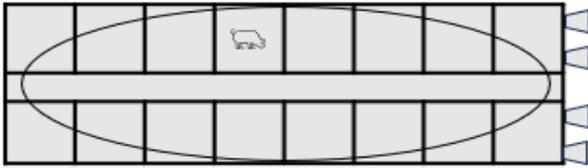


After the office, the assessment of the barn occurs, including evaluation of the pig population. In this circle, animal activity is evaluated, such as clinical signs of disease or environmental concerns, and evaluation of ventilation and temperature conditions.

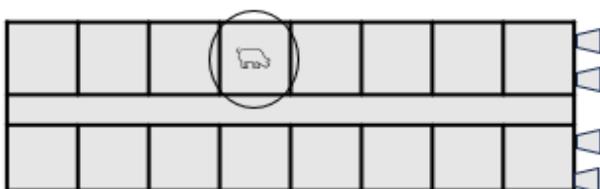
Figure 2: Circle Two: Inside Facility Evaluation
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Circle Three: Individual Pen Evaluation

Circle three focuses on the individual pen illustrated in Figure 3. The caretaker walks each pen individually, looking at the feeders, waterers, flooring, walls, and specific ventilation, such as drafts or warm spots within the pen. There needs to be adequate availability of feed and water, along with evaluating the quality of feed and the maintenance of the delivery equipment used. When observing the flooring and walls, looking for the presence of blood, scours, or any other clinical signs or disease within the pen. Ventilation should also be evaluated. Within the pen, the pigs need an appropriate amount of high-quality air, meaning there is not excessive odor, ammonia, stuffiness, or any noticeable air drafts at the pig level. While assessing the environment of the pen, confirm the pigs have an appropriate stocking density, allowing adequate amount of space for each animal. This decreases the number of vices such as, tail and vulva biting.

Figure 3 :Circle Three: Individual Pen Evaluation
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Circle Four: Individual Pig Evaluation

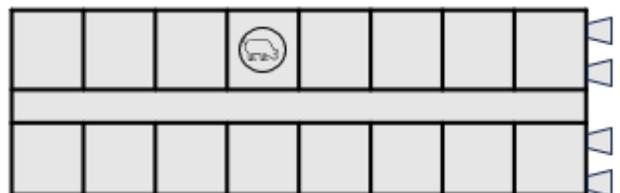
Circle four focuses on the evaluation of the individual pig within the pen of pigs, as demonstrated in Figure 4. When approaching the pigs, begin at the front of the pig, follow the pig over the back to the rear, and then back up to the front. The assessment of each pig individually should take approximately 4 seconds. This time is sufficient enough to identify any injured or sick pigs, along with any non-competitive or fall-behind pigs (Levis 2014). During this assessment, it is important to mark, treat, or move any of the pigs that are different from the population or warrant further attention.

The inspection of each pig should include the following:

- Body condition
- Bodily injuries
- Skin and hair
- Tail & ear injuries
- Swollen joints
- Ability to walk normally
- Signs of diarrhea
- Signs of cough or respiratory distress

Using this four circles evaluation technique ensures a robust and consistent evaluation of the facility and animals within the facility to quickly identify problems and determine intervention steps. Quickly identifying and addressing issues results in the greatest success of management and health interventions.

Figure 4: Circle Four: Individual Pig Evaluation
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REVIEWER: Dr. Jason Ross

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