

# Development of an innovative and interactive educational program for use by Extension professionals to facilitate training of swine farm caretakers

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## BACKGROUND

Equipped with a unique skill set in understanding and sharing best practices with community members—particularly adults—Extension professionals are well-poised to provide needed guidance and training for those engaged in the agricultural industries, including livestock farm caretakers. Timely euthanasia is of increasing concern to swine producers as it impacts both animal welfare and a farm's ability to meet audit criteria and ensure market access. Though euthanasia training is most often conducted by on-farm demonstration, multimedia-based programs may offer an alternative route for improving swine caretaker competency and confidence related to euthanasia decision-making.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Provide a valuable tool related to humane swine euthanasia for use by Extension professionals and others
2. Encourage the development of similar training programs in other livestock or agricultural industries



Figure 1. Collecting photo and video media.

## JUSTIFICATION FOR APPROACH

- Multimedia training can increase material retention for learners with low prior knowledge (new swine caretakers) or poor literacy [1,2]
- Case study approach → allows for adult learner engagement [3]
  - 15 case studies within 3 modules
- Simulates perspective of caretaker viewpoint → maximizes realism [4]
- Encourage learners to take active role in learning process [5]
- Fulfills adults' need to be self-directed learners [6]
- Feedback provided to allow learner to understand both positive and negative consequences of decisions

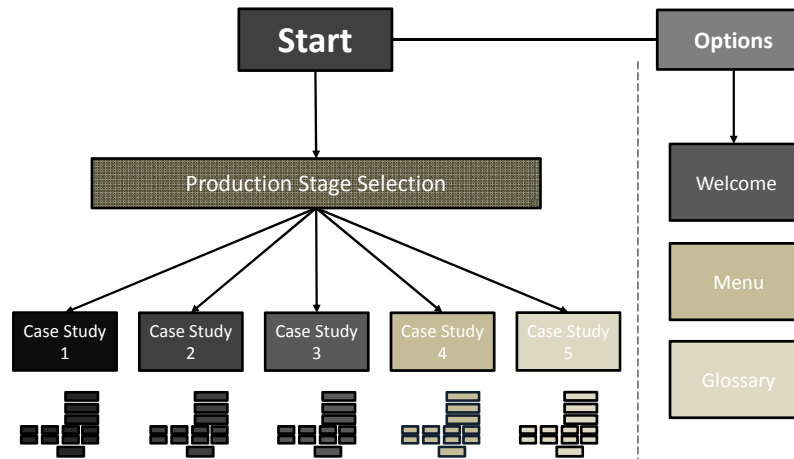
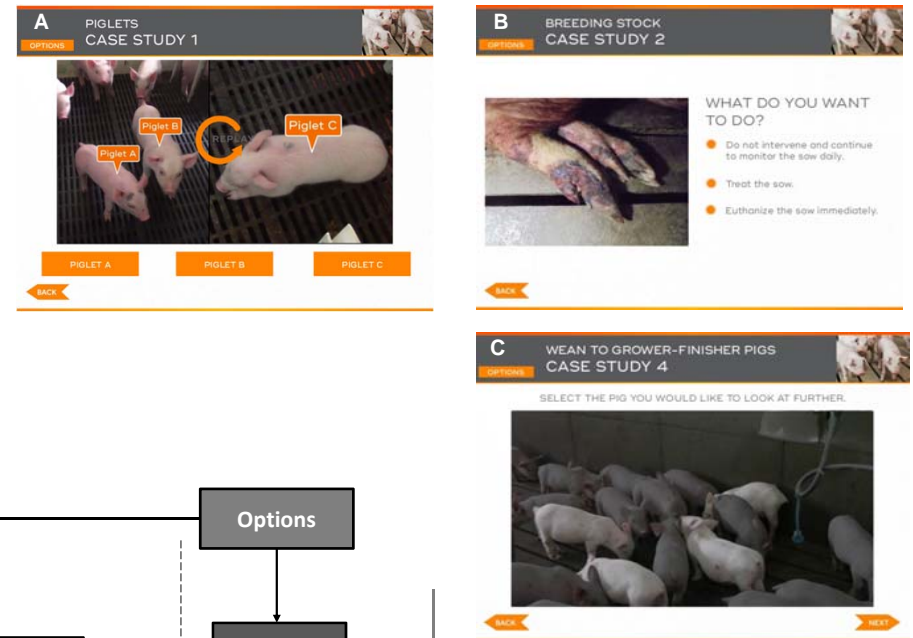


Figure 2. Diagrammatic representation of the training program.

Figure 3 [A-C]. Screenshots taken from several case studies.



## IMPLICATIONS

- First interactive euthanasia-specific training program for swine industry
- Potential to serve as a template for future training applications

## REFERENCES

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