



Niman Ranch Pork Protocols

Thank you for your interest in Niman Ranch!

The Niman Ranch Pork Company is one of the fastest growing, most successful niche hog markets around. With over 600 farmers contributing to our success, Niman Ranch Pork has become a nationally-known brand, famous for how the hogs are raised, and how incredible the pork tastes.

If your hogs qualify, you will receive a premium above cash price, and have the protection of an established floor price. Thank you for taking the time to learn about a company that respects your commitment to responsible farming practices.

Qualified Niman Ranch Pigs:

- 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 to the highest care standards, and according to Niman Ranch's Pig Husbandry Protocols;
- Are born and raised on US family farms and are harvested and processed at U.S.D.A. inspected facilities within the United States;
- And meet our high pork and carcass quality standards.

Additionally, Niman Ranch Farmers are responsible for:

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

Please find in this packet of information, the details needed to successfully become a Niman Ranch Farmer. If you have any questions or concerns, never hesitate to call your field agent. We are here to help you out!

The Staff of the Niman Ranch Pork Company

To be eligible as a Niman Ranch producer, all pork producers must sign affidavits confirming their program meets all requirements of this protocol.

(Please read entire document thoroughly)

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Overview

1.) Antibiotic Free

The hogs that you sell to Niman Ranch can never have been given antibiotics, therapeutically or sub-therapeutically. We realize from time to time that you may have sick hogs that must be treated with antibiotics. This is fine. However, we require that you mark the treated pigs, or separate them off, and sell them through another market. We also require that you keep a record of your treated pigs. You may use the “Antibiotic Treatment Form” located on the final page of this document.

2.) Artificial Hormone or Growth Promotant Free

While we know that using hormones for growth promotion is more common in the cattle industry, we also require that you do not use growth promotants such as ractopomine.

3.) All Vegetarian Diets

Diets must be all vegetarian. To comply with this claim, we cannot feed meat or meat by-products This includes, but is not limited to: animal fat, meat and bone meal, fishmeal, tankage, blood or plasma, or even eggs. This excludes milk products which are allowed. A Niman Ranch staff member must look over and approve all of your rations and feed tags. Additionally these items must be filed with the USDA before Niman Ranch can buy any of your hogs. Niman Ranch periodically takes random feed samples to test for the presence of meat by-products and antibiotics. We encourage farmers to continually check labels and rations to insure compliance. Feed companies may change ingredients without prior notice.

4.) Niman Ranch Pig Husbandry Protocols

A complete version of *Niman Ranch's Pig Husbandry Protocols* begins on page 6. Before a farmer ever sells hogs to Niman Ranch, their farm must be audited to ensure that he or she is complying with these rules. Following this, a Niman Ranch staff member will continue to audit each farm one or more times each year and farmers will be expected to complete self reviews. Additionally, Niman Ranch protocols and auditing procedures have been reviewed and approved by Dr. Temple Grandin. All audits are mandatory.

5.) Pork Quality Acceptance

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

Qualified pigs must be sired by NR approved boar lines. Additionally, farmers must be committed to using top-quality genetic lines, preferably a three-way rotational cross consisting of **Duroc**, **Berkshire**, and **Chester White** genetics. A list of approved boar lines can be obtained from NR field agents. If gilts are purchased from existing Niman Ranch Farmers, the farmer selling gilts must be ranked in the top 3/5 of our pork quality rankings.

Farmers that are not utilizing Niman Ranch approved genetics must adhere to the following:

- 1.) NR Field Agent must assess the farmer's current genetics based on visual appearance and slaughter data.
- 2.) Niman Ranch purchases up to ten market hogs based on the Field Agent's evaluation.
- 3.) Meat samples will be taken and quality testing performed from hogs in this group.
- 4.) Niman Ranch's continued relationship with the farmer will be based on the results of the testing. A farmer will not be accepted into the Niman Ranch system until all steps are completed. The process could take up to four weeks.

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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

Niman Ranch will continue to monitor the quality of the pork farmers raise. We currently work with meat scientists at Iowa State University who evaluate our farmers' pork weekly. Below standard quality may result in low priority for selling hogs as well as suspension from the program.

