

# IOWA'S Hog Farmers...

## Are family farmers

- More than 90 percent of all farms are family operations and many are third and fourth generation producers. Hog farming also gives young people a start in farming.



## Provide daily care for livestock

- Swine farmers are committed to providing daily care for their animals in a way that protects the animal's well-being.
- Industry training programs such as Pork Quality Assurance® Plus (PQA Plus) and Transport Quality Assurance® (TQA) enable all persons involved in pig care to understand their ethical responsibilities and possess the skills necessary to provide quality care.
- Most hogs are raised in modern, environmentally controlled barns to allow producers to closely monitor and care for each animal, provide ample food and water, prevent disease and keep them comfortable year 'round.



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## Produce safe, wholesome food

- Pig farmers actively participate in PQA Plus and other food safety and animal care programs to ensure the quality and safety of the pork products they produce.
- A 2006 USDA study revealed that the six most common cuts of pork have 16 percent less fat and are 27 percent lower in saturated fat thanks to continuous production improvements and changes in genetics, feeding and management practices.



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## Protect the environment

- Hog farmers take pride in protecting our air, land and water.
- Manure management plans, soil and water conservation practices, air quality strategies, wildlife habitat management and environmental management innovations are all critical components of a pig farmer's operation.
- By regularly attending training and certification programs, pork producers stay abreast of the latest environmental protection methods.



## Care about their community

- Pig farmers participate in and contribute to events that help make their towns and cities better places to live. You'll find producers on school boards, volunteering at school functions, leading local civic organizations and serving their rural communities in many other ways.



## Value manure

- Livestock manure is widely accepted as a natural crop fertilizer and is a valuable commodity to Iowa farmers. The nutrients found in manure are vital to corn and soybean plants.
- Most producers inject liquid manure directly into the ground, or land-apply manure and then immediately incorporate the nutrients. These practices conserve the nutrients and help reduce odor during and after application.
- Hog farmers annually develop and manage extensive manure management plans to ensure every gallon of manure is properly injected or incorporated. By determining the exact amounts of nutrients needed by the soil, producers significantly reduce the risk of over-application and potential run-off.



## Are good neighbors

- Swine farmers are proactive and committed to being good neighbors by using the latest technology and management practices to reduce livestock odor.
- Good relations are maintained by visiting with neighbors about expansion plans and informing them before applying manure.
- Many farmers site livestock buildings in locations that will have the lowest impact and be the least offensive to neighbors.



## About Iowa's pork industry

- Iowa is the nation's leader in pork production because of abundant feed supplies, leading production practices and responsible producers who provide the best in animal care.
- On average, 30 million hogs are raised in Iowa annually.
- More than 39,000 jobs are directly related to raising and caring for hogs.
- Total cash receipts for hog production in Iowa topped \$7.5 billion in 2013.



You can learn more about Iowa's pork producers by visiting

[www.iowapork.org](http://www.iowapork.org)

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