



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
- Meet or exceed 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

Niman Ranch Protocols meet or exceed the minimum requirements of Certified Humane® and/or Global Animal Partnership®

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 you may have sick hogs that must be treated with antibiotics. To be in compliance with the standard, we require that you mark the treated pigs, or separate them off, and sell them through a different market. We also require that you keep a record of your treated pigs.

2.) Artificial Hormone or Growth Promotant Free

Niman Ranch prohibits the use of growth promotants including, but not limited to, ractopamine hydrochloride (Paylean®).

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 reserves the right to collect random feed samples to test for the presence of meat by-products and antibiotics. We require farmers to continually check labels and rations to insure compliance, as feed companies may change ingredients without 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. All audits are mandatory.

The standards presented in this document are the minimum requirements to be in compliance with Niman Ranch raising protocols; we encourage farmers to exceed them.

5.) Pork Quality Acceptance

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

Niman Ranch farmers must be committed to using top-quality genetics. Producers are encouraged to reach out to their field agents to discuss genetics options and any considered changes. For natural mating systems, a traditional three-way rotational cross consisting of **Duroc**, **Berkshire**, and **Chester White** genetics can be effective. For those using AI, 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 2/5 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 will purchase 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:

Trait	Target	Acceptable Range
Marbling Score	4	3-5
Color Score	4	3-5
pH	5.8	5.7-6.0
Percent Lean	51-52	49-54

Niman Ranch will continue to monitor the quality of the pork farmers raise each week. Producers selling hogs that fall outside the acceptable range will be contacted by their field agent and together will initiate an improvement plan. 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
 - a. ID options include:
 - i. ear tag (any age pig)
 - ii. ear notch or ear punch (only within first 10 days of age)
 2. Incident is documented in writing by the farmer, noting date, method in which the pig is identified, 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 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 our office and we will help you connect with your local field agent.

General Contact: Niman Ranch, PO BOX 255, Sioux Center IA 51250
Phone: (712) 722-7223



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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 may be paid to farmers based on this information.

9.) Other Audits

Your farm will be audited once 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 protocols. Additionally, Niman Ranch may utilize third party auditors to inspect your farm. All audits are a mandatory requirement for selling into the program.

Visitors (including field agents) visiting hog facilities must enclose their clothing with self-provided clean coveralls (disposable or freshly laundered). Shoes must be protected by self-provided double-layered plastic boot protectors, or rubber boots properly cleaned and disinfected. Wearing coveralls and/or boots belonging to the farmer is also acceptable. Visitors (including field agents) may not have visited another hog farm less than 24 hours prior to visiting this farm. However, there may be an exclusive agreement between field agents and farmers other than the one spelled out here, and if so, the agreement must be documented in the farm manual. These exclusive biosecurity agreements are to be written out and signed by both parties to the satisfaction of the farmer and field agent alike.

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

Niman Ranch is unique because of its desire to work with family farmers of all sizes, even those that raise less than 100 head per year. With such a range in variability in farm types and size comes immense challenges in dealing with market hog supply. We gather market hog numbers from you in a variety of ways. First is your quarterly visit with your Field Agent. Niman Ranch requires you and your Field Agent to physically inventory every pig on your farm on a quarterly basis. This is to help us build a long term projection of available market hogs. We also have Shipping Managers who will work with you on a weekly basis, when you have or are getting close to selling market hogs, to report the most accurate numbers possible. Once you report a number of market hogs for a given week to your Shipping Manager, you are obligated to market that number of pigs to Niman Ranch. If you should deviate from the given number, Niman Ranch may choose not to purchase your pigs. Recurring issues around inaccurate numbers will result in removal from the Niman Ranch program at the discretion of the Senior Director of Live Hog Operations.

Niman Ranch will remove farmers who cannot provide accurate numbers from the program, regardless of need to fill demand. The Niman Ranch sales team works hard on behalf of the farmers to set up relationships with customers that depend on your ability to follow through with market hog sales. The strength of the brand and the premium you are paid for your hard work depend on accurate reporting.

11.) 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.

12.) 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

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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.

13.) 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.

14.) Niman Ranch's Commitment to our Standards

Niman Ranch understands and fully respects the financial commitment producers make to ensuring operational compliance of their farms. At the same time, Niman Ranch is commitment to be an industry leader in animal care; which at times requires us to update production standards that have financial implications to our producers. Therefore, it is our commitment to not revise any Niman Ranch animal space requirement published in this current version (dated 8/30/18) prior to January 2026.

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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 (up to 2 hours) for necessary procedures. This includes, but is not limited to: vaccinations or veterinary care, artificial insemination, 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 are 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 also 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 or other long stem forage must be used during a sow's nesting period (72 hours prior to farrowing). Long stem forage is defined as fibrous material that on average measures greater than four inches (4") in length.

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 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 on multiple sides 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. Daily sniff tests must be recorded and available for review by field agent/ auditor.

Ammonia levels will be measured by means of testing strips with levels being recorded and available for viewing. Levels must be taken by-weekly at a minimum. Any measurement above 25 ppm must have an associated corrective action plan which is immediately implemented and recorded.