6.) 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:

- A. 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;
- B. Needles must be inspected between each injection. **Injections must be administered in a way that allows the farmer to identify pigs that may have retained a needle;**
- C. If you suspect a needle has been retained in a pig, Niman Ranch may still purchase the pig if the following procedures are followed. [Note: The farmer will not receive a discount for this pig, but weight of the carcass may be reduced should excess trimming be needed]:
 - 1.) Affected pig is permanently identified (ear tag, ear notch, ear punch);
 - 2.) Incident is documented in writing by the farmer, noting date, method in which the pig is ID'd, approximate location of the needle (ie: neck, left side), and size/type of needle retained;
 - 3.) At time of sale, farmer notifies NR that affected pig will be arriving. Farmer must also notify their trucker (or Sioux Preme staff if it is a direct haul);
 - 4.) If the pig cannot be individually identified, steps 2-3 must still be followed, and the suspect pigs may be sold in groups of no more than 20 head at a time. These carcasses will be individually inspected.

7.) Field Agents

Niman Ranch employs several Field Agents who work closely with their assigned group of farmers. The duties of the field agents are to audit farms, work with farmers on record-keeping and market hog inventory projections, recruit new farmers, and assist producers with technical information. If you have not been contacted by a field agent, please call the office immediately and we will help you make contact with your field agent.

8.) Pork Quality Testing and Bonuses

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.

9.) Other Audits

Your farm will be audited once or twice each year by your Field Agent or another Niman Ranch Staff Member. The purpose is to ensure that our farmers are following all of our required protocols. Niman Ranch reserves the right to have other third party auditors inspect your farm. From time to time, some of our customers may request to audit your farm. All audits are a mandatory requirement for selling into the program.

10.) Reporting Hog Numbers and Working with the Shipping Manager

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When you commit to raising pigs for Niman Ranch, you will start receiving a Monthly Producer Report. This report is sent to you at the end of each month and asks for your short term, as well as an annual projection of hogs you will have available to sell. Company sales are based on forecasted projections, so reporting timely and accurate hog numbers is an important task you will be asked to do as a Niman Ranch farmer.

You will also be expected to report your availability of market hogs for the **next eight weeks** with your Shipping Manager. In most cases, your Shipping Manager will be your field agent, but this may vary depending on where you live. Your Shipping Manager will be listed on your Monthly Producer Report.

Reporting hog numbers is crucial! If you do not accurately do this, we cannot guarantee that we will buy your pigs!

11.) Collection Point/Assembly Yard

11.1) Any collection point/assembly yard being used by Niman Ranch operations must be audited once every 15 months. A pass/fail designation will be granted. If the collection point/assembly yard fails the audit, a corrective action plan will need to be submitted by the attending field agent associated with said site. Corrective actions to the Standard violations must be completed within 30 days of audit.

11.2) Field Agent association to each collection point/assembly yard must be assigned by the Senior Director of Niman Ranch Live.

The field agent assigned to said collection point/assembly yard must be the contact that is responsible for the Standards set forth in the protocols, which includes training of anyone that will be using or working in the collection point/assembly yard.

11.3) Collection points/assembly yards must either utilize employees that are aware of, and agree to follow Niman Ranch protocols or have producers that deliver Niman Ranch raised animals, be made aware of and agree to Niman Ranch protocols.

11.3.1) Any animal that meets any of the following conditions when delivered to the collection point/assembly yard must not be off-loaded from transport trucks and be euthanized immediately according to Standard 3.8.

- A. pigs that are sick, injured, weak, disabled or fatigued beyond recovery.
- B. pigs that are lame and unable to bear weight on one or more legs.
- C. pigs in poor body condition. (BCS<2)

11.3.2) Pigs held at collection point/ assembly yard for more than 4 hours must provide access to water.

11.3.3) If pigs are to be kept overnight (more than 10 hours) they will be provided feed.

11.3.4) All pigs must be provided protection from the elements of weather while at the collection point/assembly yard. This will include the provision of shade, misters, sprinklers, wallows, fans, bedding and/or windbreaks depending on the season and temperatures.

11.3.5) Pigs must not be mistreated in any way, which includes, throwing, kicking, hitting or any other physical contact. Pigs must be handled calmly.

