

# Animal Handling

## Guides for Swine Producers

Moving Sows: Be Safe and Smart

Link to resources: <http://umash.umn.edu/training-guides-swine>



### Learning Objectives

- ◆ Discuss ways to learn a sow's behavior.
- ◆ Identify best practices for handling and moving sows.
- ◆ Describe the flight zone and blind spot of a sow.
- ◆ Explain preparation methods when moving sows



### Watch Video

- ◆ View (3:58 minutes) Sow Handling  
**English:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4IzKpDu3I4&t=56s>  
**Spanish:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOd-xmDRZul>



### Discuss

- ◆ What are some key behaviors to look for in a sow when she is relaxed? When she is stressed?
- ◆ As a sow handler, what are the best techniques to use when you want her to move?
- ◆ What are the steps used when preparing sows to move from the gestation barn to the farrowing room?
- ◆ What are some best practices used when moving sows and gilts to cause the least amount of stress for the animals and workers?



### Take the Quiz (online or pdf download)

- ◆ Each person taking the training should take the quiz.



### Additional Resources (optional)

- ◆ Natural Farrowing Behavior of the Sow and Piglets
- ◆ Smart Pig Handling - Part 1 of 2 - Basic Pig Behaviour
- ◆ Smart Pig Handling - Part 2 of 2 - Principles of Pig Handling
- ◆ Access the quiz answer keys online under each Additional Resources accordion menu.