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. Additionally, perforated flooring can only account for 25% of the total space allowance provided. Bedding requirements still apply regardless of flooring type.

1.3.4.1) A building that utilizes partially slatted flooring may have a liquid storage pit no deeper than four feet (4') below the floor; however, the stored liquid must be expelled from the barn daily. Gutters that are not underneath the living space of the animals that are used for solid manure holding inside a barn are allowed and are not required to be cleaned daily.

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 ft² of bedded lying area, with 35 ft² total required. Gilts post service require 16 ft² of bedded lying area, with 24 ft² total required.

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.

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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. Boars weighing less than 350 lb require 48 ft² (24 ft² bedded) while boars weighing greater than 350 lb require 64 ft² (32 ft² bedded).

1.3.7) Farrowing and Lactation

***Note of Change:** All producers must comply with the updated farrowing space requirements by January 1st, 2020. Regardless of current contract expiration date, any farm not meeting the below space requirements on January 1st, 2020 will be out of compliance and will not be an approved supplier to Niman Ranch.

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.

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, the pen must be a minimum of 64 ft².

1.3.7.3.1) If the pen is less than 64 ft², the sow must have access to a larger common area at least two times each day (in approximate equal time increments) for a minimum of one hour during each exercise period. If desired, producer can keep the sow and piglets in the 48 ft² pen for up to 72 hours post farrowing.

Producer must be able to provide documentation for these turn out events. At no time can the sow and litter be confined to a space less than 48 ft².

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. The free-stall must be 35 ft² or larger. The free stall and communal area must total at least 64 ft².

1.3.7.4.1) Circumstances may arise where it is best for the piglets 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 required that the piglets are able to leave free stall within 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 within a sheltered area.

1.3.8.1.1) For nursery pigs up to 35#, the minimum space per pig must be 4.5 ft² total; 3.5 ft² bedded and sheltered.

1.3.8.1.2) For nursery pigs between 36# and 55#, the minimum space per pig must be 6 ft² total; 4.5 ft² bedded and sheltered.

1.3.8.1.3) For grower pigs between 56# and 112#, the minimum space per pig must be 7 ft² total; 5.25 ft² bedded and sheltered.

1.3.8.1.4) For market pigs over 112#, the minimum space per pig must be 14 ft² total; 7.5 ft² bedded and sheltered.

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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, fishmeal, eggs, and egg products. Dairy products are permitted.
- 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. All feed rations in question will be examined by Niman Ranch staff, and can be required to be changed according to their findings. 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)** Feed shall be provided daily and in a way that minimizes competition. For breeding stock in limit-fed situations, wound scores are to be collected to gauge competition.
- 2.5)** All hogs shall have access to feed with minimal competition. Feeding practices must be reflective of the stage of production the pig is involved with.
- 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 continuous access to clean drinking water with minimal competition.
- 2.8)** The minimum weaning age of piglets is 28 days.
- Early weaning cannot be a routine practice. However, if the welfare of the sow and/or her litter is being compromised, piglets may be weaned earlier than 28 days. All incidences of early weaning must be recorded and include all litter information along with the reason for weaning early. These events will be reviewed by your field agent.
- 2.9)** Piglets must have dry feed available to them at least one week prior to weaning.
- 2.10)** 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.



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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.

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. If it is necessary to relocate a non-ambulatory animal, the animal may be moved onto a conveyance such as a tarp, sled, or cart and that conveyance may be dragged or moved. The transport of an animal by a skid loader or tractor bucket is prohibited.

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): Non-penetrating captive bolt, anesthetic overdose, or CO₂

3.8.2) Nursery (12-70 lb): gunshot, penetrating captive bolt, anesthetic overdose, or CO₂

3.8.3) Grow/Finish (70-300 lb): gunshot, penetrating captive bolt, or anesthetic overdose

3.8.4) Sows, boars: gunshot, penetrating captive bolt, or anesthetic overdose

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 sold to a market other than Niman Ranch. Ear tags, segregation into a treated pen, or continuous application of marking spray are acceptable methods of identification. All treated pigs must be recorded in producer's records in a manner that allows for their identification on the farm or the verification of their sale to an alternative market. Ear notching and ear hole punching are NOT acceptable methods of identification past 10 days of age.

4.4) An animal that cannot recover without prolonged or acute suffering must be treated or humanely euthanized. A decision to treat or euthanize must be made immediately following observed ailment.

4.4.1) Any animal suffering from a belly rupture larger than a grapefruit must be immediately euthanized, butchered, or be sold for butcher. Belly ruptured pigs of this size are not allowed to be sold for someone else to raise to a larger size in fear of the rupture bursting and causing unnecessary suffering.

4.5) Routine use of hormones to induce farrowing is prohibited. In the case of dystocia administration of oxytocin 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.

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4.7) Organophosphates may not be used to control parasites, however, other pharmaceutical 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 discussed with your Field Agent before taking action and documented in your records.

5.1.3) Tail docking and tail tipping are prohibited. If tail biting becomes an issue beyond what segregation can fix, a Niman Ranch field agent will help with other suggestions. A corrective action plan must be written and added to the record book in order to track the success or failure of the plan.