11.3.6) The use of electric prods is prohibited unless there is imminent danger to the pig or handler. Electric prods are not to be used routinely. Only low stress handling aids are approved for loading and unloading. These aids include but are not limited to nylon flags, sorting panels, rattle/shaker paddles.

11.3.7) The loading chutes must be in good condition. Ramps must have cleats, treads, or some kind of non-slip surface to reduce the incidence of slips and falls during loading and unloading.

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11.4) The collection point/assembly yard must have markings of number of pigs, holding area (pen), and owner of said pigs.

12.) Standards of Conduct

All Farmers in our program agree to remain committed to a cooperative and communicative professional relationship with our Field Agents. Mutual respect, honesty and integrity are words that exemplify the relationship between you and your Niman Ranch Field Agent. We are committed to providing an environment for our Farmers and our Field Agents that is free of abusive or threatening language, and facilitates the required processes of accurate auditing and protocol compliance. Further, Niman Ranch and Farmers agree not to use any proprietary information relating to the business of Niman Ranch in competition with or to the detriment of each other.

13.) Proprietary Information and Confidentiality

Niman Ranch owns all the rights in and for trade secrets and proprietary information associated with our protocols. Farmers may not have or acquire license to use any such work for any purpose other than for the benefit of the relationship with Niman Ranch. All memoranda, notes and records and other documents created, developed or compiled or used by Farmers or made available to Farmers in connection with Niman Ranch and during the term or the relationship with Niman Ranch is and shall be the property of Niman Ranch. Confidential information means any and all portfolio data, proprietary information, Farmers in network, production information, husbandry practices, herd health resources and genetic data. This provides mutual protection to both Niman Ranch and you, the Farmer.

14.) Transportation Allowance and Purchasing Policy Protocols are Available Upon Request

15.) 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.

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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 bedded pens. To qualify as pasture, 75% or more of the land occupied by livestock in this program must have vegetation with a root system. If hogs do not have continuous access to pasture, then clean, dry bedding shall be provided in quantities sufficient to give the hogs material in which to play, forage, explore and root and build nests during farrowing. Sufficient bedding material must be provided to prevent transfer of manure and other soil onto the animals so that they remain clean on the belly. For additional bedding requirements, see section 1.2.

1.1.2) There must always be a dry area where all animals can lay down at the same time without becoming soiled on the belly.

1.1.3) Provisions must be taken to protect animals from regional climate extremes. Sufficient shelter must be provided so that all hogs can lie down at the same time without being on top of each other while being protected from snow, rain or sun. If necessary, wallows and/or sprinklers must be provided in hot weather.

1.1.4) Close confinement where an animal is not allowed to walk or turn around will only be allowed temporarily for necessary procedures. This includes, but is not limited to: vaccinations or veterinary care, artificial insemination, feeding stalls, etc. For additional details on space requirements, see section 1.3.

1.1.5) Only breeds or genetics suitable for thriving in outdoor production systems shall be allowed.

1.1.6) Practices must be implemented that prevent soil loss or degradation in production areas, minimizes unacceptable or unintended poor air quality for family, workers, and neighbors, and prevents water quality degradation of surface and groundwater resources.

1.1.7) Certified farmers and ranchers must raise animals in a manner that protects or enhances the quality of the environment, animal health and public health. This includes, but is not limited to manure management practices, stocking densities, and methods for disposal of mortalities, which must meet all county, state and federal standards

1.2) Bedding Requirements

1.2.1) Bedding must be clean, dry, safe, and allow pigs to play forage, explore, root, and chew. Straw and corn stover are the preferred choices. Wood chips, soybean stalks, ground corn cobs are acceptable forms of bedding.

1.2.2) Even if pigs have access to pasture or dirt, adequate bedding shall be provided in shelters to keep pigs comfortable in wet conditions and when temperatures fall below 60-degrees Fahrenheit.

1.2.3) Sows, whether farrowing indoors or outdoors, must have ample bedding and be able to pick it up in her mouth, and manipulate it to build a nest. In farrowing facilities, straw is the preferred choice of bedding.

1.2.4) Pigs may be raised loose-housed in groups in deep-bedded systems in which composting can start and be sustained to provide warmth and destroy pathogens. A hoop building is an example of a loose-housed structure. The minimum bedding pack depth recommended in a deep bedded system is **12 inches**. A clean layer of straw should cover the composting mass in the lying area.

