



2025 Iowa Master Pork Producer Awards

The Extension Service of Iowa State University and the Iowa Pork Producers Association are cooperating again in 2025 to recognize Iowa's outstanding pork producers with the Master Pork Awards program. These awards promote resiliency and excellence in pork production in Iowa.

Nominations:

Nominations may be made by county extension personnel, extension swine field specialists, county pork associations, production companies, or other pork producers. **All nominations are due July 15, 2025.**

Nomination Criteria:

- 1) Nominees must be:
 - a. A member of the Iowa Pork Producers Association
 - b. Iowa residents
- 2) Nominees must be engaged in pork production at the farm level, this includes both independent and contract producers.
- 3) Nominees should have at least five years of experience in pork production.
- 4) Nominees and nominated spouses must have an active role in on-farm day-to-day management decisions but need not be the owner.
- 5) Producer must have current certification of Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA Plus) and have completed a PQA Plus site assessment (prior to nomination) on all production sites.
- 6) Nominees should have demonstrated community involvement (i.e., church, school, commodity associations, extension, other volunteer opportunities, etc.)
- 7) Nominees should demonstrate excellence within their production system. Consider the following examples:
 - a. Biosecurity – Understanding the importance and actively practicing biosecurity measures daily to ensure herd health.
 - b. Willingness to share new ideas and practices
 - c. Clear knowledge of and involvement in activities that support the We Care responsible pork initiative.
 - d. Animal Welfare – Focusing on animal comfort by providing a safe and healthy environment where pigs are well cared for.
 - e. Proactively working on issues facing the swine industry.
 - f. Herd Health - Knowledgeable about herd health programs and preventive medicine techniques.
 - g. Facilities - Facilities adequate for pork production; knowledgeable on facility maintenance and repair.
 - h. Nutrition and Feeding - Knowledgeable of feed program and medications used on the farm.
 - i. Records - Have production records and a firm grasp of production costs. Demonstration of compliance with PQA Plus records such as medication and treatment records, daily observation records, and mortality records.

Award Rules:

- 1) All nominations must be postmarked by **July 15, 2025**.
- 2) No more than four nominees per IPPA district
- 3) Nominators should work with nominees to complete the nomination form.
- 4) Nominators are highly encouraged to include a letter of recommendation from the nominator detailing why the nominee should be recognized for the award. (i.e., production performance, management skills and capabilities, industry/community involvement, issues and industry knowledge, and other special achievements.)
- 5) Previously honored Master Pork Producer Award program awardees are not eligible to receive the award.

Selection Process:

Date	Activity
July 15 – August 5	Applications will be reviewed by Iowa State Extension and IPPA staff for eligibility.
By August 29	Nominees will be notified of nominations and will begin next steps on selection process
August 25 – September 30	Nominees and IPPA Producer Outreach Director will schedule a zoom call for initial conversation
August 25 – November 1	The selection committee will complete on-site visits with nominees. This will include photos and video interviews. Questions will be provided prior to the visit. Visits are scheduled to best fit the nominee's schedule.
By November 15	Final award winners will be notified by the selection committee and on-site visit should be completed.
Jan. 21, 2026	Individuals will be honored at the Master Pork Producer Banquet held during the Iowa Pork Congress.

Nomination Submission:

Applications with a letter of recommendation are due July 15, 2025. They may be:

Mailed:

Emailed: bsmeby@iowapork.org

Iowa Pork Producers Association

Attn. Brielle Smeby

PO Box 71009

Clive, IA 50325

Questions:

Brielle Smeby – bsmeby@iowapork.org or 515-225-7675

2025 Master Pork Producer Award Application

(Please type or print on this form)

NOMINEE NAME(S) _____

(Please include spouse name only **if nominated**)

FARM NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

COUNTY _____ DISTRICT _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ NUMBER OF YEARS RAISING SWINE _____

SPOUSE'S NAME (if **not** nominated for award) _____

CHILDREN'S NAMES AND AGES _____

IS NOMINEE A MEMBER OF THE IOWA PORK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION? YES NO

If yes, list county: _____

Please list any local newspapers or radio stations with which we can share press information should the nominee be selected for the award.

NOMINATED BY (Name, Phone, Email, Relation to Nominee): _____

Nominators: Please include a letter of recommendation detailing why this individual stands out. (i.e. production performance, management skills and capabilities, industry/community involvement, issues and industry knowledge and other special achievements.)

The next pages are for farm and production information

What is nominee role(s) in pork production? (Check all that apply)

Independent Producer/Pig Owner ____ Site Owner ____ Barn Manager ____

Contract Producer ____ if yes, please list production company _____

Please indicate the production stage involved in:

Sow Farm ____ Nursery ____ Finisher ____ Other ____

Breeding Operations:

No. of sows _____ No. of feeder pigs sold _____

Nursery/Finishing Operations:

No. of feeder pigs _____ No. of pigs finished _____

Who is involved in the operation and/or how many employees are overseen? _____

PQA Plus certification number _____

Do you have any row crops? _____ acres corn _____ acres soybeans

Is manure from hog barns utilized on nominee's crop operation? Yes ____ No ____

Is nominee involved in quality/value added production? (i.e. antibiotic free) YES NO
If yes, please specify.

Does the nominee have any other livestock or other agriculture-related business? (i.e. cattle, custom manure application, seed sales, etc.)

Please provide additional details of the nominee's swine production operation, including the layout and their role within the operation and what you believe reflects the excellence shown by Iowa Master Pork Producers. (You may attach additional pages as needed.)

Advancement of the We Care principles is centric to the Master Pork Awards. Please outline how the nominee demonstrates the We Care principles within their operation. (ex. conservation practices, producing safe food, protecting and promoting animal well-being, ensuring practices to protect public health, providing a safe working environment, and contributing to a better quality of life in your community). (You may attach additional pages as needed)

Community involvement is an important aspect of the We Care principles. Please list any off-farm activities in which you are involved. (i.e. church, school, commodity associations, extension, community functions/groups, other volunteer opportunities, etc.)

This application, including a letter of nomination, must be completed and submitted to IPPA by July 15, 2025.