Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline
Competency Model for Agricultural Occupation: Swine Technician (Sow Farm)

Employer-Specific Requirements

Occurrence-Specific Competencies*

- Facility Operations
- Industry Engagement
- Safety
- Biosecurity

Production Practices-Sow Farm
- Ventilation
- SOPs
- Feed
- Animal Welfare

Industry-Sector Technical Competencies*

- Animal Housing
- Herd Tracking
- Herd Management
- Animal Movement Prod.

Employee/Contractor Training
- Employee/Contractor Performance Mgmt.
- Feed Maintenance

Industry-Wide Technical Competencies

- Principles of Agriculture
- Production
- Maintenance, Installation and Repair
- Supply Chain Logistics
- Quality Assurance, Continuous Improvement
- Sustainable and Renewable
- User and Customer Support
- Health, Safety, Security
- Compliance

Workplace Competencies

- Business Fundamentals
- Teamwork
- Adaptable and Flexible
- Customer Service Focus
- Planning and Organizing
- Problem Solving, Decision Making
- Working With Tools and Technology
- Checking, Examining and Inspecting
- Sustainable Practices

Academic Competencies

- Reading and Writing
- Science
- Technical Mathematics Skills
- Basic Computer Skills
- Communication: Listening and Speaking
- Critical and Analytic Thinking
- Information Literacy

Personal Effectiveness Competencies

- Interpersonal Skills
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Initiative
- Dependability and Reliability
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Lifelong Learning

Based on: Competency Model for Employment and Training Administration, United States Department of Labor.

*Pipeline recommends the Industry-Sector Technical Competencies as formal training opportunities (provided through related instruction) and the Occupation-Specific Competencies as on-the-job training opportunities.
Competency Model for Swine Technician (Sow Farm)

Swine Technician (Sow Farm) – An individual who assists in providing all daily aspects of animal care, specializing in sow farm operation for healthy swine production.

Industry-Sector Technical Competencies

Related Instruction for dual training means the organized and systematic form of education resulting in the enhancement of skills and competencies related to the dual trainee’s current or intended occupation.

• Animal housing – Understanding of proper procedures and requirements for healthy animal housing best practices, especially for sows and their piglets.

• Employee/contractor training – Understand the theory and practices involved with employee management principles and training techniques for employees/contractors involved in swine production.

• Herd tracking – Knowledge of skills and tools used for tracking individual animals and animals as a herd.

• Herd management – Understanding the science and business of producing domestic livestock species.

• Animal movement production – Knowledge of principles regarding safe and healthy movement of a herd.

• Employee/contractor performance management – Knowledge of important management factors to monitor when working with an extensive group of employees/contractors.

• Feed maintenance – Attention to quality control of feed and minimizing health risks for the herd.

Occupation-Specific Competencies

On-the-Job Training (OJT) is hands-on instruction completed at work to learn the core competencies necessary to succeed in an occupation. Common types of OJT include job shadowing, mentorship, cohort-based training, assignment-based project evaluation and discussion-based training.

• Facility operations – Management of all systems and controls of the facility including ventilation, feeding, and watering.
• **Industry engagement** – Introduction to opportunities to engage with other businesses within the agricultural industry.

• **Safety** – Know how to use proper industry standards to maintain a safe work environment to ensure personal well-being and safety of co-workers.

• **Biosecurity** – Knowledge of procedures intended to protect livestock animals against disease or harmful biological agents.

• **Production practices – Sow Farm**
  
  ▪ **Ventilation** – Understanding of importance of and the ability to manage systems to maintain proper ventilation of facility.

  ▪ **Feed** – Understanding of livestock feeding procedures and essential nutrition for sows and their piglets.

  ▪ **Animal welfare** – Know how to properly handle livestock with attention to their safe handling and overall welfare.

  ▪ **Standard operating procedures** – Knowledge of standard operating procedures for the facility and herd management.

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