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

1.2.5.1) 39° F and below*: **8 inches**

1.2.5.2) 40-59 ° F*: **6 inches**

1.2.5.3) 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 lie down at the same time without being on top of each other while being protected from snow, rain or sun.

1.3.2) New buildings shall be constructed with windows, white translucent skylights, or openings that allow daylight into the building allowing the animals indoors to experience natural light patterns. As a guideline on this matter, the natural light available shall be such that a human can read a newspaper in the central part of the pig's living area.

1.3.3) Air quality, including ammonia levels inside buildings, must at all times enable animals to breathe comfortably. It must not pose a risk of injury or health problems in animals or their caretakers. Ammonia levels are to be tested and have a measured result of no greater than 25ppm. Levels below 10ppm are the goal.

1.3.4) Facilities with totally slatted or perforated flooring without bedding are prohibited. Each animal's square footage requirements must be met on solid flooring.

1.3.5) Gestation

1.3.5.1) Space Requirements. Sows and gilts 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. For an adult sow, 16 sq. ft. of bedded lying area, with 35 sq. ft. total recommended.

1.3.5.2) Social Management: A stable social environment must be maintained amongst sows and gilts to limit aggression, competition, and bullying. It is recommended that a single sow or gilt should never be introduced into an established social group. Five or more sows or gilts should be introduced into an established social group at a time.

1.3.5.3) Gestation stalls and tethers are prohibited.

1.3.6) Boars

1.3.6.1) Space Requirements: Boars must all be able to lie down in the bedded lying area on their sides comfortably with legs extended and without being on top of each other, and move about freely with freedom from aggression and competition. When not grouped with sows, 64 sq. ft. is recommended per boar.

1.3.6.2) Isolation: Isolation of boars from other hogs is prohibited. Exception will be made for quarantining new boars entering the farm for disease security

1.3.7) Farrowing and Lactation

1.3.7.1) Sows must be given the opportunity to care for, interact with, and nurture their young

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. Sow and litter must be able to lie down on their sides comfortably with legs extended and without being on top of each other.

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1.3.7.3) Pens: A farrowing pen is defined as a fenced in enclosure within a building in which the sow and litter are housed alone. If farrowing in a pen, pen size will be determined by the size of the sow and litter. Recommended pen size for a 450 lb sow and litter is 64 square feet.

1.3.7.3.1) If the available area is less than 64 sq. ft, we recommend converting the pen into a free stall or giving the sow access to an exercise area at least two times each day (in approximate equal time increments) for a minimum of one hour during each exercise period.

1.3.7.3.2) If sow and litter are housed in pens, it is recommended to put them into group lactation by the time pigs are three weeks of age.

1.3.7.4) Free Stalls and Huts: A free stall is defined as a pen with an opening, allowing the sow and litter to move about outside or into a communal loafing area at free will. Free-stall and hut size will be determined by the size of the sow. Recommended free-stall or hut size for a 450 lb sow with litter is 33 square feet or larger.

1.3.7.4.1) Circumstances may arise where it is best for the sow and/or litter to be restricted to the free stall or hut. If the free stall or hut is not at least 64 square feet in area, it is recommended that the sow is able to leave free stall after 72 hours, and piglets after 10 days of age.

1.3.7.5) Group Lactation: In a group (loose) lactation setting, 81 square feet per sow and litter is recommended.

1.3.7.6) Farrowing crates, where a sow cannot turn around, are prohibited.

1.3.8) Growing and Finishing Hogs

1.3.8.1) In bedded lying area, all hogs must all be able to lie down on their sides comfortably with legs extended and without being on top of each other, and move about freely.

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

1.3.9) In an effort to promote outdoor access, any new construction must permit outdoor access for all hogs, except for piglets below sixty pounds and lactating sows. Structures with large openings on the end or sides to let in sunlight which all pigs can avail themselves of on a daily basis (like hoop buildings, for example), weather permitting, and with deep litter composting are excluded from this requirement.

Access to pasture or fields, particularly for the breeding herd, and especially from spring through fall, are recommended.

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.

