



On Thursday, May 7, all Iowa pork processing plants were operational; however, they are not at full capacity. In truth, some were just coming back on line with only a small percentage of their capacity. While this is good news, we know that the combination of slow-downs and shut-downs that have occurred over the past 4-6 weeks means there are over-due 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

Composting Toolbox Provides Calculators and Instructions

The Iowa Pork Producers Association has an [online toolbox](#) for producers looking at composting options. There are three different calculators to determine resources needed for mass disposals; standard operating procedures for different types of disposal, the [recorded webinar](#), slides from the webinar, and the Q&A that followed the webinar.

Swine Depopulation and Disposal Records

The Pork Checkoff has developed a [downloadable form](#) to help producers keep detailed records on the euthanasia and disposal actions they need to take because of COVID-19 impacts on packing plants. While there are no dollars currently available for compensation, such funds are being requested through a joint effort of IPPA, the state of Iowa, and National Pork Producers Council.

The form is intended for producer records only; it is not for submission to any group and does not substitute for the [information required](#) to participate in [NRCS EQIP](#).



Iowa Resource Coordination Center Connects Pork Producers to Right Resources

A call to or sign-up on [Iowa's Resource Coordination Center](#) can put Iowa pig farmers in touch with the right resources on alternate marketing, maintenance feeding, euthanasia, and disposal. This is a [joint effort](#) between the Iowa Pork Producers Association, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and Iowa State University. [Download this flyer](#) to have the contact information always on hand.

'Pass the Pork' Keeps Pigs in Food Chain

The Pass the Pork program announced by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds and Iowa Secretary of Ag Mike Naig [connects pig farmers to lowans who are food-insecure](#) IPPA is working on the program by finding outlets to lessen the strain on full buildings. [Producers can donate pigs](#) that will be processed, with pork being delivered to food banks and pantries. Iowans are also being engaged, with the Food Bank Association of Iowa asking for [support of the program](#) with funds. As one financial donor said "We are fortunate to be able to give instead of to be in need. This program allows us to help farmers make use of their animals, lockers to have work for their employees and be compensated, and our food bank network to support our communities."

Resilience in the Era of COVID-19

The Iowa Pork Industry Center hosted a [webinar](#) this week with practical tools and information to develop mental health resilience and coping strategies. The presentation included a handout with [key points and resources](#), as well as information for [identifying stress](#) and managing it for yourself and others.

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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