



As of today, all [pork processing plants](#) except one are operating; however, the majority in the Midwest are at about 70 percent capacity. We know that the combination of slow-downs and shut-downs that have occurred over the past 6-8 weeks means there are still market-ready hogs that will not make it into the food chain. We continue to pull together resources for producers who may need to use [euthanasia and disposal options](#).

Tools to Use

Resilience in Tough Decisions and Difficult Actions

You aren't in the pig business to euthanize and dispose of large batches of pigs or market hogs. But, you can't operate with over-crowded barns for extended period either. If you have to euthanize large groups of animals, it's important to [find someone](#) who can provide you guidance and ideas about [working through that trauma](#). A recorded webinar from the Iowa Pork Industry Center provides [practical approaches to use](#).

As bad as this situation is, now is not the time for actions that make permanent solutions to a temporary problem. This just can't be stressed enough. And, even if you think you're handling the stress well, be aware that it can still show up 4 to 6 months from now. And, if this situation isn't impacting you at this time, we encourage you to listen to and talk with those being impacted. Again, the [webinar provides advice](#) for those in that role, too.

Iowa Resource Coordination Center Connects Pork Producers to Right Resources

Information and technical specialists are on hand to help Iowa's pig farmers with today's challenges at the [Iowa's Resource Coordination Center](#). The [joint project](#) between the Iowa Pork Producers Association, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and Iowa State University can put you in touch just [by registering](#) or calling 515-725-1005.

Processes and Requirements for USDA Direct Assistance

While the final details of the assistance that will be provided to farmers because of coronavirus-related issues, USDA has [outlined forms and processes](#) you should prepare now so you can act when the final determinations are made. The forms you need are listed about half-way down [this page](#).

In brief, if you've never worked with your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office, now is the time to [find yours](#) so you can schedule an appointment. FSA will need some basic information about you, and are only working with producers through phone, email, fax, mail and online tools to accept applications.

Iowa Pork Producers Set Tentative Date for Committee Day

IPPA has tentatively set July 31 as this year's Committee Day. Although typically held in mid-June, it was re-scheduled due to novel coronavirus concerns. The location will be at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny if the July 31 date holds.

Here are related websites for more information:

[IPPA's COVID-19 Information](#)
[National Pork Board efforts](#)

[Iowa Department of Agriculture's COVID-19 site](#)
[USDA's COVID-19 webpage](#)

[State of Iowa Comprehensive COVID-19 Information](#)
[CDC's website](#)

At IPPA, we are following the business guidance of keeping minimal staff in the office, while others work remotely. However, we are always available to you through email or by calling the office at 800-372-7675.

About IPPA News for Members

This is an exclusive e-newsletter for members of the Iowa Pork Producers Association. We encourage you to share this information with other members in your county. If you are not an IPPA member and this has been forwarded to you, please send your e-mail address to dricheson@iowapork.org and we will be happy to send this directly to your inbox.



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