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2.2) All hogs must have a feeding plan that will guarantee a sufficient, well-balanced diet to appropriately meet their nutritional needs at their stage in life and maintain required Body Condition Scores. Animals shall have access to their feed as long as is necessary for them to satisfy their nutrient requirements.

2.3) Feed stuffs shall be of good quality and free from contaminants such as rodent droppings, mold, and other potentially unsafe substances. Care should be taken to keep feed storage rodent-free.

2.4) Food shall be provided daily and in a way that minimizes competition. Wound scores shall be collected to gauge competition.

2.5) As a guideline, 5 to 7.5 market pigs per feeder hole is recommended, with a maximum of 8 allowed.

2.6) Sows and boars that are limit-fed to prevent obesity shall be provided continuous access to clean hay or similar fiber source to satisfy hunger between meals and to allow the animals to engage in food-search activity.

2.7) All hogs shall have free access to clean drinking water with minimal competition. As a guideline, 30 market pigs/water hole is recommended, with no more than 50 pigs/water hole allowed. Water nipples are NOT considered equal to water holes!

2.8) If a sow and litter are housed within a pen that does not have a constant supply of drinking water, then she must be given access to drinking water at least two times each day (in approximate equal time increments) for a minimum of one hour during each drinking period.

2.9) The minimum weaning age of piglets shall be no less than 4 weeks.

2.10) Piglets must have dry feed available to them at least one week prior to weaning.

2.11) Sows must be in condition 2.5 to 4 prior to farrowing, and must maintain a condition score of at least 2 until piglets are weaned. Body condition scores shall be collected by auditors.

3.) Hygiene and Safety

3.1) Every effort must be made to limit lameness. This includes, but is not limited to, genetic selection, facility design and maintenance.

3.1.1) Lameness scores of 1 and 2 are acceptable. Only 5% or less of the herd may be observed with scores of 3 or greater.

3.2) The animals' living quarters shall be cleaned by procedures that ensure satisfactory hygiene. The surfaces of deep litter beds shall be kept dry and be of good hygienic quality.

3.3) Every effort must be made to correct floors that could become slippery, with particular attention paid to breeding areas.

3.4) A fire plan must be established. In indoor housing, escape routes to the outdoors must be available from interior pens. A method to extinguish the fire (fire extinguisher, water source) must be accessible. As fire prevention measures, electrical wiring must be protected from pigs. Heat lamps shall be placed in a way that pigs cannot disturb them.

3.5) If predators pose a risk, every effort must be made to protect pigs from predators through means that are not injurious or lethal to the predator. Exclusion of predators should be the primary means of control. If predation cannot be resolved in this way, the method of control must be one that causes immediate unconsciousness and death. Poisons, leg hold traps or any other method that cause animals to suffer are prohibited. Methods of predator control must specifically target the individual animal(s) causing the problem.

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3.6) In the event a pig suffers accidental injury on the farm, the animal shall receive immediate individual treatment to minimize pain and suffering, including veterinary treatment, if the farmer cannot provide immediate relief.

3.7) A safe place must be provided for sick or injured animals to recover, free of competition.

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) Non-therapeutic use of antibiotics or sulfas to control or mask disease or promote growth is prohibited. Animals that have been administered antibiotics may not be marketed to Niman Ranch. Additionally, growth-promoting hormones and beta-agonists, ionophores, and carbadox are prohibited.

4.2) Animals that are sick or injured will be tended to and given immediate care to ensure reduced suffering, and/or mortality and lack of possible pathogen transmission. 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 in some fashion to identify them as ineligible for this program. Treated animals must be identified, segregated and removed from the Niman Ranch program. Treated animals must be recorded.

4.4) An animal that cannot recover without prolonged or acute suffering must be treated or humanely euthanized.

4.5) Routine use of hormones to induce farrowing is prohibited. In the case of dystocia a one-time administration of hormones is permitted to ease farrowing.

4.6) Parasites must be effectively managed. Regular pasture rotations and proper bedding management and removal should be the primary method of preventing parasitical infestations. In cases where prevention has not been effective, medicinal regimens must be implemented to effectively control worms, lice, and mange.

4.7) Organophosphates may not be used to control parasites, however, other pharmacological agents are allowed.