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 within 10 days of age.

5.1.5.1) Piglets must be castrated with a scalpel or surgical scissors. A side cutter is not allowed for castration. A side cutter's blades touch and a scissor's blades cross each other.

5.1.6) Nose-rings may be used on breeding stock, but limited to one humane septum ring per sow; and cannot be replaced without prior consultation/ approval from your field agent. Nose rings are not allowed on grow/finish pigs.

5.1.7) Ear notching must be performed within 10 days of age using an ear-notcher, or a tool designed specifically for this purpose. Knife blades are not allowed for ear-notching.

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.

It is imperative that treated animals not be allowed on a designated Niman Ranch truck that is going to be entering said stream. Marketing of treated animals must be on an individual farmer basis or on a designated treated animal trailer.

6.1.1) Electric prods are not permitted.

6.1.2) During cold weather, steps must be 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.

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6.1.4) Transport Space Requirements (during normal weather conditions) should not exceed the following stocking densities per Transport Quality Assurance Guidelines:

Average Weight (lbs.)	Square Feet Per Head
12	0.65
50	1.53
100	2.32
150	2.95
250	4.26
275	4.57
300	4.79
350	5.48

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. Sick, injured or untreatable animals that cannot be transported must be euthanized as soon as possible (but no more than 2 hours from observation) by appropriate means.

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, by April 1, 2019, all truckers must maintain TQA (Trucker Quality Assurance) Certification.

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 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.

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.



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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 28 days 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 will 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;

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

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 be 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.



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8.) Farm Records

8.1) All Niman Ranch farmers are required to keep farm records pertaining to their particular farm type (farrow to finish, wean to finish, farrow to wean). Records, at a minimum, are to provide evidence of protocol compliance.

8.2) Records that may be, but not limited to, which are kept by the farmer consists of: farrowing records (date born, number born, date castrated, date ear notched, sow movement records, date weaned, treatment records, number and reason for culling and or euthanizing). Wean to finish: inventory, treatment (also includes reason, product used, amount, outcome of treatment) separation, lameness, death loss (includes reason if known) culls, euthanizing, tail biting (this should include a written intervention plan to reduce tail biting)

8.3) All farms must keep air quality records for indoor production. Hoop barns are considered indoor production. A daily sniff test record must be conducted and recorded. A bi-weekly ammonia strip test must be conducted and recorded. Any level about 25 ppm must be dealt with immediately in order to reduce the ammonia level. This action must be recorded as a corrective action plan in the farmer's record book.

8.4) Transport records must be kept for animals moving from farrowing operation to a finishing operation, and/or animals moving from a finishing operation to a harvest facility directly or via a collection point. Trip duration, loading and unloading times along with farmer and trucker names with number of head are all items that must be on the transport records. GAP certificate number and expiration are also needed if applicable.

8.5) Records kept by the farmer are expected to be accessible and legible for no less than the last 15 months. Field agents are required to inspect records at every visit.

8.6) Lack of respectable and useable records by the farmer can and will be viewed as a non-compliance of the Niman Ranch protocols. The first written violation will be viewed as a minor non-compliance, the second as a Major non-compliance and the third as critical. A critical non-compliance can lead to an immediate dismissal from Niman Ranch at the discretion of the field agent, the senior director of live and/or the live animal compliance manager.

8.7) The above described production records will have many different uses, one of which is to determine mortality rates. Niman Ranch pre-weaning mortality goals for each farmer is less than 15%. In a wean to finish situation the mortality goal is less than 4%, and breeding herd goal is less than 3%. Each field agent will aid the farmers in calculating mortality percentages if need be at each yearly audit. If the targets are not met, a written intervention plan must be written and added to the record book. This practice will assure that the survivability of the pigs is a priority equating to humane practices. It will also serve as a measurement of each farmer's financial responsibility to themselves.

9.) Collection Point/Assembly Yard

9.1) Any collection point/assembly yard being used by Niman Ranch operations must be audited once every 5 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. If failures are deemed serious violations of the Niman Ranch Protocol, the collection point/ assembly yard will be removed from the approved for use list.

9.2) 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.

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9.3) 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.

9.3.1) 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)

9.3.2) Pigs held at collection point/ assembly yard must be provided access to water at all times.

9.3.3) If pigs are to be kept overnight (more than 8 hours) they will be provided feed.

9.3.4) 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.

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

9.3.6) The use of electric prods is prohibited.

9.3.6.1) We require the immediate reporting any animal mistreatment (including the use of electric prods) when observed. Please call the Niman Ranch Live Animal Compliance Manager at (641) 590-7744.

9.3.7) 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.

9.4) The collection point/assembly yard must have markings of number of pigs, holding area (pen), and owner of said pigs. Additionally, the Niman Ranch Bill of Lading must follow every group of pigs.

Niman Ranch Pork Company, LLC Purchasing Policy

Niman Ranch payment schedule and purchasing policy are available upon request.

NIMAN RANCH PORK PROTOCOLS



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