

PORK QUALITY

Title: Pork Supply Chain Audit, NPB Project #16-115

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Scientific Abstract: The United States pork industry is constantly evolving, and the information available in the supply chain audits published in 1996 and 2003 are now out of date and may no longer be relevant to the industry. This puts key influencers in our industry in a position to potentially make misguided management decisions when it comes to quality and nonconformity issues. The lack of an updated resource limits the ability, as an industry, to position pork as a center of the plate meal option for domestic consumers and prevents further development of our export markets. The pork supply chain audit surveyed pork processing companies to identify factors that influence quality within their systems. All federally inspected major pork packers were provided the opportunity to participate. However, unlike previous audits, companies were reluctant to share information making summarization of data difficult. A survey was written in Qualtrics Survey Software that asked packers to provide information about their particular systems. The audit followed the same format used in the previous two supply chain audits. Each participating collaborator was asked to fill out the survey on an individual plant basis using either corporate records or quality control resources. Overall, live and carcass weights have increased since the 2003 supply chain audit. In 2016, live weights were 134.4 kg and HCW was 115.3 kg.

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