5.) Procedures and Alterations

5.1) Procedures and alterations to animals should be limited as much as possible, unless necessary to maintain animal health and comfort as well as maintain sustainability of the water and the land.

5.1.2) Needle teeth clipping is prohibited. Routine grinding/filing is not allowed. On the rare occasion that piglets are causing injury to one another, grinding/filing is allowed. This must be documented.

5.1.3) Tail docking is prohibited. Removal of ¼ inch of flesh on the end of the tail and the switch is allowed, further referred to as tipping. This procedure must be completed within 14 days of life and only with approved stainless steel side cutters. Alterations that go beyond 1/4 inch of flesh removal will result in disqualification of pigs from the Niman Ranch system. Niman Ranch field staff will have final determination as to violation of

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excessive tipping. All incidences of tail biting must be documented by farmer to differentiate between tail biting and prohibited tail docking. Any instance of tail biting must be communicated to Niman Ranch field staff via email or written letter.

5.1.3.a) Tail docking is prohibited for any pigs intended for sale in the **Global Animal Partnership** program. There are no exceptions and no deviations will be issued. Any pigs with tails tipped according to 5.1.3 must be segregated and removed from consideration for the **Global Animal Partnership** program.

5.1.4) Boar tusks may not be removed by blunt force or with bolt cutters. This does not prohibit trimming, which may be done with a surgical wire by a trained individual, and only as needed.

5.1.5) When piglets are to be castrated, the process must be undertaken before the piglets reach 2 weeks of age by a person proficient in the procedure.

5.1.6) Nose-rings may be used on breeding stock, if given access to pasture. Market hogs may be rung if they are given access to pasture from at least weaning to market. The use of one septum ring is preferred, but because nose rings for pigs are not readily accessible nation-wide, rings on the ridge of the nose are permitted. No more than two rings are allowed at any one time.

5.1.7) Ear notching must be performed with an ear-notcher, or a tool designed specifically for this purpose. Knife blades will not be allowed for ear-notching. Ear notching must be performed before the piglets reach 2 weeks of age.

6.) Handling and Transport

6.1) Strict regulations will be followed regarding handling and transport. Audits will be performed at packing plants to watch truckers unload and check for downers, frostbite, and signs of abuse. Additionally, packing plants slaughtering animals raised under Niman Ranch's certified program must undergo annual husbandry audits to verify their compliance with AMI guidelines.

6.1.1) Electric prods are not permitted.

6.1.2) During cold weather, bedding (straw preferred) must be provided when temperature falls below 60 degrees F. Steps are taken (trailer openings are suitably boarded up) to protect animals from wind chill, freezing rain, etc.

6.1.3) During hot weather, hogs are loaded and unloaded promptly (no unnecessary stops along the way). Trailers are kept well ventilated. If the temperature is above 80 degrees F, hogs are sprinkled with water before loading or the truck must have a built-in sprinkler system.

6.1.4) During winter months, pigs are provided with 4.26 sq. ft. of space each (250 lb. pig), and 5.0 sq. ft. during the summer months. All pigs must be able to lie down during transport without crowding.

6.1.5) Hogs from different farms or social groups (pens) are separated when possible.

6.1.6) Persons who move and/or transport live animals shall attend to the animals' needs and take the necessary steps to ensure that the animals are not injured or caused to suffer during loading, transport and unloading.

6.1.7) Non-ambulatory, sick or injured animals or animals who for any reason could have difficulty withstanding the rigors of transport may not be transported, unless to receive veterinary treatment.

6.1.8) Farmers are responsible for selecting responsible and humane-minded handlers and truckers who will adhere to all of Niman Ranch's requirements and prohibitions during loading, transport and unloading at the destination. Additionally, hired truckers must maintain TQA (Trucker Quality Assurance) Certification.

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7.) Type of Farm

7.1) Each farm shall be a family farm or ranch, that is, a farm or ranch on which a family or individual owns and makes on site management decisions regarding the animals and the operation. Niman Ranch owns and operates a network of sow farms and nurseries for express intent of providing weaned piglets to farmers who, otherwise would not be able to participate in the Niman Ranch Pork program due to space or labor limitations. All animals raised on these company owned farms must be raised according to all Niman Ranch protocols.

