall have free access to clean drinking water with minimal competition.
- 2.9) The average weaning age of piglets shall be no less than 5 weeks, with no litters less than 4 weeks of age.

3. HYGIENE AND SAFETY

- 3.2) The animals' living quarters shall be cleaned by procedures that ensure satisfactory hygiene. Bedding surfaces must be dry and be of good hygienic quality.
- 3.6) Injured pigs must receive immediate individual treatment to minimize pain and suffering.
- 3.7) A safe place must be provided for sick or injured animals to recover, free of competition (ie: sick pen).
- 3.8) If the injury is serious enough for the animal to be euthanized, the animal shall be promptly and humanely euthanized on the farm. Acceptable methods include:
 - 3.8.1.) Nursing piglets: (<12 lb.):** Blunt trauma, anesthetic overdose, CO₂
 - 3.8.2.) Nursery (12-70 lb.):** gunshot, penetrating captive bolt, anesthetic overdose, CO₂
 - 3.8.3.) Grow/Finish (70-300 lb.):** gunshot, penetrating captive bolt, anesthetic overdose, CO₂
 - 3.8.4.) Sows, boars:** gunshot, penetrating captive bolt, anesthetic overdose, CO₂

4. ANTIBIOTICS AND OTHER TREATMENTS

- 4.1) **Niman Ranch cannot purchase animals that have been given antibiotics.** Non-therapeutic use of antibiotics to control or mask disease or promote growth is prohibited. **Also not permitted:** growth-promoting hormones, beta-agonists, ionophores, and carbadox.
- 4.2) Animals that are sick or injured will be tended to and given immediate care. Antibiotics must be administered to individual animals to treat disease if necessary, even though it will disqualify them from the program. **Animal welfare is top priority of our producers and they will be suspended or be de-listed for failure to treat sick animals.**
- 4.3) Pigs that have been administered antibiotics or any other prohibited substance must be marked and/or segregated to identify them as ineligible for this program. Treated animals must be recorded.
- 4.4) An animal that cannot recover must be humanely euthanized.
- 4.7.) Organophosphates may not be used to control parasites.

5. PROCEDURES AND ALTERATIONS

- 5.1.2.) Routine needle teeth clipping and grinding/filing is not allowed. On the rare occasion that piglets are causing injury to one another, grinding/filing is allowed.
- 5.1.3.) Tail docking is prohibited.
- 5.1.5.) Castration must occur before piglets reach 2 weeks of age.

5.1.6.) Nose-rings may be used on breeding stock, if given access to pasture.

6. HANDLING AND TRANSPORT

6.1.1.) Electric prods are not permitted.

6.1.8.) All handlers and truckers must follow Niman Ranch's requirements during loading, transport and unloading at the destination. Additionally, hired truckers must maintain TQA (Trucker Quality Assurance) Certification.

7. TYPE OF FARM

7.1.) Each farm shall be a family farm or ranch.

7.3) Dual systems are prohibited.

7.8) Temporary deviations, when unexpected circumstances arise that are not under the control of the farmer, will be taken into consideration upon request of the farmer. Documentation of deviations must be kept on file.

Section B: Additional Niman Ranch Requirements

1.) Pork Quality Acceptance and Evaluation

Only farmers who raise the highest quality pork will be accepted into the Niman Ranch program.

Our general pork quality targets are:

Loin Eye Area: 5.5 to 7.5 square inches

Color Score: 3 to 4

Backfat: 0.8 – 1.1 inches

Marbling Score: 3 to 5

Percent Lean: 47 – 51 %

pH: 5.7 and above

Once you begin selling pigs to Niman Ranch, we will continue to monitor the quality of the pork you raise. We evaluate our farmers' pork weekly. With this information, we are able to determine which farmers are raising the highest quality pork for Niman Ranch. Annual bonuses are paid to farmers based on this information.

2.) Needles and Injection Requirements

Niman Ranch allows zero tolerance for retained needles found in our hogs. We will not purchase pigs from farmers who refuse to follow our injection protocols. Intramuscular injections must always be given in the neck muscles, behind and below the ear, but well ahead of the shoulder. Subcutaneous injections (under the skin) should be given in the same location. In baby pigs, subcutaneous injections may also be given in the loose flaps of skin in the flank or elbow region.

3.) Forecasting Market Hog Availability

Company sales are based on the market hog availability that you forecast to us! Reporting timely and accurate hog numbers is an important task you will be asked to do as a Niman Ranch farmer.

4.) Responsible farming practices

Niman Ranch expects certified farmers to raise hogs in an environmentally safe and approved manner that adheres to all county, state, and federal standards. This includes, but is not limited to manure management practices, stocking densities, and disposal of mortality.

Section C: Checklist for Potential Niman Ranch Farmers

Before you can sell hogs to Niman Ranch for the first time, you must do the following:

- ☐ **Contact your Niman Ranch Field Agent.**
- ☐ **Forecast your market hog availability to your field agent.**
- ☐ **Have pork quality approved by Niman Ranch staff.**
- ☐ **Have all hog rations and feed tags approved.** *Gather copies of your feeding formulas (rations) and feed labels from all premixes, concentrates, additives, etc. Labels must show ingredients!! Niman Ranch needs this information at least one month prior to buying the hogs, however it is recommended that farmers turn in the feed information before any hogs even eat the ration. It is best to be confident that the feed doesn't contain any unapproved ingredients that could disqualify the hogs.*
- ☐ **Begin keeping records of treated hogs.** *If you have to treat any hogs with antibiotics, please identify them and record it (see Antibiotic Treatment Record, provided).*
- ☐ **Arrange to have your farm inspected by your Field Agent to verify husbandry standards.** We cannot take your hogs before an inspection is done.
- ☐ **Contact your Shipping Manager to schedule your market hog deliveries.** It is recommended that this is done at least one month in advance.