7.2) The family farm requirement shall not prohibit networking among family farmers as long as all criteria listed herein are adhered to by every member of the network. This includes farmers who raise feeder pigs; these pigs must be obtained from a family farmer who meets all of the requirements.

7.3) Any farmer or rancher who intends to simultaneously maintain a system that does not meet the Niman Ranch standards while marketing livestock from a fully compliant portion will be prohibited. This does not exclude farmers or ranchers who are committed to transitioning to a fully-compliant farm or ranch within 24 months and have a written and approved transition plan. Specific protocols required for transitioning a non-compliant nursery can be found in Addendum 1.0: *Transition Guidelines for Non-Compliant Nurseries*. If at any time on a transitioning farm both compliant and non-compliant animals exist, the noncompliant animals must be marked and segregated.

7.4) Niman Ranch reserves the right to purchase livestock from farmers who do not meet the "family farmer or rancher" definition (7.1) or who simultaneously maintain a system that does not meet the Niman Ranch standards while marketing livestock from a fully compliant portion (7.3) if necessary to sustain the market. We understand that from time to time this may be necessary to keep the markets that hundreds of family farmers depend upon for their livelihood financially viable. When these situations arise, the "Dr. Grandin" staff must be given substantiating evidence to support the decision and must give final approval.

7.5) Pigs [or parts thereof] that do not fully meet the Niman Ranch protocols may be purchased if the deviation occurred prior to the farmer committing to the Niman Ranch program. The following deviations allowed include, but are not limited to:

7.5.1) Pigs with docked tails may be purchased if the farmer discontinued this practice immediately after committing to Niman Ranch;

7.5.2) Pigs with clipped or ground teeth may be purchased if the farmer discontinued this practice immediately after committing to Niman Ranch;

7.5.3) Pigs that have been weaned prior to five weeks of age may be purchased if the farmer discontinued this practice immediately after committing to Niman Ranch;

7.6) Even if a farmer has an approved transition plan, Niman Ranch may not purchase pigs that deviate from the following protocols. This includes, but is not limited to:

7.6.1) The non-therapeutic use of antibiotics to control or mask disease or promote growth is prohibited. Animals administered antibiotics for treatment purposes may not be purchased and must always be marked and/or segregated;

7.6.2) Growth-promoting hormones, beta-agonists, ionophores, and carbadox are prohibited;

7.6.3) Organophosphates to control parasites are prohibited;

7.6.4) Gestation crates or tethers are prohibited;

7.6.5) Farrowing crates are prohibited;

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7.6.6) Feeding of animal flesh is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to meat, bone meal, blood meal, animal fat, and fishmeal;

7.6.7) There must always be a dry area where all animals can lay down at the same time without becoming soiled on the belly;

7.6.8) Animals that are sick or injured will be tended to and given immediate care to ensure reduced suffering, and/or mortality and lack of possible pathogen transmission. Antibiotics must be administered to individual animals to treat disease if necessary, even though it will disqualify them from the program.

7.6.9) Facilities with totally slatted or perforated flooring are prohibited. This does not exclude facilities where slatted or perforated flooring are covered to create a solid surface.

7.7) If a youth in the household of a Niman Ranch farmer are to raise pigs as 4-H or FFA projects, pigs must not deviate from protocols with the possible exception of the feeding program and genetics. Pigs may also be purchased from non-certified farms. However, if pigs do not fully adhere to Niman Ranch standards they may not be sold to Niman Ranch and must marked and/or segregated in some fashion to identify them as ineligible for this program. We suggest marking individual animals with an ear tag, and entire groups may be marked with a sign hung on their pen. Non-qualified animals must be recorded. If feeding program varies from Niman Ranch's guidelines, feed must be marked and stored in a different location from approved feed to avoid any possible chance of contamination.

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.

Niman Ranch Pork Company, LLC Purchasing Policy

Niman Ranch payment schedule and purchasing policy are available upon request

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For pigs ineligible for Niman Ranch program*

Name: _____

Date	# hd	Reason for treatment	Antibiotic used	Method of identification (tag, ear notch #, pen location)	Result of treatment	Comments (where sold, etc.)

* Please include sows and replacement gilts